



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

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RESOLUTION ON MHD SPLIT PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMING SPLIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTO TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS.

ON APRIL 1, THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXISTING DEPARTMENT WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION IS TO TRANSFER TO THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH OR THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES FUNCTIONS PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES UNDER A NUMBER OF LEGAL ENACTMENTS," THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID WHEN MOVING THE RESOLUTION.

SPEAKING AGAINST THE MOTION THAT THE RESOLUTION BE PASSED, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID SHE OBJECTED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION BECAUSE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES COULD NOT IN REALITY BE DIVIDED.

DR IP, WHO ABSTAINED FROM VOTING, QUESTIONED WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SET UP A STEERING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW MEDICAL SERVICES AS A WHOLE, INSTEAD OF CONFINING THE REVIEW TO HOSPITAL SERVICES ONLY.

THE HON RONALD CHOW, WHO VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION, SAID HE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE THE PROPOSED SPLIT, BUT HE FELT CONFUSION WOULD ENSUE UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.

HE SAID HE CONTINUED TO GET DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS FROM OFFICIALS, AND IN VIEW OF THE CONFUSION FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND CONSULTATION WAS NECESSARY BEFORE A SPLIT WAS IMPLEMENTED.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID THAT MANY "GREY AREAS" WOULD REMAIN AFTER THE SPLIT, AND IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT MANY FRONT-LINE WORKERS WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CAREERS.

IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO AFFIRM THAT THE SPLIT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROGRESSIVE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, AND THAT THIS MOVE WOULD BE REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKING STAFF.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, MR CHAU SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS INCLUDING HEALTH EDUCATION, SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES.

/"IT WILL .....

"IT WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS, FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES AND FOR A NUMBER OF HEALTH SERVICES SUCH AS CHILD ASSESSMENT, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, DENTAL SERVICES AND FORENSIC PATHOLOGY," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HE SAID ITS RESPONSIBILITIES LAY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING OF ALL SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT CLINICS, AS WELL AS THE CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE RE-ORGANISATION, MR CHAU SAID THE CREATION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENTS WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO ASSUME OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES.

IN 1985, THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, HE POINTED OUT.

THE CONSULTANTS LATER IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION, PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAD BEEN ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 1987.

NOTING THAT THE TARGET DATE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS APRIL 1, 1990, MR CHAU SAID THERE WERE SOUND REASONS FOR SPLITTING THE SERVICES OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE.

"ALTHOUGH, IN MANY RESPECTS, THE HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES FUNCTIONS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPERATE SEPARATELY THEY, NEVERTHELESS, SHARE MANY CENTRAL DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS ACCOMMODATION, FINANCE, STAFF MANAGEMENT, PROCUREMENT ETC," HE SAID.

"THE DIVISION OF THESE FUNCTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS IS A MAJOR LOGISTICAL EXERCISE AND SOME TEETHING PROBLEMS WILL BE INEVITABLE."

MR CHAU SAID THE NEXT 12 MONTHS SHOULD PROVIDE AMPLE TIME FOR THESE PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME SO THAT ALL INTERNAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS WERE FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT STEP OF ESTABLISHING THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

/"WHEN THE .....

"WHEN THE AUTHORITY COMES INTO EXISTENCE THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE SUBSUMED WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE NEW AUTHORITY; THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL REMAIN A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

MR CHAU STRESSED THAT THE CREATION OF THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS WOULD NOT LEAD TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR DISRUPTION TO THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

"FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF STAFF, THE RE-ORGANISATION WILL ENTAIL NO MORE THAN A CHANGE IN THE DEPARTMENTAL DESIGNATION OF THE POSTS WHICH THEY PRESENTLY OCCUPY," HE SAID.

"STEPS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE CAREER PROSPECTS OF STAFF EMPLOYED IN GRADES WHICH WILL BE COMMON TO BOTH DEPARTMENTS ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

"SPECIFICALLY, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THE DEPARTMENTS TO EXERCISE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY ON MATTERS SUCH AS POSTINGS, PROMOTION, PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL, TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT."

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WERE DELEGATED WITH STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES UNDER A LARGE NUMBER OF ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS.

THE RESOLUTION PASSED TODAY WOULD EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TO THE APPROPRIATE NEW AUTHORITIES AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 54A OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

MOREOVER, NEW HEADS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS WOULD ALSO BE CREATED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR CHAU ADDED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY APPROVED, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1989-90 DRAFT ESTIMATES, THE TRANSFER FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF 5,226 AND 22,425 POSTS RESPECTIVELY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF 10 NEW DIRECTORATE POSTS IN THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS.

THE RESOLUTION WAS MOVED UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

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MEMBERS' REMARKS WILL BE BORNE IN MIND: SHW  
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EVEN AFTER THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES COME INTO BEING ON APRIL 1, NOTHING SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SET IN CONCRETE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THIS WHEN SPEAKING IN REPLY TO MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON A RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

"THE REMARKS MADE BY MEMBERS TODAY WILL CERTAINLY BE BORNE IN MIND.

"IF EXPERIENCE SHOULD INDICATE THAT ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED I SEE NO REASON WHY LATER ON, EVEN AFTER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SET UP, THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO SEPARATE BODIES CANNOT BE FURTHER DEFINED OR ADDRESSED," MR CHAU SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO RE-ORGANISE THE MEDICAL SERVICES HAD CREATED UNCERTAINTY AMONGST STAFF.

THIS, MR CHAU SAID, WAS A PROBLEM WHICH COULD NOT BE FULLY RESOLVED UNTIL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ON THE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO BE APPLICABLE UNDER THE NEW HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD BEEN FINALISED AND ACCEPTED BY STAFF.

"IN THE INTERIM, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED STAFF THAT WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MAY BE, THEY WILL HAVE AN OPTION EITHER TO JOIN THE NEW AUTHORITY OR REMAIN A CIVIL SERVANT.

"THIS WILL BE A GENUINE OPTION AND FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN A CIVIL SERVANT THEY WILL HAVE THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS PROTECTED," MR CHAU STRESSED.

MEANWHILE, HE SAID CONSULTATION WITH STAFF WOULD CONTINUE AFTER THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF STAFF IN A MAJOR AND COMPLEX RE-ORGANISATION EXERCISE WHICH WOULD BEGIN ON APRIL 1.

"THE GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF STAFF CONSULTATION IN A RE-ORGANISATION EXERCISE INVOLVING 27,000 MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT," MR CHAU SAID.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT SPECIAL MEASURES ON STAFF CONSULTATIONS WERE ADOPTED TO MAKE SURE THAT STAFF UNDERSTOOD THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RE-ORGANISATION, WHAT IT INVOLVED AND HOW THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS ARE BEING SAFEGUARD."

/THE CONSULTATIVE .....

THE CONSULTATIVE MEASURES INCLUDED OVER 60 MEETINGS SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1987 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SET UP THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND TO RE-ORGANISE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, MR CHAU SAID.

THESE MEETINGS INCLUDED THOSE JOINTLY HELD WITH ALL GRADES OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FORMAL DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OR SEPARATELY WITH DIFFERENT GRADE REPRESENTATIVES COVERING MEDICAL AND DENTAL OFFICERS, NURSES, PARAMEDICS, GENERAL GRADE OFFICERS AND MODEL SCALE ONE OFFICERS.

IN ADDITION, TWO SPECIAL ROUNDS OF OPEN CONSULTATION SESSIONS WERE HELD IN THE AUTUMN OF 1987 AND IN THE SUMMER OF 1988 IN ALL HOSPITALS AND MOST CLINICS.

THESE SESSIONS ENABLED STAFF WHO DID NOT BELONG TO ASSOCIATIONS TO BE DIRECTLY BRIEFED ON THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS TO MANAGEMENT.

"TO ENSURE THAT EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE CHANGES BEING INTRODUCED, TWO BILINGUAL DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULARS WERE ISSUED. ONE ON OCTOBER 12, 1987, ANOTHER ON JULY 25, 1988," MR CHAU CONTINUED.

"THESE CIRCULARS WERE GIVEN THE WIDEST CIRCULATION POSSIBLE, AND IN BOTH CASES A HOTLINE TELEPHONE NUMBER WAS GIVEN IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE STAFF TO SEEK CLARIFICATION AND TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON THE MATTER."

A FURTHER DETAILED CIRCULAR WOULD BE ISSUED SHORTLY TO EXPLAIN TO STAFF THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND TO REPEAT THE ASSURANCES OF THEIR CIVIL SERVICE STATUS, MR CHAU SAID.

A GROUP OF 43 STAFF ASSOCIATIONS HAD ALSO FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A LEAGUE REPRESENTING ALL GRADES OF STAFF OTHER THAN THE DOCTORS AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE STAFF WITH THE APPROACHING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THEIR LATEST MEETING WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS HELD ON MARCH 7 WHERE THEY INDICATED CLEARLY THEY UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR, AND DID NOT OBJECT TO, THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 1.

"IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUAL STAFF ASSOCIATIONS, ADDITIONAL MEETINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRANGED WITH VARIOUS STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND GROUPS TO FURTHER EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF RE-ORGANISATION AND TO ALLAY THEIR ANXIETIES," HE SAID.

"THESE MEETINGS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE STAFF."

/ON THE .....

ON THE QUESTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, MR CHAU SAID IT WAS INDEED THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO START A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND WITH A DEGREE OF URGENCY.

"IN DRAWING UP THE TERMS OF REFERENCE I WILL CERTAINLY PAY REGARD TO DR IP'S REMARKS."

"BUT I DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER AFTER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SET UP NEXT YEAR, AND IN THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF ITS INFANCY WE SHOULD ENLARGE THAT ORGANISATION BY RE-INJECTING INTO IT, OR INJECTING INTO IT, THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENTS CLINICS, THEREBY MAKING IT AN EVEN BIGGER ORGANISATION.

"BUT, AS I SAID, NOTHING IS SET IN CONCRETE," MR CHAU SAID.

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SPLIT BEGINS A PROGRESSIVE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER  
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THE SPLITTING OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS BEING DONE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND IT WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE SPLIT, DR LEONG SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WOULD ACT AS A CATALYST TO A MORE SPEEDY CONSIDERATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG.

"THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN SCEPTICAL AND UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS IGNORED A TOTAL REVIEW OF MEDICAL HEALTH IN HONG KONG AND HAS SO FAR ONLY LAID EMPHASIS ON THE DELIVERY OF HOSPITAL CARE," HE SAID.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, WHICH WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT IN THE TOTAL PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE, HAD NEVER BEEN ADDRESSED, DR LEONG SAID.

OBVIOUSLY MANY "GREY AREAS" WOULD REMAIN AFTER THE SPLIT. MANY FRONT-LINE WORKERS WOULD BE FEELING AT A LOSS IN RELATION TO THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING AND SUFFER DISILLUSION WITH THEIR CAREER.

IN THESE SENSITIVE TIMES, IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO AFFIRM THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE SPLIT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROGRESSIVE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, AND THAT THIS MOVE WOULD BE REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH FULL INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION WITH THE WORKING STAFF.

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CLARIFICATION ON SPLIT NEEDED

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THE SPLITTING UP OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE DEFERRED AS THERE WOULD STILL BE CONFUSION REGARDING THE OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AFTER THE RE-ORGANISATION, THE HON RONALD CHOW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HE FORESAW CHAOS, ESPECIALLY IN THE NURSING SERVICE WHICH FORMED A MAJOR PART OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. ANYTHING THAT WENT WRONG WITHIN THIS WOULD INEVITABLY HINDER THE OVERALL RUNNING OF THE SYSTEM.

SPEAKING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION TO SPLIT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, MR CHOW SAID HE DID SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE THE PROPOSED SPLIT, BUT HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE, THAT WAS SET FOR APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS ON THE SUBJECT DID NOT PROVIDE CLEAR AND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO THE CONFUSION IN THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE PART RELATED TO NURSING SERVICE.

FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND CONSULTATION WERE NECESSARY BEFORE THE SPLIT WAS IMPLEMENTED.

MR CHOW SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF WAS NOT SATISFACTORY, AND MANY STAFF STILL COMPLAINED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION AND THE EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION WERE CONFUSING.

GIVEN THAT MOST OF THE NURSING STAFF DID NOT HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE ON SPLITTING THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FROM APRIL 1 WOULD AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION AND REDUCE STAFF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, HE SAID.

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SERVICES CANNOT BE DIVIDED

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THE PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTO TWO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS WAS CRITICISED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR IP SAID SHE OBJECTED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT BECAUSE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES COULD NOT IN REALITY BE DIVIDED.

/SHE ABSTAINED .....

SHE ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION WHICH SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE THE RE-ORGANISATION. SHE SAID SHE WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE USE OF FUNDS WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE RESOLUTION TO TAKE EFFECT.

DR IP SAID THERE WAS A FINE DISTINCTION BETWEEN HOSPITAL SERVICES AND HEALTH SERVICES.

TO QUOTE SOME EXAMPLES, SHE SAID, THE RESOLUTION HAD GROUPED THE RELEVANT STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER THREE SCHEDULES, ONE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, ONE TO THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES AND ONE TO BOTH THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES.

SO, IN ESSENCE, THE GOVERNMENT ADMITTED THAT IN SOME INSTANCES, THE FUNCTIONS COULD NOT BE DIVIDED, SHE SAID.

DR IP NOTED THAT THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH REGULATIONS, WHICH BOTH WERE TO DO WITH HEALTH AS THEIR TITLES IMPLIED, WOULD BE PUT UNDER THE HOSPITAL SERVICES, AND YET THE MAJORITY OF MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS WERE IN THE COMMUNITY AND NOT IN HOSPITALS.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT ORDINANCES INVOLVING DRUGS, ANTIBIOTICS, PHARMACY, POISONS AND RADIATION -- ALL OF WHICH AFFECTED HOSPITAL SERVICES, WOULD BE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

THE ORDINANCE GOVERNING DOCTORS, DENTISTS, NURSES AND MIDWIVES, MOST OF WHOM WERE WORKING IN HOSPITALS, WOULD BE UNDER THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SUCH A RE-ORGANISATION WOULD NOT ONLY CONFUSE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL SERVICES FURTHER BUT WOULD ALSO INVOLVE THE USE OF LARGE SUMS OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

IT WOULD REQUIRE A DUPLICATION OF THE SENIOR POSTS OF DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND A FEW SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL AS WELL AS CLERICAL WORKERS AND OFFICE PREMISES.

DR IP ALSO QUESTIONED WHY GOVERNMENT CLINICS WERE TO BE OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RATHER THAN BY THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS REASONABLE FOR SOME TO SUSPECT THAT FOR ALL PURPOSES THIS WAS NO MORE THAN A PLOY OF THOSE REMAINING IN THE FUTURE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN THE SIZE OF A SHRINKING DEPARTMENT, SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN EFFECT PRE-EMPTED THE SETTING UP OF A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY EVEN BEFORE A STEERING COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO REVIEW HOSPITAL SERVICES.

IF THE GOVERNMENT GENUINELY WANTED TO REVIEW MEDICAL SERVICES AS A WHOLE, AS IT SHOULD HAVE, WHY DID IT NOT SET UP A STEERING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW MEDICAL SERVICES AS WHOLE INSTEAD OF CONFINING THE REVIEW TO HOSPITAL SERVICES ONLY, SHE ASKED.

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DR IP CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND CONSIDER WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE ABSORBED INTO THE INDEPENDENT HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

"IF SO, THE AUTHORITY SHOULD BE BETTER TERMED THE INDEPENDENT MEDICAL AND HEALTH AUTHORITY. WE CAN THEN OFFER UNFRAGMENTED MEDICAL TREATMENT TO PATIENTS," SHE SAID.

THIS WOULD LEAVE A SMALLER DEPARTMENT WHICH SHOULD BETTER RETAIN THE EXISTING NAME OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN POLICY MAKING.

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FUNDING MOTION PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION PROVIDING FUNDS ON ACCOUNT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE FUNDS INVOLVED AMOUNT TO \$31.3 BILLION.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THE FUNDS ON ACCOUNT SOUGHT UNDER EACH SUBHEAD HAVE BEEN DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO PERCENTAGES OF THE PROVISION SHOWN IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES.

AS THE DRAFT ESTIMATES WERE CHANGED FROM TIME TO TIME, BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED POWERS, THE PROVISION TO WHICH THE PERCENTAGES WERE APPLIED WOULD ALSO CHANGE, MR NENDICK SAID.

"THUS THE PROVISION ON ACCOUNT UNDER EACH HEAD IS NOT CONSTANT BUT MAY VARY, WITH EVERY INCREASE BEING MATCHED BY AN EQUAL DECREASE.

"THE INITIAL PROVISION ON ACCOUNT UNDER EACH HEAD IS SHOWN IN A FOOTNOTE TO THIS SPEECH.

"THE AGGREGATE TOTAL UNDER ALL HEADS IS FIXED, HOWEVER, AT \$31,313,335,000 AND CANNOT BE EXCEEDED WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THIS COUNCIL," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE MOTION WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO VARY THE FUNDS ON ACCOUNT IN RESPECT OF ANY SUBHEAD, PROVIDED THAT THESE VARIATIONS DID NOT CAUSE AN EXCESS OVER THE AMOUNT OF PROVISION ENTERED FOR THAT SUBHEAD IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OR AN EXCESS OVER THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS ON ACCOUNT FOR THE HEAD.

/"A VOTE .....

"A VOTE ON ACCOUNT WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AUTHORISING HIM TO MAKE PAYMENTS UP TO THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THIS MOTION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

"THE VOTE ON ACCOUNT WILL BE SUBSUMED UPON THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, AND THE GENERAL WARRANT ISSUED AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL WILL REPLACE THE VOTE ON ACCOUNT WARRANT AND WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1989."

THE MOTION WAS MOVED UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

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#### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

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UNDER THE EXISTING PROCEDURES OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME, A STUDENT MAY REGISTER WITH A DOCTOR ONLY IN THE AREA IN WHICH HE GOES TO SCHOOL.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM.

ASKED WHETHER A STUDENT COULD CONSULT A DOCTOR WHO HAD JOINED THE SCHEME BUT WHOSE CLINIC WAS OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED ZONE OF HIS SCHOOL, MR CHAU SAID WHEN THE STUDENT WAS SICK HE SHOULD SEEK TREATMENT UNDER THE SCHEME ONLY FROM THAT DOCTOR WITH WHOM HE WAS REGISTERED, AND MIGHT NOT CONSULT ANOTHER DOCTOR, EVEN IF THE LATTER WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE SCHEME.

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#### MORE SITES FOR PUBLIC USES IN NEXT DECADE

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THE REDEVELOPMENT OF OLDER PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE NEXT DECADE WILL REDUCE POPULATION DENSITY AND FREE SUITABLE SITES FOR GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY USES IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR BARNES SAID THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF SITES IN THE URBAN AREAS FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

"THE FACILITIES MOST LACKING ARE OPEN SPACE, DAY CARE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY AND INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES," HE SAID.

WHILE THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES PROVIDED A THEORETICAL BASIS FOR THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ACCORDING TO POPULATION, ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS WOULD VARY DEPENDING ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN EACH DISTRICT.

"PROVIDING THE FACILITIES THEMSELVES ALSO DEPENDS UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE SITES, RESOURCES AND THE PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO EACH," MR BARNES SAID.

IN THE CASE OF NEW TOWNS, WHERE ENOUGH SITES HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY RESERVED AT THE OUTEST, THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WOULD GENERALLY CATCH UP WITH DEMAND AS THESE AREAS DEVELOPED TO MATURITY IN THE EARLY 1990'S, HE ADDED.

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#### NO MOVE TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CONSIDER TAKING STEPS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN HONG KONG.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR.

"THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE DEATH PENALTY IS THE APPROPRIATE SENTENCE FOR THE CRIME OF MURDER," SIR DAVID SAID.

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#### NO IMPAIRMENT OF POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

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THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPAIRMENT OF POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES DESPITE A SLIGHT INCREASE IN STAFF WASTAGE RATES IN THE TWO DEPARTMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, MONITOR THE SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY AND PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO EFFORTS TO STEP UP RECRUITMENT AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

MR BARNES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MIRIAM LAU.

/"THE ADMINISTRATION .....

"THE ADMINISTRATION SHARES THE PUBLIC'S WISH THAT THE POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES, AMONGST OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD BE KEPT UP TO STRENGTH AND THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DETERIORATION IN THE PRESENT HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICES PROVIDED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT A TELEVISED PROGRAMME BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, TO WHICH MRS LAU HAD REFERRED, DID NOT DETRACT FROM THE RELEVANCE OF THE INFORMATION WHICH HE PROVIDED IN THE COUNCIL LAST MONTH.

THE STATISTICS HE GAVE THEN SHOWED THAT AT THE END OF 1988 THE POLICE WASTAGE RATE WAS SIX PER CENT WHILE THE VACANCY RATE WAS LESS THAN ONE PER CENT.

FOR THE FIRE SERVICES, THE WASTAGE AND VACANCY RATES WERE 3.3 PER CENT AND 6.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

QUOTING STATISTICS FROM THE END OF LAST MONTH, MR BARNES SAID THE POLICE WASTAGE RATE FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR WAS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY TO 6.2 PER CENT WHILE THE VACANCY RATE WOULD REMAIN AT LESS THAN ONE PER CENT.

AS FOR THE FIRE SERVICES, HE SAID, THE WASTAGE RATE WAS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY TO 3.6 PER CENT WHILE THE VACANCY RATE WOULD DECREASE TO 5.7 PER CENT.

"THESE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE VACANCY RATES OF THESE TWO DEPARTMENTS COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WHERE THE AVERAGE VACANCY RATE IN 1988 WAS 6.1 PER CENT," MR BARNES SAID.

"FOR WASTAGE THE POLICE RATE IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE CIVIL SERVICE RATE OF 5.6 PER CENT. THE FIRE SERVICES WASTAGE RATE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER."

REFERRING TO POLICE SERVICES, MR BARNES SAID THAT IN 1988 THE OVERALL CRIME RATE DROPPED BY THREE PER CENT, AND THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE DROPPED BY 16.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1987.

FOR THE FIRE SERVICES, IN 1988, 80 PER CENT OF THE FIRE CALLS WERE ANSWERED WITHIN THE TARGET RESPONSE TIME OF SIX MINUTES, WHILE THE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME WAS ONLY 5.23 MINUTES.

"IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE INDICATORS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPAIRMENT OF SERVICES," HE ADDED.

2 % OF BEDS OCCUPIED BY TERMINAL CANCER PATIENTS

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ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF THE HOSPITAL BEDS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY CANCER PATIENTS IN THE TERMINAL STAGE OF THEIR ILLNESS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG ON HOSPICE CARE IN HONG KONG.

AT PRESENT, MR CHAU SAID, HOSPICE CARE WAS AVAILABLE IN THE NAM LONG HOSPITAL, OUR LADY OF MARYKNOLL HOSPITAL, HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL AND THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL.

"WHILE SOME OF THIS SERVICE IS SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SOME IS SUPPORTED BY FUNDS OBTAINED BY THE ORGANISATIONS THEMSELVES," HE SAID.

"THERE ARE ALSO TWO VOLUNTEER VISITING SCHEMES FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL."

MR CHAU EXPLAINED THAT THE CONCEPT OF HOSPICE CARE WAS "TO PROVIDE BETTER CARE FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL, MAINLY CANCER PATIENTS, THE NEEDS OF WHOM IN TERMS OF EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PATIENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO LOOK FORWARD TO RECOVERY."

HE NOTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF HOSPICE CARE WAS CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN 1987.

THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE WAS THAT WHILE, IN PRINCIPLE, HOSPICE CARE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG, IT COULD BEST BE PROVIDED THROUGH SUBVENTION TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION WAS THAT A PILOT SCHEME COULD BE SET UP IN ONE OR TWO REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS IN IMPROVING CARE PROVIDED TO THE TERMINALLY ILL.

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NUMEROUS DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS WITH CHINA

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ALMOST EVERY GOVERNMENT BRANCH OR DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG HAS CONTACTS WITH ITS COUNTERPART IN CHINA AND THESE CONTACTS ARE VERY NUMEROUS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, SIR DAVID SAID THAT TO GIVE ONLY ONE EXAMPLE IN 1988, OFFICIALS FROM THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH MADE 18 VISITS TO CHINA TO DISCUSS MATTERS SUCH AS HONG KONG'S WATER SUPPLY OR TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON TIDES.

"THE NATURE AND FREQUENCY OF WORKING LEVEL EXCHANGES WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT VARIES GREATLY.

"THERE ARE ALMOST DAILY MEETINGS BY BORDER LIAISON OFFICIALS FROM POLICE, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WITH THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN SHENZHEN TO DISCUSS MATTERS AS DIVERSE AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION TO SMUGGLING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THIS IS AUGMENTED BY A TELEPHONE LINK FOR URGENT COMMUNICATION," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT MANY OF THESE EXCHANGES, SUCH AS THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON ROAD TRAFFIC LINKS, TOOK PLACE REGULARLY AND WERE ORGANISED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE BORDER LIAISON REVIEW SYSTEM.

"PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE IS THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON CONTROLS AND ENTRY/EXIT POINTS WHICH MEETS QUARTERLY AND DEALS WITH ALL MATTERS RELATED TO BORDER CONTROLS INCLUDING IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRAFFIC QUOTAS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALSO TOOK PART IN A VARIETY OF MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS AS PART OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION.

"INDEED, SEVERAL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY IN PEKING ATTENDING THE 12TH MEETING OF THE JLG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WELCOMED SUCH VISITS AND EXCHANGES WHICH IT FELT WOULD ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

"AS I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED MANY OF THESE MEETINGS ARE REGULAR FIXED EVENTS.

"MANY MORE ARE ONE-OFF EVENTS OCCURRING IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC NEEDS.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN THE FREQUENCY OF EXCHANGES WE EXPECT THAT, AS IN RECENT YEARS, THERE WILL BE AN INCREASED NUMBER OF SUCH CONTACTS IN 1989," HE SAID.

WIDE RANGE OF PUBLICITY ON SAFETY OF YOUNG

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THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, REGARDING ACCIDENTS IN GENERAL, WHICH REMIND PARENTS OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN PROPERLY.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG.

DR LEONG HAD ASKED WHAT PROPHYLACTIC MEASURES WERE OR WOULD BE TAKEN TO AFFORD MORE PROTECTION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES.

"THIS IS A VERY WIDE RANGING QUESTION SINCE ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES CAN HAPPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COURSE OF ANY OF THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES," MR CHAU SAID.

"IT THEREFORE TOUCHES ON NUMEROUS POLICY AREAS AND I HAVE CONSULTED WIDELY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION SO AS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REPLY."

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, TO WHICH DR LEONG HAD REFERRED, FOUND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT IN 1986 INJURY AND POISONING ACCOUNTED FOR 65 PER CENT OF ALL MALE DEATHS AT ABOUT THE AGE OF 25 YEARS.

IT ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PER CENT OF ALL FEMALE DEATHS OCCURRING AT ABOUT SAME AGE.

"THE PHRASE 'INJURY AND POISONING' WAS ONE OF THE CATEGORIES OF MORTALITY QUOTED IN THE REPORT, BUT THIS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE PERSPECTIVE THAT POISONING RESULTED IN 1986 IN THE DEATH OF TWO PER CENT OR LESS OF PERSONS IN ALL AGE GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 25," MR CHAU SAID.

"DEATHS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE RESULTING FROM OTHER TYPES OF ACCIDENT SUCH AS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTAL FALLS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE CONSIDERABLY GREATER."

AS REGARDS ACCIDENTS IN GENERAL, MR CHAU SAID THERE WERE, IN PARTICULAR, CAMPAIGNS ON HOME SAFETY INCLUDING THE USE OF ELECTRICAL AND GAS APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

THERE WERE ALSO CAMPAIGNS ON THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED, AND ROAD SAFETY.

THE COMING HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN WOULD BE ON CHILD NEGLECT.

/MR CHAU .....

MR CHAU SAID IN CONJUNCTION WITH THESE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD INCLUDED THE SUBJECT OF HOME SAFETY IN ITS BOOKLETS ON GOOD PARENTING.

THESE BOOKLETS, OF WHICH OVER ONE MILLION HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED, REMINDED PARENTS NOT TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN UNATTENDED AND URGED THEM TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THEIR CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING.

THE BOOKLETS ALSO REMINDED PARENTS TO BE ALERT TO SUDDEN CHANGES IN THEIR CHILDREN'S HABITS, HEALTH AND BEHAVIOUR.

THE INFORMATION BOOKLETS WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY A WIDE RANGE OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES.

IN ADDITION, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT PROVIDED GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION TO PARENTS AND ADVICE ON HOW THEY SHOULD CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

AS REGARDS THE PREVENTION OF POISONING, MR CHAU SAID WARNINGS SUCH AS "KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN" WERE PRINTED ON ALL MEDICINE LABELS ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

CERTAIN MEDICINES WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO CARRY A LABEL MARKED "POISON" UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT AS YOUNG PEOPLE SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF THEIR TIME IN SCHOOL, THE HONG KONG EDUCATION REGULATIONS 1971 REQUIRED SUPERVISORS AND HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO ENSURE PUPILS' SAFETY.

THESE REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY COVERED SCHOOL PREMISES AND STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS, ROOF PLAYGROUNDS, SCHOOL WORKSHOPS AND SCIENCE LABORATORIES, FIRE PRECAUTIONS, AND HEALTH AND SANITATION, HE SAID.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUED CIRCULARS, GUIDELINES AND SPECIAL BOOKLETS TO TEACHERS TO ENSURE THAT THE REGULATIONS WERE OBSERVED.

SIMILAR REGULATIONS WERE CONTAINED IN THE CHILD CARE CENTRE ORDINANCE, AND A CODE OF PRACTICE ON CHILD CARE CENTRES WAS ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATORS OF THESE CENTRES.

MR CHAU NOTED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL WERE SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE.

HE SAID SAFETY TRAINING WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMMES REGARDING YOUNG PEOPLE AT WORK, AND OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PAID REGULAR VISITS TO SCHOOLS TO TALK TO SENIOR STUDENTS ABOUT SAFETY AT WORK.

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ONE-DAY PROGRAMMES ON SAFETY AT WORK WERE PROVIDED EVERY YEAR FOR STUDENTS TAKING UP SUMMER JOBS.

ON MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ROAD ACCIDENTS, MR CHAU SAID THERE WAS LEGISLATION ON THE WEARING OF SEAT BELTS IN PRIVATE CARS, AND THIS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO TAXIS AND LIGHT BUSES ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THAT TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ON ROAD SAFETY, THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL HAD PRODUCED ROAD SAFETY TEACHING KITS FOR USE IN KINDERGARTENS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND RAN CYCLING PROFICIENCY COURSES FOR YOUNG PERSONS.

A ROAD USERS CODE WAS ALSO PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TWO CHAPTERS OF THIS WERE AIMED AT CHILDREN.

IN ADDITION, THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION ORGANISED VARIOUS PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS, AND THERE WAS OFF-STREET TRAINING FOR MOTOR-CYCLISTS, MANY OF WHOM WERE YOUNG PERSONS.

OF POTENTIAL DANGER TO YOUNGER CHILDREN WERE IMPROPERLY CONSTRUCTED CONSUMER PRODUCTS, SUCH AS TOYS, MR CHAU SAID.

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD A PROGRAMME FOR TESTING A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING THOSE USED BY AND AFFECTING THE YOUNGER AGE GROUP, HE SAID.

WHEN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS PRODUCTS WERE IDENTIFIED, THE COUNCIL WOULD APPROACH MANUFACTURERS OR IMPORTERS AND, IF NECESSARY, ALERT THE PUBLIC.

A WORKING GROUP ON TOY SAFETY HAD RECENTLY RECOMMENDED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO ADOPT CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON TOY SAFETY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE POINTED OUT.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, IN PRINCIPLE, BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE WORKING GROUP IS NOW EXAMINING WHICH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SHOULD BE ADOPTED," HE SAID.

"A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP ON PRODUCT SAFETY IS NOW EXAMINING WHETHER LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED TO CONTROL UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOT ALREADY COVERED BY SPECIFIC LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE."

MR CHAU SAID RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SPORTS, PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN A CHILD'S UPBRINGING.

DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS THEREFORE COVERED FACILITIES SUCH AS SWIMMING POOLS, SPORTS GROUNDS, INDOOR GAMES HALLS AND SO ON.

/THE URBAN .....

THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, WHICH OPERATED THESE FACILITIES, EMPLOYED QUALIFIED STAFF AND PROVIDED THEM WITH FULL TRAINING ON SAFETY ASPECTS AND ON HOW TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

THERE WERE REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS ON TELEVISION AND RADIO WARNING CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS INVOLVED IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HIKING, SWIMMING AND CANOEING.

THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY IN SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ORGANISED TWO MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, ONE ON LAND SPORTS AND ANOTHER ON WATER SPORTS EACH YEAR.

"THERE ARE, OF COURSE, VARIOUS OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS RELATING FOR EXAMPLE TO THE SAFETY OF BUILDINGS," MR CHAU SAID.

"BUT I TRUST THAT THIS REPLY GIVES AT LEAST A BROAD IMPRESSION OF THE EFFORTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION, IN ALL AREAS OF YOUNG PEOPLES' ACTIVITIES, TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND TO HELP TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES," HE ADDED.

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#### INSPECTIONS OF SANITATION ON FERRIES

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GOVERNMENT STAFF MAKE INSPECTIONS ON SANITATION REGARDING FOOD SALES ON FERRIES AND TO SEE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR LEUNG SAID THE MARINE HAWKERS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF MARINE HAWKERS.

THIS COVERED THE SALE OF FOOD ITEMS ON FERRIES OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED A LICENSEE TO MAINTAIN THE VESSEL'S CLEANLINESS, INCLUDING ITS EATING UTENSILS, AND TO COLLECT AND DISPOSE OF THE REFUSE.

THE LICENSEE WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO SUCH MEDICAL REGULATIONS AS THOSE IMPOSED ON RESTAURANTS.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED REGULAR INSPECTIONS TO CHECK IF THE RELEVANT ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS WERE OBSERVED.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS' INSPECTORS ALSO INSPECTED THOSE VESSELS WHICH WERE THE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS OF INSANITARY SALE OF FOOD TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

MR LEUNG SAID THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT ENSURED THAT FOOD WAS SOLD IN READILY DISPOSABLE FORM, CAUSING LITTLE INCONVENIENCE TO OTHER PASSENGERS.

BEVERAGES WERE GENERALLY SOLD IN DISPOSABLE CUPS OR CANS AND FOOD WAS WRAPPED OR WAS IN DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS. LITTER BINS WERE PROVIDED ON BOARD AND ANY LITTER WAS COLLECTED BY THE CREW FOR DISPOSAL.

HE SAID THAT AS REGARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACTIVITIES CAUSING POLLUTION TO THE HARBOUR, THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE DEALT WITH THE OFFENCE OF LITTERING IN HONG KONG WATERS.

THE FERRY SERVICES REGULATIONS PROHIBITED LITTERING ON VESSELS AND PIERS, WHILE THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY BY-LAWS PROHIBITED THE THROWING OF RUBBISH FROM VESSELS AND PIERS, MR LEUNG ADDED.

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MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION HELP REDUCE BRAKING NOISE

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REDUCTION OF BRAKE SQUEAL FROM BUSES AND HEAVY VEHICLES CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED BY PROPER MAINTENANCE BY VEHICLE OWNERS AND REGULAR INSPECTION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, GAVE THIS ANSWER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY, MR LEUNG SAID THAT TO CONTAIN THE INCIDENCE OF BRAKE SQUEAL, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CHECKED ALL IMPORTED BUSES AND HEAVY VEHICLES, INCLUDING THEIR BRAKING SYSTEMS, TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONFORMED WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO CARRIED OUT PRE-REGISTRATION AND ANNUAL ROADWORTHINESS INSPECTIONS.

HE SAID ALL BUSES WERE SUBJECT TO RANDOM SPOT CHECKS FOR ROADWORTHINESS, INCLUDING EXCESSIVE NOISE FAULTS. BUS OPERATORS HAD TO RECTIFY ANY DETECTED FAULTS BEFORE BUSES COULD PASS THE INSPECTION.

FROM TIME TO TIME, DESIGN FAULTS IN BRAKING SYSTEMS ON BUSES HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES, AND MANUFACTURERS HAD BEEN ASKED TO REMEDY THE BRAKE SQUEAL FAULT.

MR LEUNG .....

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MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GIVING PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MEDIA TO PROMOTE "DEFENSIVE DRIVING" AMONG DRIVERS. THIS WAS ALSO A FEATURE OF THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES' DRIVER TRAINING TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF HARD BRAKING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF INTRODUCING CONTROLS UNDER THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE TO COVER BRAKING NOISE AS IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL.

BRAKE SQUEAL WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF DRUM BRAKES, MR LEUNG POINTED OUT.

IT COULD BE CAUSED BY INCORRECT ADJUSTMENT, DIRT OR WEAR AND TEAR TO BRAKE LININGS AND BRAKE SHOES, OVERHEATING OF BRAKE DRUMS FROM HEAVY USAGE OR DESIGN FAULTS IN BRAKE SYSTEMS.

OFTEN THE SQUEAL OCCURRED WHEN BRAKES WERE COOLING AFTER HEAVY USAGE.

IT WAS MORE PREVALENT IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, HILLY TERRAIN, THE EFFECTS OF HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY AND HEAVY LOADINGS WHICH CAUSED MORE WEAR AND TEAR THAN WAS EXPERIENCED ELSEWHERE, MR LEUNG SAID.

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AMENDMENTS PROPOSED ON BURGLAR ALARM CONTROL

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DRAFTED PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BETTER CONTROL OVER BURGLAR ALARMS.

THIS HAD BEEN DONE ON THE ADVICE OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, AND THE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

MR BARNES SAID THE PROPOSALS INCLUDED:

- \* EMPOWERING THE POLICE TO EXAMINE ALARM SYSTEM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT. FAILURE TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE POLICE AND TO COMPLY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD RESULT IN LIABILITY TO A FINE; AND
- \* PROVIDING FOR ALL AUDIBLE ALARMS TO BE FITTED WITH A DEVICE TO CUT OFF THE SOUND AFTER 15 MINUTES.

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\$400 MILLION IN 'ADDITIONAL REVENUE'

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THE "ADDITIONAL REVENUE" ARISING FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE "CLAWBACK" PROVISION IN SALARIES TAXATION IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$400 MILLION FOR EACH OF THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1987-88 AND 1988-89.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN.

MR NENDICK EXPLAINED THAT THE "ADDITIONAL REVENUE" DERIVED FROM THE "CLAWBACK" PROVISION WAS, IN EFFECT, THE REDUCED COST TO THE REVENUE OF GRANTING ADDITIONAL PERSONAL ALLOWANCE.

"THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'CLAWBACK' PROVISION INVOLVED A COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COST OF \$60,000 IN 1987-88."

"THEREAFTER, NO OTHER COST HAS BEEN INCURRED IN ITS ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

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DRINKING WATER MEETS WHO GUIDELINES

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THE QUALITY OF RAW WATER FROM CHINA IS WELL WITHIN THE LIMITS THAT TREATMENT WORKS IN HONG KONG ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING TO PRODUCE WATER THAT MEETS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU.

MR BARNES SAID THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT REGULARLY MONITORED RAW WATER QUALITY AT THE MUK WU PUMPING STATIONS, WHERE WATER WAS RECEIVED FROM CHINA, AND ALSO AT ALL WATER TREATMENT WORKS.

"THE QUALITY OF WATER FROM CHINA HAS ALWAYS BEEN SATISFACTORY AND NO SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION HAS BEEN DETECTED SO FAR," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO FORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON THE QUALITY OF WATER PROVIDED.

"THIS WILL BE AN AGENDA ITEM IN THE COMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITY ON WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA BEYOND 1994.

"WE THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE A CLAUSE GOVERNING WATER QUALITY IN THE RESULTING AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

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ON THE USE OF SEA WATER FOR FLUSHING PURPOSES, MR BARNES SAID THAT TO ADD TO THE SEAWATER FLUSHING SUPPLY SYSTEMS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE, NEW SYSTEMS WERE BEING PLANNED FOR ALL MAJOR AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORY.

DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS WERE NOW IN HAND WITH A VIEW TO COMMISSIONING SEAWATER FLUSHING SYSTEMS WITHIN TWO TO FIVE YEARS FROM NOW IN WAN CHAI, WONG CHUK HANG, AP LEI CHAU, SHAU KEI WAN, TAI PO, SHA TIN, MA ON SHAN AND JUNK BAY.

"FOR OTHER AREAS WHERE FRESH WATER IS STILL USED FOR FLUSHING WE REVIEW THE SITUATION ON A REGULAR BASIS.

"OUR GENERAL INTENTION IS TO EXTEND SEAWATER FLUSHING SYSTEMS TO ALL THESE AREAS AS AND WHEN THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED FLUSHING DEMAND REACHES THE STAGE WHERE IT BECOMES COST EFFECTIVE TO INSTALL THE SEPARATE SYSTEM OF PUMPING STATIONS, SERVICE RESERVOIRS AND SUPPLY MAINS THAT IS REQUIRED," MR BARNES SAID.

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#### NINE FINED FOR SMOKING OFFENCES

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NINE PEOPLE WERE FINED FOR SMOKING ON TRAINS OR PREMISES OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION LAST YEAR.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

"THE FINES WERE BETWEEN \$300 AND \$500," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT KEPT STATISTICS ON SMOKING ON TRAINS OR PREMISES OF THE KCRC.

HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAD ADVISED THAT NO SEPARATE STATISTICS WERE KEPT ON CONVICTIONS ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC LIFTS OR NON-SMOKING AREAS.

"THEY ARE CLASSIFIED UNDER 'MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES'," HE ADDED.

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COST OF PROVIDING KINDERGARTEN FEE ASSISTANCE

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THE ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF PROVIDING FEE ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$2.64 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, GAVE THIS FIGURE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT OF THIS SUM APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION WAS INCURRED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND \$1.64 MILLION BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

ON THE MAXIMUM FEE ASSISTANCE LEVELS FOR HALF DAY AND WHOLE DAY KINDERGARTENS, HE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE INTENDED TO COVER 100 PER CENT OF THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE FEES FOR NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS.

"THE LEVELS ARE SET EACH YEAR BASED ON THE ACTUAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE FEES IN THAT YEAR PLUS THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE FEES IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.

"THE PROJECTED FEE LEVELS FOR 1988-89 ARE \$209 AND \$370 FOR HALF DAY AND WHOLE DAY KINDERGARTENS RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

PROJECTED FIGURES WERE USED SINCE FEE ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS HAD TO BE PROCESSED WELL BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HE NOTED.

MR BRIDGE SAID FEES IN PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS WERE GENERALLY HIGHER THAN THOSE IN NON-PROFIT-MAKING ONES.

"IN 1988-89, THE AVERAGE IS \$252 PER MONTH (HALF DAY) AND \$559 PER MONTH (WHOLE DAY)," HE SAID.

"THE MAXIMUM FEE ASSISTANCE LEVELS THEREFORE COVER 83 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE WEIGHTED FEE IN A PROFIT-MAKING HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN, AND 66 PER CENT OF THE FEE IN A PROFIT-MAKING WHOLE DAY KINDERGARTEN."

IN THE CURRENT YEAR, 49 PER CENT OF KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT WAS IN NON-PROFIT-MAKING INSTITUTIONS, AND THIS WAS PROJECTED TO RISE TO 50 PER CENT IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

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TIGHTER CONTROL OVER ADVERTISING SIGNS SOUGHT

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 IS TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OVER POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ADVERTISING SIGNS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH AND INJURY CAUSED BY POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SIGNS.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WAS REQUIRED TO LOCATE THE OWNER AND SERVE A NOTICE ON HIM BEFORE A DANGEROUS SIGN COULD BE REMOVED, EVEN IN URGENT CASES.

IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE OWNER COULD NOT BE READILY LOCATED THAT THE DIRECTOR COULD TAKE ANY IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL ACTION SUCH AS DEMOLITION.

"VERY OFTEN IT IS NOT EASY TO IDENTIFY THE OWNER OF A DANGEROUS SIGN WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND SERVE A NOTICE.

"IN URGENT CASES, THE DANGEROUS SIGN REALLY OUGHT TO BE REMOVED WITHOUT ANY DELAY," MR BARNES SAID.

CLAUSE 2 (C) OF THE BILL THEREFORE SOUGHT TO GIVE THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS THE POWER TO TAKE SUCH IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL ACTION.

"THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS TO REMOVE OR DISPOSE OF THE REMAINING MATERIALS AFTER A SIGN HAS BEEN REMOVED.

"THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO INCLUDE IN THIS BILL SEVERAL MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS PRIMARILY TO REFLECT THE PRESENT POSITION THAT THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, RATHER THAN THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, IS THE AUTHORITY FOR THE CONTROL OF DANGEROUS ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS," MR BARNES ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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INSURERS GIVEN MORE TIME TO COMPLY

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THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT CERTAIN INSURERS MAY AT PRESENT FALL SHORT OF THE PROPOSED NEW SOLVENCY MARGIN REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN CLAUSE 3 OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE DISCUSSION OF THE BILL.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE PROPOSED A GRACE PERIOD OF UP TO JANUARY 1, 1991 FOR EXISTING AUTHORISED INSURERS TO COMPLY," HE SAID.

"WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE NEW SOLVENCY REQUIREMENTS ARE THE MINIMUM NECESSARY FOR THE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF POLICY HOLDERS AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE."

HOWEVER, MR NENDICK SAID HAVING REGARD TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE GRACE PERIOD BE EXTENDED BY THREE MONTHS TO APRIL 1, 1991.

"THIS WILL ALLOW EXISTING AUTHORISED INSURERS TWO FULL YEARS IN WHICH TO COMPLY," HE SAID.

"IN THE INTERESTS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE POLICY HOLDERS, I HOPE THAT THE AUTHORISED INSURERS WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE NEW SOLVENCY MARGIN REQUIREMENTS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER."

MR NENDICK THEREFORE MOVED THAT CLAUSE 6(B) OF THE BILL BE AMENDED.

THE BILL WAS SUBSEQUETLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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MONEY CHANGERS AMENDMENT BILL BACKED

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THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH SOUGHT TO BETTER REGULATE THE MONEY CHANGING TRADE, WAS SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM NOTED THAT THE BILL SOUGHT TO MAKE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

THESE PROVIDED FOR THE DISCLOSURE BY MONEY CHANGERS OF EXCHANGE RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS AND PERMITTED CUSTOMERS TO CONSENT IN ADVANCE TO THE TERMS OF THE TRANSACTION.

MR CHUNG, CONVENER OF A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO EXAMINE THE BILL, SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE IN 1985 THERE HAD STILL BEEN AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF MALPRACTICE WITHIN THE TRADE.

"THIS GENERATES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS," HE SAID.

THE AMENDMENT BILL REQUIRED THE MONEY CHANGER TO MAINTAIN A BOARD OR OTHER DEVICE DISPLAYING THE NET RATES OF EXCHANGE.

IT ALSO PROHIBITED A MONEY CHANGER FROM DISPLAYING NOTICES AND STATEMENTS WHICH WERE FALSE OR MISLEADING FOR THE CUSTOMERS.

MR CHUNG SAID THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH COMPLAINT CASES ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE BILL WILL SERVE TO REGULATE THE TRADE, AFFORD BETTER PROTECTION TO CUSTOMERS AND ENHANCE HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS A FAVOURABLE VISITOR DESTINATION," HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE HON DAVID LI SAID HE HEARTILY ENDORSED ANY MEASURE AIMED AT IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG AS A PLACE WHERE ONE COULD EXPECT FAIR AND HONEST TREATMENT FROM THOSE CONNECTED, IN WHATEVER WAY, WITH THE FINANCIAL FIELD.

"WHILE ONE ACCEPTS THAT IT TAKES ONLY A FEW ROTTEN APPLES TO SPOIL THE BARREL, NEVERTHELESS IT REMAINS A FACT THAT OFTEN THE FIRST AND LAST ACT OF PEOPLE VISITING HONG KONG IS TO CHANGE MONEY.

"WE DO NOT WISH PEOPLE TO FLY OUT FROM KAI TAK WITH THEIR MEMORY OF HONG KONG SOURED BY ILL TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF A SMALL MINORITY," HE SAID.

THE HON MARTIN BARROW MOVED TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

ONE AMENDMENT PROVIDED THAT IF A CUSTOMER REFUSED TO PROCEED WITH AN EXCHANGE TRANSACTION, THE MONEY CHANGER SHOULD IMMEDIATELY HAND BACK TO THE CUSTOMER THE CURRENCY TENDERED BY THE CUSTOMER.

"THE AMENDMENT WAS PROPOSED TO ENSURE THAT MONEY CHANGERS DO NOT IMPOSE A HANDLING FEE IN RESPECT OF TRANSACTIONS WHICH ARE CANCELLED," MR BARROW SAID.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT PROHIBITED ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO THE CHARGING OR NON-CHARGING OF COMMISSIONS OR OTHER CHARGES BY THE MONEY CHANGERS.

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THE DISPLAY OF THE NET RATE OF EXCHANGE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR THE CUSTOMERS TO JUDGE THE TERMS OFFERED BY INDIVIDUAL MONEY CHANGERS AND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE MONEY CHANGERS TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR PROFIT MARGIN, MR BARROW SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE, THE HON PEGGY LAM SAID THAT SINCE THE TRANSACTION NOTE WAS REQUIRED TO BE BILINGUAL, THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE A CHINESE TRANSLATION FOR THE HEADING "TRANSACTION NOTE" SO AS TO COMPLETE THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE NOTE.

SHE MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE.

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TWO BILLS PASSED  
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TWO BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON THIS BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMING SPLIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTO TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS.

THE HON RONALD CHOW VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION, AND DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ABSTAINED.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING GOVERNMENT FUNDING PENDING PASSAGE OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1989 WAS PASSED.

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NEW LAW ON MONEY CHANGERS EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1  
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THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE TRADE ADEQUATE TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW LAW, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID THE MAIN CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE LEGISLATION WERE:

- \* A MONEY CHANGER MUST DISPLAY CLEARLY ON A NOTICE BOARD THE NET BUYING AND SELLING RATES HE IS PREPARED TO OFFER, I.E. AFTER DEDUCTING ALL CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS.
- \* BEFORE COMPLETING AN EXCHANGE TRANSACTION, A MONEY CHANGER MUST MAKE OUT A TRANSACTION NOTE IN DUPLICATE IN THE FORM SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE. THE MONEY CHANGER MUST GIVE THE CUSTOMER THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE NOTE. THE NOTE IS TO BE BILINGUAL AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD.
- \* A MONEY CHANGER SHALL NOT ADVERTISE THAT HE CHARGES, OR DOES NOT CHARGE, A COMMISSION OR ANY OTHER TRANSACTION FEE.
- \* A MONEY CHANGER SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS TO A CUSTOMER ABOUT THE RATE OF EXCHANGE, THE TERMS OF AN EXCHANGE TRANSACTION OR THE APPLICATION OF THE MONEY CHANGERS ORDINANCE.
- \* CRIMINAL LIABILITY IS EXTENDED TO DIRECTORS, MANAGERS AND SECRETARIES OF CORPORATE MONEY CHANGERS.

MR BARCLAY ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE ENFORCED VIGOROUSLY BY THE POLICE WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

MONEY CHANGERS WERE STRONGLY ADVISED TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE NEW ORDINANCE AND ENSURE THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO COMPLY WITH IT.

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CONSULTANCY STUDY ON ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REFUSE TRANSFER STATION ON THE SITE OF THE EXISTING CHAI WAN COMPOSTING PLANT ON HONG KONG ISLAND EAST.

THE STUDY WILL CONSIDER WAYS OF BUILDING THE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION WHEREBY MUNICIPAL WASTE, COLLECTED BY URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT VEHICLES, IS TRANSFERRED TO ENCLOSED CONTAINERS.

THE REFUSE WILL THEN BE TRANSPORTED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER TO LARGE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EITHER BY BARGES OR BULK VEHICLES.

THE STUDY WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER TO INCORPORATE THE TRANSFER STATION WITHIN A MULTI-USER DEVELOPMENT WITH INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL/GOVERNMENT USERS.

STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS, TO AVOID ODOUR, DUST AND BIRD NUISANCE, WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF THE NEW PLANT SO AS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY.

THE STUDY, AT A COST OF \$6.2 MILLION, WILL TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE TRANSFER STATION IS EXPECTED TO START UPON COMPLETION OF THE CONSULTANCY STUDY.

WHEN COMPLETED IN 1992, THIS TRANSFER STATION WILL ACCEPT ABOUT 1,000 TONNES OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE EACH DAY.

WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE ISLAND EAST TRANSFER STATION, THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR WILL BE CLOSED FOR USE.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BETWEEN EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ERI (ASIA) LTD. IN ASSOCIATION WITH LG MOUCHEL AND PARTNERS ASIA.

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## QUALIFYING AGE FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE TO BE LOWERED

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THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR RECEIVING OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (OAA) WILL BE LOWERED TO 67 STARTING APRIL 1, THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR CARLOS LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNAR NEW YEAR RECEPTION HELD BY THE WONG FUNG TING HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY OF THE WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB IN EASTERN DISTRICT, MR LEUNG SAID APPLICANTS FOR THE OAA MUST HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG CONTINUOUSLY FOR NO LESS THAN FIVE YEARS.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE ALLOWANCE, A SINGLE PERSON'S MONTHLY INCOME SHOULD BE LOWER THAN \$1,800 AND HIS PERSONAL ASSETS UNDER \$100,000 WHILE THOSE OF A MARRIED COUPLE SHOULD BE \$3,000 AND \$150,000 RESPECTIVELY.

"STARTING FROM APRIL, THE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE AGED 67 TO 69 WILL BE INCREASED TO \$310 FROM \$280, AND THAT FOR PEOPLE AGED 70 OR ABOVE WILL BE RAISED TO \$355 FROM \$320," MR LEUNG NOTED.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO LOWER THE ELIGIBILITY AGE FOR THE OAA SO THAT BY 1991 THE 65 YEAR OLD GROUP CAN BE BENEFITTED," HE SAID.

TO APPLY FOR THE OAA, THE ELIGIBLE ELDERLY COULD APPROACH THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG ALSO COMMENDED THE WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB FOR PROVIDING A NUMBER OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

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## POSTAL SERVICES DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS

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THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON MARCH 24 AND 26, AND ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON MARCH 25 AND 27, DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS (FROM MARCH 24 TO 27), A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR SERVICE DURING THE HOLIDAYS, EXCEPT ON MARCH 25 AND MARCH 27 WHEN 42 POST OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO NOON.

THE 42 POST OFFICES INCLUDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND; THE KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON; AND THE TSUEN WING STREET, SHA TIN CENTRAL AND TAI PO POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DETAILS OF THE 42 POST OFFICES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE LOCAL POST OFFICES OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU ON 5-231071.

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WORK ON FIRST UFI PROJECT IN SHA TIN TO COMMENCE

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CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIRST URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT (UFI) PROJECT IN SHA TIN WILL START AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

A CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE \$1.1 MILLION PROJECT TO RECONSTRUCT A VAN TRACK AT SHAP YI WAT VILLAGE WAS HELD AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AFTER THE CEREMONY, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG, SAID OVER THE PAST SEVEN DECADES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT OF VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THROUGH THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME.

"NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND CONSEQUENT URBANISATION IN AREAS SURROUNDING THE NEW TOWNS, THERE IS A NEED TO RATIONALISE AND EXTEND EXISTING PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS IN THESE AREAS," MR YUNG SAID.

"TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (TDD) HAS INTRODUCED THE UFI SCHEME.

"WHILE TDD CONTROLS THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) ACTS AS THE AGENCY FOR CARRYING OUT SOME OF THE WORKS FOR THE UFI PROJECTS."

WHILE NOTING THAT THE PROJECT TO RECONSTRUCT A VAN TRACK AT SHAP YI WAT VILLAGE WAS THE FIRST UFI PROJECT IN SHA TIN, MR YUNG SAID THIS WAS ALSO THE FIRST CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE TO A COMPANY ON THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH'S LIST OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE PAST ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE CNTA DISTRICT CONTRACTORS' LIST WERE EMPLOYED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON CONTRACTS WORTH UP TO \$500,000.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SET OF PROCEDURES IN APRIL 1987, WORKS SECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES WERE EMPOWERED TO AWARD CONTRACTS AT BETWEEN \$500,000 AND \$1.5 MILLION TO CONTRACTORS ON THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH'S LIST, HE SAID.

THE \$1.1 MILLION UFI PROJECT AT SHAP YI WAT VILLAGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE WORKS SECTION OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL TAKE SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE, INVOLVES THE RECONSTRUCTION OF 616 METRES OF VAN TRACK TO PROVIDE A 3.5-METRE WIDE CARRIAGEWAY WITH A TURNING AREA, PASSING PLACES AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE.

ON COMPLETION, THE VAN TRACK WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS FROM SHA TIN PASS ROAD TO SHAP YI WAT VILLAGE.

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SHA TIN DB ELECTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SIX COMMITTEES OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WERE ELECTED AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE OF THEM WERE RE-ELECTED. THEY ARE DR FANNY CHEUNG OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; MR WONG PO-MING OF THE CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE; AND MR ANDREW WONG OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

THE OTHER THREE NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ARE MR CHOY KAN-PUI OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE; MR WONG HONG-CHUNG OF THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE; AND MR CHING CHEUNG-YING OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS ENDORSED THE COMMITTEES' MEMBERSHIP AND THE DATES OF MEETING FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS SIX COMMITTEES FOR 1989-90.

THEY ALSO DETERMINED THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEES.

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SOUTHERN DB TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVE TO UC TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIT ON THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR ITS NEW TERM BEGINNING APRIL 1 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE TWO NOMINEES RUNNING FOR THE UC SEAT ARE ELECTED MEMBER MR TENNY HUNG AND APPOINTED MEMBER MR ALBERT POON.

THE MEMBERS WILL ALSO ELECT THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S FIVE COMMITTEES AND ENDORSE THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1989-90.

AT THE MEETING, A NUMBER OF TERRITORY-WIDE AND LOCAL ISSUES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

THESE INCLUDE A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON A SET OF PROPOSALS TO REMEDY UNFAIR PROVISIONS IN EXISTING DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN THE SOUTHERN WATER CONTROL ZONE, AND THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY IN RESPECT OF THE MA HANG REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

FOR MEMBERS' ENDORSEMENT WILL BE GUIDELINES ON THE CRITERIA FOR VETTING APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR CARRYING OUT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, AND THE PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS FOR CARRYING OUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REPORT ON A SEMINAR JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DB AND THE DISTRICT'S AREA COMMITTEES, AND REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, AREA COMMITTEES AND THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN CENTRE.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS POLLUTION PROBLEM

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE POLLUTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY A PAINT FACTORY NEAR SAI KUNG TOWN AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (LANDS) OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, MR SARINDER DILLON, WILL REPORT ON THE LATEST SITUATION OF THE PROBLEM AND HIS LIAISON WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS ON THE "SAVE HO CHUNG RIVER OPERATION" PROPOSED BY THE GREEN POWER.

AFTER THE MEETING, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TO PRESENT AWARDS TO THE VILLAGES THAT HAD TAKEN PART IN THE SAI KUNG CLEAN VILLAGE COMPETITION.

THE COMPETITION WAS HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 15 AND 22 THIS YEAR. THE THREE WINNING VILLAGES ARE WONG CHUK WAN, TAI HANG HAU AND PAN LONG WAN VILLAGES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TSING YI TRAFFIC PROBLEM

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THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE NEWLY-DEVELOPED AREAS IN TSING YI WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE LORRY PARKING PROBLEM WILL BE ANOTHER ITEM FOR DISCUSSION.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE EFFECTS OF THE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS, AND THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SCHEME AND THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT KWAI CHUNG ROAD SOUTH AND CONTAINER PORT ROAD.

MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON AN INFORMATION PAPER PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME FOR FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES.

THEY WILL ALSO STUDY THE COMMITTEE'S BUDGET AND WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING (NEXT TO KWAI HING MTR STATION), KWAI CHUNG.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ABATTOIR PRIVATISATION

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PRIVATISATION OF THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL EXAMINE THE ROLE OF THE DB IN THIS YEAR'S WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WHICH FALLS ON JUNE 5.

ALSO, THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE PROGRESS OF MINOR ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE DISTRICT.

/A MEMBER .....

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A MEMBER WILL ASK ABOUT THE FUTURE USAGE OF THE WHITTY STREET COMPOUND AFTER IT IS CLEARED.

ANOTHER MEMBER WILL ENQUIRE ABOUT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT THE JUNCTION OF CAINE ROAD AND ARBUTHNOT ROAD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME FOR FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF PROPER USE OF THE TAXI STAND AT LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 1989 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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OPERA SHOW FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS

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OVER A THOUSAND SENIOR RESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WERE TREATED TO A FREE SHOW STAGED BY THE HON FUNG CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

THE PROGRAMME WAS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE KENNEDY TOWN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION TAM PAK HUNG SOCIAL CENTRE FOR PEOPLE AGED OVER 60.

ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR AMBROSE LAU, SAID THIS WAS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR THE TWO ORGANISATIONS HAD STAGED A CANTONESE OPERA SHOW.

"I HOPE OUR MUTUAL GOOD RELATIONSHIP WILL ENABLE MORE COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANISED IN FUTURE," MR LAU SAID.

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER, ALSO OFFICIATED AT THE FUNCTION AND PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SHOW.

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FEAST FOR ELDERLY IN NORTH DISTRICT

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ABOUT 1,200 ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF NORTH DISTRICT, ALL AGED ABOVE 65, WILL BE TREATED TO A FEAST TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE FEAST IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELDERLY ACTIVITIES AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT TO SENIOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THERE WILL ALSO BE CANTONESE OPERA AND SINGING PERFORMANCES AS WELL AS A LUCKY DRAW.

AMONG THOSE OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG; FRONTIER POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR MICHAEL WATSON; AND THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR STEPHEN CHAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT'S FEAST FOR THE ELDERLY, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 4.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CHOI WAH PALACE RESTAURANT, CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING TO LET BY TENDER THREE SITES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, TWO OF WHICH ARE FOR PUBLIC CARPARK AND THE OTHER FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

THE TWO SITES FOR FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARKS FOR THE PARKING OF LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLES ARE A 8,000 SQUARE METRE LOT AT HING WAH STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN AND A 3,300 SQUARE METRE LOT IN AREA 10A, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE INITIAL LEASES FOR THE CHEUNG SHA WAN LOT AND THE TUEN MUN LOT ARE THREE YEARS AND TWO YEARS RESPECTIVELY AFTER WHICH PERIOD THE TENANCIES CAN BE EXTENDED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

THE SITE FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSE IS OFF FAT TSEUNG STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN RECLAMATION. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS AND RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR ALL THE THREE LOTS IS NOON ON MARCH 31.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE TENDER DOCUMENTS OF THE TUEN MUN LOT ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN KWUN TONG, WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THREE ROAD SECTIONS IN KWUN TONG WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 18) FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

THEY ARE:

- \* THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 28 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG YAN STREET AND ITS JUNCTION WITH MUT WAH STREET;

/\* THE WESTERN .....

- \* THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG YAN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- \* THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 93 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG YAN STREET AND ITS JUNCTION WITH KWUN TONG ROAD.

IN WAN CHAI, ALSO FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, THE EXISTING PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN O'BRIEN ROAD AND HOUSE NO. 139 WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARDS TO HOUSE NO. 125.

IN ADDITION, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON HARBOUR ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN FLEMING ROAD AND A POINT 45 METRES TO THE EAST WILL BE EXTENDED EASTWARDS BY ABOUT 60 METRES.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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NO-STOPPING RESTRICTION FOR PLB'S

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 18), KWAI HING ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO KWAI HING MTR STATION AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS THERE.

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