



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983

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GOVERNMENT FIRM ON EXCHANGE RATE: SIR JOHN

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, REAFFIRMED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT +DOES NOT INTEND THAT THE LOCAL CURRENCY WILL FALL BELOW AN EXCHANGE RATE ON THE OPEN MARKET OF ABOUT HK\$7.80 TO THE U.S. DOLLAR.+

+WE MUST HAVE STABILITY. THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF OUR NEW POLICY IS TO IGNORE THE PAST AND TO PROVIDE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW LINK AT \$7.80,+ SIR JOHN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1983, DEALING WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE INTEREST TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE OCCASION, HE SAID, ALSO PROVIDED HIM WITH A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON THE NEW CURRENCY STABILISATION SCHEME.

+I SAY BRIEFLY, FOR IT SEEMS TO ME SENSIBLE TO ALLOW UNFOLDING FACTS TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES IN A TOTALLY NEW SITUATION, WHICH IS MORE SUBTLE THAN MANY COMMENTATORS EVEN NOW APPRECIATE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE SCHEME +PROVIDES NOT A PEGGED RATE, BUT A BANKNOTE SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES EQUILIBRIUM AT THE CHOSEN EXCHANGE RATE VIA AN AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM.+

NOTING THAT THINGS HAD GONE WELL, AS PLANNED, SIR JOHN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS BY NATURE +ALWAYS CAUTIOUS ABOUT ECONOMIC FORECASTS, WHICH MAY NOT ALLOW FOR UNPREDICTABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL OR OTHER FACTORS.+

+THIS IS,+ HE SAID, +THEREFORE NO TIME FOR CONCEIT, THE PENALTIES FOR WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERABLE.+

SIR JOHN SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD NEVERTHELESS ENJOYED FOR THREE WEEKS A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE COUPLED WITH A SIGNIFICANT DOWNWARD MOVEMENT IN LENDING RATES.

THIS HAD BEEN HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

+THESE BENEFITS WILL CONTINUE, THOUGH I AM SURE THAT THE HKAB WILL SHARE MY VIEWS ON THE VIRTUES OF A CONSERVATIVE COURSE WITH REGARD TO INTEREST RATES,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WISHED TO SAY +AGAIN QUITE SIMPLY AND CLEARLY THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND THAT THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WILL FALL BELOW AN EXCHANGE RATE ON THE OPEN MARKET OF ABOUT \$7.80 TO THE U.S. DOLLAR.+

/SIR JOHN

SIR JOHN SAID: +IT IS CONCEIVABLE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FUTURE THAT THE FIXED EXCHANGE FUND RATE MAY BE IMPROVED OR BE LINKED TO ANOTHER CRITERION, FOR EXAMPLE A BASKET OF CURRENCIES.

+I DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT ANY CHANGE AT ALL WILL BE APPROPRIATE FOR A LONG TIME AHEAD,+ HE SAID, STRESSING THAT THERE MUST BE STABILITY.

ELABORATING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT EVEN AN IMPROVEMENT MUST MILITATE AGAINST STABILITY, FOR THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO SAY WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN.

HE ADDED: +I WILL NOT THEREFORE EASILY BE PERSUADED TO CHANGE THE PRESENT LINK, AND I HOPE THAT CONFIDENCE IN OUR CURRENCY ON THE NEW BASIS WILL BE ENCOURAGED BY THIS FIRM ASSURANCE.+

REFERRING TO THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL, SIR JOHN EXPLAINED THAT ITS PROVISIONS WERE BROUGHT INTO FORCE BY A PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDER SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR LAST MONTH, AND IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BILL TO BE ENACTED TO REPLACE THAT ORDER.

HE RECALLED THAT THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG CURRENCY IN THE RECENT PAST HAD MADE IT NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE TWO COUNTER MEASURES.

ONE WAS TO REQUIRE THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS TO PAY THE EXCHANGE FUND FOR ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED TO HOLD AS BACKING FOR ANY INCREASE IN THEIR NOTE ISSUES, IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT A FIXED RATE WITH REDEMPTION BEING TREATED SIMILARLY. THIS HAD BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, HE SAID.

THE OTHER WAS THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF THE BILL.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED ALSO THAT THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 16 MEANT THAT APART FROM PROFITS TAX CONSIDERATIONS, THERE WAS NOW NO LONGER ANY TAX ADVANTAGE IN HOLDING FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS OR IN HOLDING HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS OFFSHORE.

THE LOSS OF REVENUE ARISING FROM THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX WAS ESTIMATED AT \$250 MILLION FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, AND APPROXIMATELY \$450 MILLION FOR THE FULL YEAR.

TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD GIVEN APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE FOR THE \$250 MILLION DEFICIT TO BE MADE GOOD BY A TRANSFER FROM THE EXCHANGE FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE.

IN FUTURE, THE SITUATION WILL FORM PART OF NORMAL BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, HE SAID.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX CARRIES WITH IT THE RISK OF EROSION OF THE YIELD FROM PROFITS TAX.

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THIS WAS A COMPLEX ISSUE AND POSSIBLE WAYS OF PREVENTING ANY SERIOUS EROSION WERE BEING EXAMINED CAREFULLY.

+I HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER AND TO PROPOSE MORE LASTING REFORMS IN THE BUDGET NEXT FEBRUARY,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 23.

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MEDICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REVIEW PLANNED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL SERVICES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+DETAILED PROPOSALS ARE BEING WORKED OUT FOR SUCH A REVIEW, AND WE SHALL OF COURSE NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER IT WOULD BE MORE COST-EFFECTIVELY CONDUCTED IN-HOUSE OR BY SUITABLE EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS, OR BY A COMBINATION OF THE TWO,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE'S ANNUAL ADDRESS, MR CHING TOUCHED ON POINTS RAISED EARLIER BY VARIOUS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

MR CHING EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO DR THE HON HARRY FANG, THE HON ALEX WU AND THE HON CHARLES YEUNG FOR ACKNOWLEDGING HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FIELD.

+DESPITE OUR CROWDED CONDITIONS, AND THE DAILY COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, HONG KONG REMAINS A REMARKABLY HEALTHY PLACE WHERE HIGH STANDARDS OF MEDICAL CARE ARE WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERYONE,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE AGREED WITH DR HARRY FANG THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE COMPLACENT AND STRESSED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

WHILE WELCOMING +CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS+, MR CHING EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP'S EARLIER ASSERTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT +WHILE TRYING TO PROVIDE EVERY TYPE OF MEDICAL SERVICE FOR TOO MANY ... HAS ENDED UP BY NOT PROVIDING ENOUGH AND SATISFACTORILY FOR ANYONE+.

+THIS ILL-CONSIDERED REMARK IS PATENTLY NOT TRUE, AS THE MANY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR HEAVILY SUBSIDISED MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE QUICK TO CONFIRM,+ HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, TO PROVIDE TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WHICH THE COMMUNITY REQUIRES. TO WITHDRAW ANY ONE OF THOSE SERVICES WOULD BE TO NEGLECT THOSE IN NEED OF THAT SERVICE,+ HE STRESSED.

/ON DR FANG'S

ON DR FANG'S CONCERN OVER THE SHARE OF EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL SERVICES AND HIS PERCEIVED RESTRICTED RATE OF DEVELOPMENT, MR CHING SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT BORNE OUT BY FACTS.

+I MUST CONFESS THAT I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE MEASUREMENTS OF PROGRESS IN THE HOUSING AND EDUCATION FIELDS QUOTED BY DR FANG CAN BE MEANINGFULLY APPLIED TO HOSPITAL BEDS; NOR INDEED CAN THE SHARE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE DEVOTED TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES BY ITSELF REPRESENT SOME MAGIC MEASURE OF THE OVERALL HEALTH OF OUR POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

+BUT, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DR FANG IS IDEALLY PLACED TO HAVE SUCH THEORIES DEVELOPED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE MEDICAL PLANNING PROCESS AS A WHOLE.

+AS IT IS, THE TARGETS TOWARDS WHICH WE ARE WORKING, IN TERMS OF SUCH THINGS AS NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS AND CLINIC CONSULTING ROOMS, ARE THOSE ESTABLISHED ON THE ADVICE OF THAT COMMITTEE,+ HE ADDED.

DISMISSING AS INCORRECT REMARKS THAT NO +BLUE-PRINT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HAD BEEN PRODUCED SINCE 1973,+ MR CHING POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE PRODUCES A FRESH PLAN ANNUALLY FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD.

TURNING TO PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CHING SAID THAT THEY MET A COMMUNITY NEED AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED PROVIDED THE WELFARE OF THEIR RESIDENTS WAS NOT PLACED AT RISK.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS WERE NEEDED ON THESE PRIVATE HOMES, HE SAID, +THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE CONCERN, BUT THE SITUATION WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED AND CONTROLS WILL BE PROPOSED SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY.+

MR CHING ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE PURCHASING POWER OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

AN INDEX OF PRICES PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR REVIEWING THE RATES OF SUCH GRANTS, AND THESE RATES HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY 310 PER CENT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME IN 1972.

+THE LAST INCREASE, OF 29 PER CENT, WAS IN JUNE 1982 AND RECENT SHIFTS IN THE INDEX INDICATE THAT ANOTHER INCREASE IS DUE,+ HE SAID.

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USEFUL SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED: DR THONG
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY THAT HE ALWAYS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED PRACTICAL AND USEFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES.

BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH COMMENTS SHOULD BE BALANCED AND BASED ON ADEQUATE RESEARCH AND ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES, HE ADDED.

/DR THONG

DR THONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REFERRING TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR HENRIETTA IP'S COMMENTS ABOUT HIS DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES, DR THONG SAID WHILE HE SHARED DR IP'S CONCERN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG, HE HAD +TO CLARIFY AND PUT MATTERS IN THEIR TRUE PERSPECTIVE SO AS TO DISPEL ANY MISCONCEPTIONS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED BY SOME OF HER REMARKS+.

IN REPLY TO DR IP'S CHARGE THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAD FAILED TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GOVERNMENT REVIEWS AND SURVEYS, DR THONG SAID THE SURVEY THAT DR IP REFERRED TO WAS MADE AT HIS PERSONAL REQUEST, AND WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO ADVISE ON THE NEXT PHASE OF THE REGIONALISATION OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

+THUS, THIS IS BUT A NORMAL EXERCISE CARRIED OUT IN A NORMAL WAY AND WHOSE RESULTS WERE REPORTED NORMALLY TO US.

+THERE IS CERTAINLY NOTHING SINISTER OR SECRETIVE ABOUT THE WHOLE EXERCISE AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS,+ DR THONG SAID.

HE SAID HE AND HIS SENIOR STAFF HAD FIRST TO SEE WHETHER THE PROPOSALS WERE FEASIBLE AND PRACTICABLE BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THEM.

ABOVE ALL, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SMOOTH OPERATION AND EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

IN THE EVENT, IT WAS FOUND THAT WHILE MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONSIDERED WORKABLE AND WERE IMPLEMENTED, SOME COULD NOT, BECAUSE OF COGENT AND PRACTICAL REASONS, HE SAID.

+CLEARLY THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE IN MY FRIEND'S SUGGESTION THAT 'IT IS THE HABIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HAVE SURVEYS AND REVIEWS BUT NEVER TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THEM',+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO DR IP'S SUGGESTION OF A SINGLE DEPUTY DIRECTOR STRUCTURE, DR THONG SAID THAT AFTER DETAILED STUDY, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS +NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR PRACTICAL TO HAVE ONE SINGLE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO REPLACE THE EXISTING MULTIPLE DEPUTY DIRECTORS STRUCTURE NO MATTER HOW ATTRACTIVE THE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITIES WERE FOR THE FORMER+.

+FIRSTLY, TO CONCENTRATE THE FUNCTIONS OF THREE DEPUTY DIRECTORS INTO ONE WOULD SO OVERWHELMINGLY INCREASE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SINGLE DEPUTY DIRECTOR THAT THERE COULD ONLY BE UNFORTUNATE AND DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, NOT ONLY TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HIMSELF, BUT ALSO TO THE SERVICE AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

/+SECONDLY, IT

+SECONDLY, IT MUST BE REALISED THAT THERE ARE STILL TWO MAJOR AND DISTINCT SPECIALTIES IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FIELD, I.E. PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE ON THE ONE HAND, AND CLINICAL AND CURATIVE MEDICINE ON THE OTHER. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME AREAS OF OVERLAP, THESE ARE RECOGNISED AND SEPARATE SPECIALTIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS.

+THAT OUR HEALTH INDICES ARE AMONG SOME OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD AND THAT WE ARE RELATIVELY FREE FROM MAJOR EPIDEMICS ARE IN NO SMALL MEASURE DUE TO THE CORRECT EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND ARE VINDICATIONS OF OUR PREFERENCE FOR THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF MULTIPLE DEPUTY DIRECTORS,+ DR THONG SAID.

ON THE PROPOSAL OF A SEPARATE PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR HONG KONG, DR THONG SAID THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN +THOROUGHLY VENTILATED AND DEBATED UPON AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND LEVELS IN PUBLIC OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.+

DR THONG SAID THAT ONE VIEW ADVOCATED THAT A SPECIALIST PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL WITH MODERN FACILITIES BE BUILT AS A SEPARATE ENTITY IN ONE LOCATION IN HONG KONG, WHILE ANOTHER VIEW FELT THAT MODERN PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN ALL MAJOR HOSPITALS, EVENLY AND FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

+THUS IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE PROVISIONS FOR MODERN PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR CHILDREN.

+HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO VIEWS LIES ON HOW AND WHERE SUCH FACILITIES ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FOR THOSE IN NEED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT MODERN PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES WERE BY AND LARGE THE SAME, THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE KNOWN BY DIFFERENT TERMS, SUCH AS PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL, PAEDIATRIC UNIT OR PAEDIATRIC BLOCK.

IT WAS NOT CORRECT TO CONCLUDE THAT ONLY A PURPOSE-BUILT PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL COULD PROVIDE FOR THE PROPER CARE OF CHILDREN.

GOVERNMENT'S PLAN IS TO PROVIDE FOR FULLY-EQUIPPED, MODERN, UP-TO-DATE PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES WHICH WILL INCLUDE MOTHER-CHILD ROOMS, PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNITS, PLAY AREAS, ISOLATION ROOMS, AND SHORT-STAY WARDS, IN ALL THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVED AND PLANNED PROJECTS IN MAJOR HOSPITALS, HE SAID.

+IN FACT, EACH AND EVERY PAEDIATRIC PROJECT IN SUCH GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WILL BE BUILT, STAFFED AND EQUIPPED SO THAT THEY MAY BE REGARDED AS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE BY THEMSELVES.

+I HOPE THAT WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID HAS CLARIFIED ANY DOUBTS ON THE WISDOM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PREFERENCE ON THIS MATTER, AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND CONCRETE ACTIVITIES IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES WHICH ARE SO NECESSARY FOR THE WELL BEING OF OUR CHILDREN,+ DR THONG SAID.

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REFERRING TO MISS LYDIA DUNN'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED, DR THONG GAVE ASSURANCE THAT +CLEARLY DEFINED SYSTEMS DO EXIST AT CLINICAL LEVEL IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.+

HE SAID: +EACH CLINICAL UNIT UNDER ITS HEAD DRAWS ITS OWN GUIDELINES ON SPECIFIC SITUATION OR DISEASES WHICH ITS CLINICAL STAFF MAY OBSERVE.

+THE FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES WHICH GOVERN WARD PRACTICES IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE INDIVIDUAL HOSPITAL UNIT, WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE PROFESSIONAL FREEDOM TO PRESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH ITS PATIENTS ARE TREATED. THIS IS BECAUSE THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR THE UNIT IS IN THE BEST POSITION TO MAKE JUDGEMENT ON THE INDIVIDUAL CONDITION OF THEIR PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

HE AGREED WITH MISS DUNN THAT SUCH GUIDELINES SHOULD BE UPDATED AND REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS BY THOSE WORKING IN HOSPITALS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

THIS WAS BEING DONE AND WOULD BE A CONTINUING PRACTICE, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, THE BEST SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR THE ASSESSMENTS AND JUDGMENT OF THE PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE FIELD WHICH ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL TO THE EFFICIENT WORKING OF THE SYSTEM ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

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BILL ON CITY POLYTECHNIC INTRODUCED

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A BILL INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IS THE FINAL STEP REQUIRED TO BRING THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG INTO BEING, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE HON SIR S.Y. CHUNG, CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND POLYTECHNIC, MR HENDERSON SAID, IN MOVING THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG BILL 1983 THROUGH A SECOND READING.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE, THE NEW POLYTECHNIC WILL BEGIN ITS FIRST COURSES IN OCTOBER 1984 IN TEMPORARY PREMISES BEFORE ITS PERMANENT CAMPUS AT TAT CHEE AVENUE IS COMPLETED IN 1988.

+THAT A NEW TERTIARY INSTITUTION CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN LESS THAN ONE AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE SPEAKS FOR THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND HIS COLLEAGUES, FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE MOST GRATEFUL,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

THE GOVERNANCE OF THE NEW INSTITUTION WILL BE MODELLED ON THAT OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

/ITS GOVERNING

ITS GOVERNING AND EXECUTIVE BODY WILL CONSIST OF 28 OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, WITH SEVEN OF THE UNOFFICIALS TO BE DRAWN FROM COMMERCE OR INDUSTRY, MR HENDERSON SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNOR MAY APPOINT THREE MORE UNOFFICIALS.

ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFIED IN THE BILL, THE INTENTION IS TO FILL THESE THREE SEATS WITH ACADEMICS FROM THE OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

+THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS WILL, THEREFORE, BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED, PROVIDING A BALANCED INPUT INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL, IF ENACTED, BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC BE APPOINTED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO TAKE OVER THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 23.

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SCHOOL SYSTEM IN GOOD ORDER: HAYE
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THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS IN GOOD ORDER, NOTWITHSTANDING AREAS OF CONCERN REQUIRING FURTHER ATTENTION INDICATED IN THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR HAYE SAID THAT THE SYSTEM IS FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO SUIT THE VARYING AND CHANGING ASPIRATIONS OF OUR POPULATION. IT ALSO HAS THE AIM OF DEVELOPING USEFUL AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

+EVEN THE MOST CURSORY GLANCE AT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR SCHOOLS WITH THE ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MY DEPARTMENT WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT WHAT IS BEING CULTIVATED IS A SENSE OF BELONGING - HENCE RESPONSIBILITY - TO THE COMMUNITY, A POSITIVE AND PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE AND THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH MAKES THE PERSON USEFUL,+ MR HAYE SAID.

COMMENDING THE HON RITA FAN'S APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEMANDS FOR EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, MR HAYE SAID THAT THE HON PAULINE NG OBVIOUSLY SUBSCRIBED TO MRS FAN'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM -- BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO SEE EDUCATION EXTENDED TO FORM 5 FOR ALL WITH THE ABOLITION OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AT FORM 3.

+BUT IT IS HARD TO RECONCILE THE ABOLITION OF THE JSEA WITH THE POWERFUL PLEA OF THE HON S.L. CHEN TO RETAIN IT,+ MR HAYE SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT HE SHARED MR CHEN'S WORRY THAT FORM 3 LEAVERS WERE NOT GOING TO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AS INTENDED BY THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION. THE YOUTHS +PREFERRED TO VOTE WITH THEIR FEET+ BY GOING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO ATTEMPT THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

+THE SOLUTION IS OBVIOUSLY TO MAKE CRAFT EDUCATION IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES MORE ATTRACTIVE, WHILE REFORMING THE CURRICULA IN FORM 4 AND 5 SO AS TO MAKE IT MORE RELEVANT TO THE INTERESTS, NEEDS AND ABILITY OF THE LESS ACADEMIC,+ MR HAYE DECLARED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY MADE PROPOSALS ABOUT THIS TO THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, AND THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES.

MR HAYE SAID THE VIEWS OF MR CHEN AND MRS NG, WERE +NOT UNTYPICAL OF THE DIVERSE VIEWS HELD BY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN MANY COMMUNITIES AT THE TIME WHEN THEIR EDUCATION SYSTEMS REACHED THE SAME STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AS OURS+.

+I KNOW OF NO COMMUNITY WHERE THERE IS MAJOR DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION AND UNIVERSAL JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION,+ MR HAYE SAID.

+I KNOW OF MANY COMMUNITIES WHERE THE QUESTION OF GENERAL EDUCATION VERSUS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT THE SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF HEATED DEBATE, CENTRAL TO WHICH ARE THE ISSUES OF WHAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS, WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS AND WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN AFFORD.

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL REVIEW OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG TO ARRIVE AT A STRATEGY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL BE BEST SUITED TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.+

MR HAYE SAID THAT HE HAD TO CORRECT THE IMPRESSION MR CHEN MIGHT HAVE GIVEN THAT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG HAD SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF ITS QUANTITATIVE EXPANSION.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN 'QUALITY' AND 'ACADEMIC STANDARDS',+ MR HAYE SAID.

+COMPARED WITH 10 YEARS AGO, OUR SCHOOLS NOW HAVE MUCH BETTER FACILITIES, MORE AND BETTER-TRAINED TEACHERS, A BROADER AND MORE RELEVANT CURRICULUM AND MUCH GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT.+

SCHOOLS COULD NOW ALSO BENEFIT FROM AN EXPANDED EDUCATION TELEVISION SERVICE, SYSTEMATIC RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS, THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SCHEME AND THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LANGUAGE PACKAGE, TO NAME BUT A FEW OF THE MANY INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

HE THEREFORE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE VIEWS THAT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN DETERIORATING, HE SAID.

+I DO AGREE HOWEVER THAT OVERALL ACADEMIC STANDARDS MAY APPEAR TO BE LOWER SIMPLY BECAUSE SOME CHILDREN WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN DENIED A JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE ARE NOW IN SCHOOL.

+EVEN SO, LET ME ASSURE MR CHEN THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE STANDARDS OF THE ACADEMICALLY MORE ABLE STUDENTS ARE NOW DETERIORATING,+ HE SAID.

MR HAYE SAID HE FULLY SHARED THE HON ALEX WU'S VIEWS ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE SCHOOLS AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, PARTICULARLY THE NEED TO IMPROVE STANDARDS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

MR HAYE SAID: +AMONG THE VARIOUS MEASURES FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT WHICH I MENTIONED EARLIER IS OUR LANGUAGE PACKAGE. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MOST OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY.+

WITH ADDITIONAL TEACHERS PROVIDED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 1982, MR HAYE SAID REMEDIAL TEACHING IN THE LANGUAGES HAD STARTED AT BOTH LEVELS. +REACTION FROM THE SCHOOL HEADS HAD BEEN MOST FAVOURABLE,+ HE SAID.

+ADDITIONAL AUDIO-VISUAL TEACHING AIDS, INCLUDING A WIRE-FREE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE SCHOOLS, AND AGAIN IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THESE ARE VERY USEFUL IN LANGUAGE TEACHING.

+THE NEW INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION RETRAINED 200 TEACHERS OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN 1982/83 AND IS DOUBLING ITS INTAKE THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE BRITISH COUNCIL WAS CONTINUING TO HELP BY OFFERING COURSES OF ITS OWN FOR OTHER TEACHERS.

+I SHOULD LIKE THEREFORE TO ASSURE MR WU THAT A GOOD START HAS BEEN MADE AND THAT MY DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM,+ MR HAYE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE HON SELINA CHOW'S CONCERN OVER THE APPARENT INCREASE IN THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 14 TO 20 YEAR AGE GROUP IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, MR HAYE STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS RECOGNISED AND STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO SOLVE IT.

+RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH IN THE INCULCATION OF MORAL PRINCIPLES AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES AMONG THE YOUNG.

+NOWHERE HAS THIS AWARENESS AND THE DESIRE FOR MORE POSITIVE ACTION BEEN GREATER THAN IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

MR HAYE ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WAS NOW A DEFINITE PROGRAMME WHICH COVERED MORAL EDUCATION, IMPROVED COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES TO MEET MORE ADEQUATELY THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN, AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES INVOLVING COMMUNITY SERVICES.

+ALL OF THESE HAVE BEEN WELL SUPPORTED BY THE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND PUPILS,+ MR HAYE SAID.

MR HAYE ALSO SAID THAT A STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN SET UP TO ASSESS AND MONITOR THE SITUATION IN THE SCHOOLS AND TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMES IN ALL SCHOOLS.

THIS COMMITTEE, AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE, MAINTAINED CONSTANT LIAISON WITH THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES ARE INTEGRATED INTO WIDER SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES, HE EXPLAINED.

MR HAYE SAID HE HOPED THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE REASSURED BY HIS REVIEW THAT A +POSITIVE PROGRAMME OF MORAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION EXISTS IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.+

HE SAID THE MANY PROGRAMME RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG YOUTHS ALL ADDED UP TO THE +STRATEGY FOR YOUTH AT RISK+ DEMANDED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW.

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GOOD PROGRESS ON HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL CONSIDER SETTING ASIDE AN INCREASED NUMBER OF NEW FLATS EACH YEAR TO REHOUSE PEOPLE FROM OLD ESTATES IN ORDER TO SPEED UP THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THIS WILL ALSO ENABLE MUCH LARGER AREAS TO BE REDEVELOPED AT ONE TIME THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PAST.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THIS TODAY AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIALS, HE SAID GOOD PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH INVOLVES NEARLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE.

+SINCE IT STARTED IN 1972, 48 OUT OF A TOTAL OF 240 BLOCKS IN THE 12 MARK I/II ESTATES HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT, AND A FURTHER 26 BLOCKS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO SELF-CONTAINED LIVING UNITS.

+THIS HAS ENTAILED THE REHOUSING OF ABOUT 150 000 PEOPLE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

IN ADDITION, MR LIAO SAID WELL OVER 100 000 PEOPLE HAD IMPROVED THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS BY EITHER MOVING INTO OTHER ESTATES UNDER THE RELIEF-OF-OVERCROWDING SCHEME, OR BY BUYING HOME OWNERSHIP OR PRIVATE FLATS.

+THE POPULATION IN THESE ESTATES HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ABOUT 210 000, MANY OF WHOM ARE LIVING IN BLOCKS WITH IMPROVED FACILITIES AND GENERALLY IN VERY MUCH LESS OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS, AWAITING THEIR TURN TO BENEFIT FROM REDEVELOPMENT,+ HE ADDED.

ON SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENTS, MR LIAO SAID A PRIORITY LIST HAD BEEN WORKED OUT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AS A WHOLE FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THREE PILOT SCHEMES.

+MUCH HAS BEEN LEARNED FROM THE PILOT SCHEMES AND I AM SURE WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FASTER IN THE FUTURE.

/+INDEED, AS

+INDEED, AS MANY 25 000 FAMILIES WOULD BENEFIT IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS COVERED BY THIS PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO PUBLIC HOUSING OUTPUT, MR LIAO SAID THIS WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT THE LEVEL OF OVER 35 000 FLATS WHICH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

+WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALERT TO THE DESIRABILITY OF ADJUSTING THE BALANCE BETWEEN FLATS FOR SALE AND FLATS FOR RENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEMONSTRATED DEMAND FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS PRIVATE HOUSING, HE POINTED OUT THERE WAS NOW A GOOD SUPPLY OF LAND READILY AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PRODUCE HOUSING AT PRICES WHICH WOULD BE GENERALLY AFFORDABLE.

+IT IS HOPED THAT PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION AND CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

+NOTWITHSTANDING OUR COMMITMENT TO A HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC HOUSING OUTPUT, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT A PRODUCTIVE AND STABLE PRIVATE PROPERTY SECTOR IS ESSENTIAL TO HELP MEET HONG KONG'S HOUSING NEEDS,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO ALSO RESTATED THE REASON FOR HALTING THE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMME, SAYING THAT WITH EASED PRICES, LOWER MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES AND LONGER MORTGAGE PERIODS, PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE PROGRAMME WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED COULD NOW AFFORD TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IF THEY WISHED.

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HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED

THE HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 IS BASICALLY TO SIMPLIFY THE OPERATION OF THE ORDINANCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONVENIENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH A SECOND READING, MR HENDERSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE BILL PROPOSES TO REPLACE THE LIST OF GENERAL HOLIDAYS IN SECTION 3 OF THE ORDINANCE BY A SCHEDULE.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR DIRECT AMENDMENT TO THE LIST OF HOLIDAYS, AND ALL ADDITIONS AND SUBSTITUTIONS TO THIS LIST MADE UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE ORDINANCE BY RESOLUTION ARE SEPARATELY RECORDED BY ADDITIONAL, SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

+THE SCHEDULE WHICH WILL REPLACE THIS LIST CAN BE DIRECTLY AMENDED BY RESOLUTION, THUS AVOIDING AN ACCUMULATION OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION,+ MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED.

ALSO, BECAUSE THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IS NOT ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THE SAME DAY EVERY YEAR IN THE UK, WHILE IN HONG KONG THE DATE HAS BEEN FIXED AS THE SECOND SATURDAY IN JUNE, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN ALTERNATIVE DATE BY GAZETTE NOTIFICATION, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 23.

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COMMENTS ON EDUCATION REVIEW BEING ANALYSED

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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+, WERE BEING ANALYSED AND SHOULD BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

THE 544 COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM 305 ORGANISATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTAINED +PROBABLY MORE WORDS THAN IN THE BIBLE OR THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

THESE INCLUDED 176 DIRECT WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, 226 NEWS REPORTS OF COMMENTS MADE IN SEMINARS, AND PUBLIC SPEECHES AND 112 EDITORIALS-FEATURE ARTICLES IN ALL, TOTALLING 2 280 PAGES,+ HE SAID.

THE SHEER VOLUME OF COMMENT THAT THE REPORT STIMULATED WOULD CONVINCENY ANYONE WHO HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE OVER-RIDING INTEREST OF HONG KONG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION, MR HENDERSON SAID.

+THE NEXT STEP,+ MR HENDERSON CONTINUED, +IS SEEING OUR WAY AS TO HOW THE PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE STRATEGIES IN THE OVERALL REVIEW THAT PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED.+

MR HENDERSON SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE BEST MACHINERY TO FURTHER THIS AIM EXPEDITIOUSLY. THE TIMING, PRIORITY AND BUDGETING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS WERE +ABSOLUTELY VITAL+, MR HENDERSON SAID.

HOWEVER, THE VITAL MATTER OF FINANCING EDUCATION WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED IN DETAIL, AND HE WAS NOW CONSIDERING HOW THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED, MR HENDERSON SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE OVERALL REVIEW CONTAINED +A SWEET-SHOP FULL OF 'GOODIES' FOR ALL -- EVEN INCLUDING A FEW ACID-DROPS FOR SOME.+

+BUT GORGE THEM ALL AT ONE GO WE CANNOT, WITHOUT THE MOST DIRE CONSEQUENCES TO OUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.

+AN ORDERLY CONSUMPTION PROGRAMME IS CALLED FOR, AND WE MUST HAVE THE BEST FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO PREPARE THIS PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON SAID HE SHARED THE HON FRANCIS TIEN'S CONCERN THAT IT COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO HAVE AN EDUCATION COMMISSION WHOSE INTRODUCTION INTERFERED WITH COORDINATION RATHER THAN IMPROVED IT.

THE FEASIBILITY OF SMOOTHLY INTERFACING A COMMISSION WITH THE EXISTING CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY WAS BEING GIVEN MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO AVOID SUCH UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES, HE SAID.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO THANKED MR TIEN FOR DRAWING THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SAID THAT THE VOCATION TRAINING COUNCIL WHICH MR TIEN CHAIRED HAD MADE AN EXCELLENT START TO ITS WORK.

MR HENDERSON ALSO REASSURED THE HON ALEX WU THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE ARTS SERIOUSLY, AND SAID EVIDENCE OF THIS WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND THE PLANNED COMMISSIONING OF AN ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SEPTEMBER 1985, IN ADDITION TO OTHER ACTIVITIES.

DISCUSSING ANOTHER MATTER RAISED BY MR WU, HE SAID THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE PROPOSED CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED SOON TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MR HENDERSON SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE HON PETER WONG SUPPORTED A THIRD UNIVERSITY WHICH WOULD BE ESSENTIAL IF HONG KONG WERE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE PROPORTION OF ITS YOUNG PEOPLE WITH FIRST DEGREE PLACES BEYOND THE MID 1990'S.

+I SHOULD ADD THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE SITES, AND A SHORT-LIST SHOULD BE DETERMINED QUITE SOON,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID ALSO THAT THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THE NEED FOR, AND THE FEASIBILITY OF, DEVELOPING SUCH OTHER FORMS OF EDUCATION AS AN OPEN UNIVERSITY AND THE EXTENSION OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IS, OF COURSE, TO PROVIDE OUR PEOPLE WITH MORE SECOND CHANCES, HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE AN EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAMME.

A SUGGESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN THAT AN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND BE SET UP WITH SUITABLE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PRIVATE DONORS WAS ALSO WORTH CONSIDERING, HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON SAID HE ALSO SHARED THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE HON PETER POON THAT HONG KONG SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE MORE HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

+THIS IS PRECISELY WHY WE ARE PLANNING A CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO REHABILITATION, AS RAISED BY DR HO, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT PRESENT PLANNING TARGETS FOR HALF-WAY HOUSES FOR EX-MENTAL PATIENTS WOULD ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR PLACES BY 1988.

DEALING WITH LABOUR MATTERS, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO BRING THE PROPOSED FUND TO ASSIST WORKERS IN INSOLVENCY INTO THE STATUTE BOOK NEXT YEAR.

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HE REFERRED TO THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG'S COMMENTS ABOUT CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MANUFACTURERS ABOUT THE COST EFFECT TO THE ECONOMY OF CERTAIN TYPES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION AND SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF LABOUR HAD ALWAYS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN POLICY CONSIDERATION.

HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE GENERAL SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS IN +OUR MEASURED PROGRESS+ IN THE FIELD OF LABOUR LEGISLATION.

+AND I WOULD INCLUDE IN THAT THE RECENT EXTENSION OF PAID SICK LEAVE, WHICH HAD THEIR GENERAL SUPPORT FROM AN EARLY STAGE,+ HE SAID.

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BILL TO RECTIFY OMISSION
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A BILL DEALING WITH TWO TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OMITTED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF WHAT IS NOW THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) ORDINANCE 1983 IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID THE BILL WILL RECTIFY THE OVERSIGHT, BEFORE THE ORDINANCE IS IMPLEMENTED IN AUGUST 1984.

THE AMENDMENTS ARE CONSEQUENTIAL UPON THE CHANGE MOVED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO REDUCE FROM THREE TO TWO YEARS THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH OFFENCES HAD TO BE COMMITTED FOR A PERSON TO BE DISQUALIFIED FROM DRIVING.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 23.

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LEGCO PASSES THREE BILLS
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THREE BILLS WERE APPROVED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983 AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE: THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1983, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG BILL 1983 AND THE HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983

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NUCLEAR POWER STATION VENTURE WITH CHINA ENDORSED
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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ENDORSE PARTICIPATION BY A HONG KONG PARTNER IN A JOINT-VENTURE NUCLEAR POWER STATION WITH CHINA AT DAYA BAY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

NOTING THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE YESTERDAY, MR JACOBS SAID, +AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO FORM THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY, WHICH WILL BE THE HONG KONG PARTNER IN THE JOINT VENTURE WITH THE GUANGDONG POWER COMPANY, TO BUILD, COMMISSION AND OPERATE THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT DAYA BAY.+

HE REPORTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE DECISION AND HAD ADVISED THAT THE COMPANY WAS IN A POSITION TO RESPOND WITHOUT DELAY.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN EVALUATING THE PROJECT FOR SOME MONTHS TO ESTABLISH THAT HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMERS.

+THESE ISSUES CONCERN THE COMMERCIAL AND FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT MUST BE AGREED PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF AN OFFTAKE AGREEMENT.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE SO THAT THE PURCHASE OF NUCLEAR POWER WILL, INDEED, PROVE TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE OPTION FOR HONG KONG,+ MR JACOBS STATED.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THESE MATTERS AND A PRIME CONSIDERATION OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED WOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS WOULD BE ADOPTED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THIS STATION.

THE PROJECT, HE SAID, +OFFERS HONG KONG AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR DESIRE TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH CHINA IN ITS FOUR MODERNISATIONS PROGRAMME.+

+FURTHERMORE, THE DECISION TAKEN YESTERDAY IS YET ANOTHER CLEAR INDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE THAT ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL ENERGY WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF A GROWING AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE LOCAL POWER COMPANIES WERE FREQUENTLY THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC COMMENT, MR JACOBS SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS, WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL, THEY HAD SUCCEEDED IN PROVIDING HONG KONG WITH A RELIABLE SERVICE AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

WHILE NO ONE WOULD DENY THAT THE COMPANIES HAD MADE LARGE PROFITS IN ABSOLUTE TERMS DURING RECENT YEARS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE PROFITS DID NOT GO INTO THE POCKETS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS, HE STRESSED.

/+MORE THAN

+MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF THE PROFIT IS RETAINED BY THE COMPANIES FOR INVESTMENT. FURTHERMORE, THE SHAREHOLDERS THEMSELVES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NEW CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT IN THE NECESSARY EXPANSION OF THE COMPANIES.

+WITHOUT THIS NEW INVESTMENT, THE COMPANIES WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY, A DEMAND THAT IS A MEASURE OF THE OVERALL PROSPERITY THAT HONG KONG HAS ENJOYED,+ MR JACOBS POINTED OUT.

DISCUSSING THE CONSULTANCY ON THE MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES, HE SAID THAT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FOR WERE RECOMMENDATIONS UPON WHICH IT COULD BUILD.

+WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT OUR SYSTEM OF MONITORING IS EFFECTIVE, IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO WORK ON THE BASIS THAT THERE IS NO ROOM WHATSOEVER FOR IMPROVEMENT,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY, HE STATED, WAS TO GIVE THE PUBLIC REASONABLE ASSURANCE CONCERNING THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL.

+I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTANCY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL INDEED GIVE THAT ASSURANCE,+ HE ADDED.

IN REPLY TO THE HON ANDREW SO'S EARLIER SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTERVENE TO STOP UTILITY CHARGE INCREASES AND TO FREEZE PRICE INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD MENTIONED LAST OCTOBER THAT THE MOST LIKELY CAUSE OF AN INCREASE IN THE INFLATION RATE WAS THE DEPRECIATION IN THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

NOTING THAT MEASURES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE RATE, MR JACOBS SAID, +I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IN RELATION TO PRICES, WHETHER IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR, THOSE MEASURES MAKE IT UNNECESSARY EVEN TO CONTEMPLATE A PRICE FREEZE, WHICH IN ANY EVENT WOULD BE BOUND TO LEAD TO DISTORTIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE ECONOMY.+

+I MIGHT ADD THAT PRICES DO NOT ALWAYS GO UP. FUEL PRICES HAVE COME DOWN TWICE OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS, ONCE ON 19TH OCTOBER AND AGAIN YESTERDAY,+ HE SAID.

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+WORKERS ARE HK'S MAJOR RESOURCE+
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WORKERS SHOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST BEING INJURED AT WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE, MR ALLEN LEE, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+TO PROTECT WORKERS IS TO SAFEGUARD OUR RESOURCE. WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE THEM ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND TO MAKE THEM REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING GETTING HURT AT WORK+, HE STRESSED.

MR LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SEMINAR FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

HE ASKED THE PARTICIPANTS: +HAVE YOU EVER SPENT SOME TIME IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY? HAVE YOU EVER REVIEWED THE SITUATION AFTER A WORKER GETS HURT AT WORK?+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WITH THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTING WORKERS.

+I THINK THIS IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY BUT ALSO MEANINGFUL,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE DISCLOSED THAT IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THIS YEAR THERE WERE 30 678 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, INCLUDING 67 FATAL CASES, REPRESENTING AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE 32 033 ACCIDENTS (INCLUDING 80 FATAL CASES) IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

HE URGED THE PARTICIPANTS TO REVIEW THE SAFETY MEASURES AT THEIR WORKPLACES AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

+TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IS TO ENHANCE OUR PRODUCTIVITY, AND THIS WILL INDIRECTLY INCREASE OUR PRODUCTS' COMPETITIVENESS IN OVERSEAS MARKETS,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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PLAN FOR PRIVATE GARAGES TO EXAMINE CARS * * * *

UP TO 40 000 PRIVATE CARS MAY BE EXAMINED NEXT YEAR, UNDER A SCHEME PLANNED TO UTILISE PRIVATE GARAGES, MR JAMES Y.C. SO, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, SAID TODAY.

MR SO WAS ADDRESSING THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST.

+WHILE ALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES SUCH AS TAXIS, PLBS ETC. ARE INSPECTED ANNUALLY AND ALL FRANCHISED BUSES ARE INSPECTED AS FREQUENTLY AS REQUIRED, GOODS VEHICLES AND PRIVATE CARS ARE ONLY INSPECTED AT PRESENT IF THEY ARE 10 YEARS OLD OR OVER,+ MR SO SAID.

+THERE IS AT PRESENT A PROGRAMME TO PROGRESSIVELY REDUCE THE AGE LEVEL FOR THE EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE CARS FROM THE PRESENT 12 YEARS TO 6 YEARS, AND ANNUALLY FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLES,+ CONTINUED MR SO.

THIS PROGRAMME, HOWEVER, DEPENDS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES AND THE TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT OF MORE SUITABLE STAFF.

+PLANS ARE IN HAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO FULL-AUTOMATED COMPUTERISED VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES AT TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG.

/+UNFORTUNATELY, IN

+UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THESE PROJECTS WILL BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY AND IT MAY BE MANY YEARS YET BEFORE THEY CAN BE REALISED,+ MR SO EXPLAINED.

THUS THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS TO CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO ACHIEVE THE STATED OBJECTIVE.

A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW AUTHORISED PRIVATE GARAGES TO UNDERTAKE THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE CARS HAS BEEN ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS NOW WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF THE SCHEME IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION.

+IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, IT IS HOPED THAT THE PLAN WILL BE APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

+THIS WILL THEN ENABLE US TO REDUCE THE AGE LEVEL FOR ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE CARS FROM THE EXISTING 12 YEARS INITIALLY TO SEVEN YEARS AND GRADUALLY TO THE DESIRED LEVEL,+ MR SO REVEALED.

THE PROPOSED SCHEME, TO INVOLVE ABOUT 40 000 PRIVATE CARS, WOULD INVOLVE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AUTHORISING CERTAIN QUALIFIED PRIVATE GARAGES TO UNDERTAKE THE ANNUAL CHECK OF PRIVATE CARS AND TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES ON PASSING THE EXAMINATION.

ON THE SUPERVISION OF THE STANDARDS OF EXAMINATION DONE BY THESE PRIVATE GARAGES, MR SO SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH PERIODIC SPOT CHECKS AND INSPECTION AND THROUGH APPROVING THE EQUIPMENT USED AND THE PERSONNEL EMPLOYED.

MR SO ADDED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD +ACT AS AN ARBITRATOR SHOULD ANY PRIVATE CAR OWNERS FEEL AGGRIEVED OVER THE EXAMINATION DONE BY THE PRIVATE GARAGES AND WANT TO LODGE AN APPEAL.+

WITH THE EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE CARS BEING TAKEN OVER BY PRIVATE GARAGES, ADDITIONAL CAPACITY WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE EXISTING VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES. THIS WOULD IN TURN CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF AGE LEVEL FOR ANNUAL CHECK OF GOODS VEHICLES GRADUALLY.

AS PRIVATE GARAGES MAY NOT HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO HANDLE GOODS VEHICLES, +IT IS CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO START THE SCHEME ON A MANAGEABLE SCALE,+ EXPLAINED MR SO, ADDING THAT +SHOULD EXPERIENCE PROVE THAT THE SCHEME HAS SCOPE FOR EXPANSION TO COVER THE EXAMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE EXTENSION LATER+.

MR SO STRESSED THAT PERIODIC VEHICLE EXAMINATION WAS ESSENTIAL. IN 1982, A TOTAL OF NEARLY 70 000 EXAMINATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT AT THE THREE GOVERNMENT VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES.

+OF THESE VEHICLES, SOME 37 000 PASSED ON FIRST INSPECTION, WHILE THE OTHERS HAD TO RETURN FOR A SECOND OR EVEN MORE INSPECTIONS BEFORE THEY WERE PASSED FOR RELICENSING.

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+DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1983 A TOTAL OF 46 422 VEHICLES WERE EXAMINED OF WHICH 28 954 PASSED ON FIRST INSPECTION.+

THE REGULAR ROADWORTHINESS CHECK OF FRANCHISED BUSES IS CONDUCTED AT THE TWO BUS COMPANIES' PREMISES.

+IN 1982, OVER 4 000 INSPECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT ON THE BUSES OF BOTH KMB AND CMB. UP TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1983, A TOTAL OF 2 708 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE ON THE BUSES OF THESE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES.+

BY ALLOWING PRIVATE GARAGES TO TAKE ON THE EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE CARS, BETTER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CAN BE ENSURED AS THE AGE LEVEL FOR THE INSPECTION OF CARS WOULD BE REDUCED. THIS WOULD ALSO +HELP TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, REDUCE ROAD CONGESTION AND MINIMISE POLLUTION+, HE SAID.

MR SO SAID PRIVATE CAR OWNERS WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO ARRANGE SAFETY CHECKS FOR THEIR CARS AS THERE WOULD BE MORE PRIVATE GARAGES AUTHORISED TO DO INSPECTION IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

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TRADE PROMOTION TALK FOR INDUSTRIALISTS * * * * *

A SEMINAR ON +PROMOTION AND SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG INDUSTRIES+ WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS IN KWUN TONG.

AT THE SEMINAR, OFFICERS FROM THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE (HKPC), THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKTDC) AND THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (HKECIC) WILL TALK ON THEIR FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES PROVIDED IN PROMOTING TRADE.

ABOUT 80 MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE SEMINAR JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, THE HONG KONG KWUN TONG INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE ASSOCIATION AND THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 5 000 FACTORIES IN KWUN TONG, PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE THAN 140 000 WORKERS.

+THE DISTRICT HAS A HIGH PROPORTION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FACTORIES, MANY OF WHICH SELDOM USE OR SOMETIMES EVEN DO NOT REALISE THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THE EXPANSION OF THEIR BUSINESS OVERSEAS AND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS WITHIN THEIR FACTORIES,+ HE SAID.

+AS BUSINESS PERFORMANCES OF THESE FACTORIES WILL HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON THE WELL-BEING OF A LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS, IT IS FELT THAT WITH ECONOMIC RECOVERY, THERE IS A NEED TO ORGANISE A SEMINAR TO INTRODUCE THE SERVICES AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

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THE TALKS, TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY SLIDES AND FILMS, WILL HIGHLIGHT HKPC'S ROLE IN PROMOTING THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, HKTDC'S OVERSEAS AND LOCAL TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMMES, AND HKÉCIC'S PROTECTION TO THE EXPORTERS BY OFFERING EXPORT FINANCING FACILITIES.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR JOHN CHAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR ON +PROMOTION AND SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG INDUSTRIES+ AT 2 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, 26 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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ENERGY SECRETARY ARRIVES

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY, MR PETER WALKER, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM CANTON TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT.

HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COLLEGE ANNEXE OPENING

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, WILL OPEN THE NEW ANNEXE OF THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT YUEN CHAU KOK ROAD, SHA TIN, ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) AT 10 AM.

AN EXHIBITION ON THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL BE HELD AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE EXHIBITION.

A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 2923) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI, FOR THE ANNEXE AT 9.15 AM ON THAT DAY (FRIDAY).

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DB TO TALK ABOUT PRIMARY SCHOOLS
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THE FINDINGS OF A STUDY ON THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) MORNING.

THE STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN WORKS COMMITTEE.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO LOOK INTO THE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN IN TUEN MUN.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A SITE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE TUEN MUN CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF FOO YICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAN ON CIRCUIT.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE, AM 5797, WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.50 AM FOR TUEN MUN.

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VARIETY SHOW CARRIES CLEAN HK MESSAGE
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A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD TOMORROW EVENING, TO DRIVE HOME THE CLEAN HONG KONG MESSAGE TO SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

FEATURING SINGING, DANCING, ACROBATICS AND A MAGIC DISPLAY, THE 90-MINUTE SHOW WILL START AT 8 PM AT THE COMPOUND OF THE ABERDEEN CENTRE.

THE COMPERES OF THE SHOW WILL BE TWO DISC JOCKEYS FROM COMMERCIAL RADIO.

THE EVENT IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S CLEAN HONG KONG WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS IN KEEPING THEIR DISTRICT CLEAN.

OTHER ACTIVITIES HELD EARLIER IN THE YEAR INCLUDED A CLEAN HARBOUR PUBLICITY DRIVE, CLEANING OF BEACHES AND A CLEAN HAWKER STALL COMPETITION.

ADMISSION TO THE VARIETY SHOW IS FREE.

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PROHIBITED ZONE IN SHA TIN

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11), THE SECTION OF THE APPROACH ROAD FROM THE SOUTHERN EXTENSION OF SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD TO KCR HOUSE OF SHA TIN STATION, WILL BE MADE A PROHIBITED ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, GOODS VEHICLES AND TAXIS, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ZONE WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORISATION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE EXTENT OF THE PROHIBITED ZONE WILL BE INDICATED BY TRAFFIC SIGNS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING PROHIBITION TO GOODS VEHICLES AND TAXIS ON THE SAME SECTION OF THE APPROACH ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

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SPEED POST TO NETHERLANDS

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND NETHERLANDS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY, DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY SOME POSTAL STAFF THERE, THE POST-MASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

OTHER POSTAL SERVICES TO THAT COUNTRY REMAIN AVAILABLE, HE ADDED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARATHON RACE

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR ROAD AND ITS VICINITY DURING THE HALF MARATHON RACE ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12).

ALL RECREATIONAL CYCLING ACTIVITIES WILL BE BANNED FROM THE SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR ROAD AND WU KAN TANG, BETWEEN 7 AM AND 10 AM. LOCAL ESSENTIAL USERS OF BICYCLES WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE BAN.

AT THE START OF THE RACE AT 8 AM, IN ORDER TO GIVE CONTESTANTS TIME TO DISPERSE, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON TING KOK ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION OF PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR ROAD WILL BE STOPPED FOR FIVE MINUTES.

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC DURING THE RACE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 10 AM.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE MOTORISTS WHO ARE REQUESTED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE.

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