



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1984

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NEW POWER SYSTEM FOR CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS

ELECTRICITY AT LOWER TARIFFS AND SUPPLIED THROUGH A MODERNISED SYSTEM WAS SWITCHED ON FOR CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS TODAY BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

PERFORMING THE CEREMONY IN PLACE OF THE GOVERNOR, WHO WAS ILL, SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED THAT THE SWITCHING-ON REPRESENTED THE +CULIMINATION OF THE GOOD EFFORTS OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND THE FORMER SUPPLIER, THE CHEUNG CHAU ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED,+ AND CONGRATULATED THEM ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED.

AS A RESULT, SIR PHILIP SAID, THE PREVIOUS DISPARITY IN TARIFFS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED AND RESIDENTS WOULD BE ENJOYING THE LOWER TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO ALL OTHER CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CONSUMERS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SIR PHILIP'S SPEECH:

+THE GOVERNOR HAS ASKED ME TO SAY HOW MUCH HE REGRETS THAT ILLNESS HAS PREVENTED HIM FROM BEING HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THE COMPLETION OF A PROJECT IN WHICH HE HAS TAKEN A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL INTEREST. HE HAS ASKED ME TO OFFICIATE IN HIS PLACE AND I AM DELIGHTED TO DO SO.

+SIR EDWARD VISITED CHEUNG CHAU SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG IN MAY 1982. DURING THAT VISIT, THE RURAL COMMITTEE EXPRESSED TO HIM ITS DEEP CONCERN THAT CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS WERE OBLIGED TO PAY MUCH HIGHER RATES FOR THEIR ELECTRICITY THAN RESIDENTS ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM.

+TODAY'S SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF THE GOOD EFFORTS OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND THE FORMER SUPPLIER, THE CHEUNG CHAU ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED. I CONGRATULATE THEM ON THE AGREEMENT THEY HAVE REACHED. I CONGRATULATE TOO, YOUR RURAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PART IT HAS PLAYED IN REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF CHEUNG CHAU.

+AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER TAKING OVER AS THE SUPPLIER OF ELECTRICITY TO CHEUNG CHAU, THE PREVIOUS DISPARITY IN TARIFFS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. FROM NOW ON, RESIDENTS WILL ENJOY THE LOWER TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO ALL OTHER CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY CONSUMERS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. BUT, OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, RESIDENTS ARE NOW BEING SERVED BY A MODERNISED SUPPLY SYSTEM WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS SOPHISTICATION AND EFFICIENCY AND WHICH CAN EASILY COPE WITH GROWTH IN DEMAND.

/+THE FINANCIAL

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+THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT AND THE ENGINEERING WORKS INVOLVED IN SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO CHEUNG CHAU - WHICH REQUIRED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE LAYING OF SUBMARINE CABLES FROM CHI MA WAN ON LANTAU TO CHEUNG CHAU - HAVE DEMONSTRATED, YET AGAIN, CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG. THE COMPANY HAS AN IMPRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF EXPANSION WHICH STRETCHES WELL INTO THE FUTURE AND WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THE DEMAND FOR ITS SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO BE MET RELIABLE AND EFFICIENTLY.

+LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM SURE YOU WILL ALL SHARE MY PLEASURE AND JOIN ME IN THANKING THE TWO COMPANIES AND ALL CONCERNED FOR BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO FRUITION. IT IS A PROJECT WHICH WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED BY ALL THE RESIDENTS OF CHEUNG CHAU AND THE MANY VISITORS WHO VISIT THIS ATTRACTIVE ISLAND.+

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PARENTS ASKED TO COLLECT SCHOOL FORMS
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CHILDREN WHO FAILED TO SECURE A DISCRETIONARY PLACE IN THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM WILL BE CENTRALLY ALLOCATED A PLACE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT LETTERS TO PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN ASKING THEM TO GO TO A SPECIFIED DISTRIBUTION-COLLECTION CENTRE BETWEEN MARCH 25 AND 28 TO COLLECT A CHOICE OF SCHOOLS FORM AND A LIST OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THEIR OWN SCHOOL DISTRICT,+ A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE FORMS SHOULD THEN BE RETURNED TO THE SPECIFIED CENTRE WITHIN THE TWO DATES, HE ADDED.

PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LETTER BY TODAY (THURSDAY), SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT (TEL. NO. 5-724383), HE NOTED.

A PARENT WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY APPLIED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR A DISCRETIONARY PLACE AT A SCHOOL IN HIS OWN DISTRICT COULD STILL INCLUDE THAT SCHOOL IN HIS PREFERENCE LIST.

THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON PARENTS' CHOICE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE POINTS SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

WHEN A PARTICULAR SCHOOL IS OVERSUBSCRIBED, A RANDOM SELECTION METHOD WILL BE USED TO ENSURE FAIRNESS TO ALL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE DISTRICT, HE SAID.

/DUE TO

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DUE TO THE UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY ONE PUPILS, SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHICH DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT PUBLIC-SECTOR PRIMARY ONE PLACES MAY HAVE TO INCORPORATE SOME SCHOOL PLACES FROM SCHOOLS IN NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS TO MAKE UP FOR THE SHORTAGES.

THE SPOKESMAN ASSURED PARENTS THAT SUCH MOVES ARE ESSENTIAL AND WELL-PLANNED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PARENTS CONCERNED SO AS TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO BE ALLOCATED TO A SCHOOL NEAREST TO THEIR HOME ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS' CHOICES.

HE ADDED THAT PARENTS WHO HAVE MOVED HOUSE RECENTLY OR ARE PLANNING TO MOVE HOUSE SOON MUST INFORM THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO ALLOCATE PLACES TO THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR NEW HOME DISTRICT.

RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PLACES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN LATE JUNE.

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SHA VISITS CONSUMER COUNCIL

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL FOR A BRIEFING ON CONSUMER PROTECTION WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL.

MR BRAY, WHO WAS TAKING THE PLACE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE FIRST EVER CONSUMER RIGHTS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN. THE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED ON MARCH 15 AND MARKED 10 YEARS OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1974.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MR GALLANT HO, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MISS OPHELIA CHEUNG, MR BRAY SAW AT THE WAN CHAI ROAD SUB-OFFICE SOME POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TOYS WHICH ARE VERY APPEALING TO YOUNG CHILDREN AND CAN DECEIVE EVEN THE MOST DISCERNING PARENT.

AMONG THESE ARE THE SO-CALLED +GROWING PETS+ -- PLASTIC FROGS, FISH AND ANIMALS WHICH RAPIDLY EXPAND IN SIZE WHEN IN CONTACT WITH WATER.

IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF THEY WERE SWALLOWED BY YOUNG CHILDREN, MISS CHEUNG SAID.

OTHER POTENTIALLY UNSAFE PRODUCTS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL INCLUDE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES SUCH AS HAIR DRYERS, COOKERS, EXTENSION CORDS AND POWER ADAPTORS.

MR BRAY WAS TOLD THAT EXTENSIVE TESTS HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR REAL DANGER.

/IN THIS

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IN THIS AREA OF WORK, THE COUNCIL RECEIVES VALUABLE ASSISTANCE FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC.

THE WAN CHAI SUB-OFFICE, ONE OF 10 SUCH OFFICES RUN BY THE COUNCIL, ALSO PROVIDES A CONSUMER ADVICE AND COMPLAINTS SERVICE, MR BRAY WAS TOLD.

DURING THIS AFTERNOON'S VISIT, MR BRAY ALSO VISITED THE COUNCIL'S HEADQUARTERS IN HEARD STREET, WAN CHAI AND SAW A LARGE COLLECTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER PUBLICATIONS IN ITS SPECIALISED LIBRARY.

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LADY YOUDE VISITS FAMILY PLANNING CENTRE
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THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, LADY YOUDE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION'S MA TAU CHUNG CENTRE TO LOOK AT THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED THERE.

THE CENTRE, WHICH WAS OPENED IN 1960, HOUSES A CLINIC, AN OPERATION THEATRE, A SEMEN BANK AND A LABORATORY.

LADY YOUDE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, PROFESSOR MA HO-KEI, AND ITS CHAIRMAN, MRS PATRICIA NICHOLL.

LADY YOUDE WAS SHOWN THE ASSOCIATION'S LATEST PRODUCTION +FAMILY PLANNING TODAY+ WHICH GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF ITS DEVELOPMENT SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN 1950.

SHE THEN TOURED THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PATRON OF THE ASSOCIATION, MRS LI FOOK-WO, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MRS JOYCE TAI, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MRS PEGGY LAM AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (MEDICAL), DR MARGARET KWAN.

LADY YOUDE WAS TOLD THAT THE ASSOCIATION OPERATES 17 CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING THE ONE AT MA TAU CHUNG, AND TESTS FOR ALL THESE CLINICS ARE CARRIED OUT AT THE CENTRE'S LABORATORY.

FEMALE STERILISATION, VASECTOMY AND TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE'S OPERATION THEATRE.

THE SEMEN BANK, IN EXISTENCE FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS, HAD BEEN USED IN 114 CASES OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, WITH 46 REPORTED SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCIES.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES DECREASED
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AS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE 5.16 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 7.8 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

NOTICE OF THIS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE 43 CENTS PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 1984.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE MARCH 23, 1984 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

PER CENT

9.84	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 21, 1980 AND BEFORE JULY 31, 1981;
13.2	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 31, 1981 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1981;
14.4	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1981 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 4, 1981;
12	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982;
10.8	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982 AND BEFORE AUGUST 27, 1982;
9	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 27, 1982 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 3, 1982;
7.8	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 3, 1982 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1983;
10.2	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1983 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1983;
12	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1983 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 7, 1983;

- 9.6 PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 7, 1983 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1984; AND
- 7.8 PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 1984 AND BEFORE MARCH 23, 1984

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE:

\$1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON MARCH 26, 1984; APRIL 26, 1984 AND MAY 26, 1984 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JUNE 26, 1984 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

ON \$1 000, MARCH 26, 1984 TO JUNE 26, 1984 THREE COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.30 PER MONTH	= \$12.90
ON \$1 000, APRIL 26, 1984 TO JUNE 26, 1984, TWO COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.30 PER MONTH	= \$ 8.60
ON \$1 000, MAY 26, 1984 TO JUNE 26, 1984, ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT \$4.30 PER MONTH	= \$ 4.30
	----- \$25.80 -----

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RATE REVALUATION EXPLAINED
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THE LATEST PROPERTY REVALUATION HAS RAISED OVERALL RATEABLE VALUES 3.6 TIMES, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR RAYMOND FRY, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG SOUTH, MR FRY POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THESE VALUES HAD INCREASED, THE EFFECT FOR RATEPAYERS HAD LARGELY BEEN MITIGATED BY THE REDUCED PERCENTAGE RATE CHARGES.

IN THE URBAN AREAS, THESE PERCENTAGES HAVE BEEN LOWERED FROM 13.5 PER CENT TO 5.5 PER CENT, WITH THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS GOING TO GENERAL REVENUE AND 2.5 PER CENT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

AN AVERAGE SMALL DOMESTIC UNIT WILL FACE AN INCREASE OF ABOUT \$18 A MONTH AND A LARGE UNIT ABOUT \$80 A MONTH, WHILE FACTORY OR STORAGE UNITS COME OFF +FAIRLY LIGHTLY+, WITH INCREASES ALSO AVERAGING \$18 A MONTH, MR FRY SAID.

/+IT SHOULD

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+IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT RATES IN 1984-85 WILL STILL, ON AVERAGE, REPRESENT LESS THAN 5.5 PER CENT OF PREVAILING MARKET RENTS, WHICH MUST COMPARE VERY FAVOURABLY WITH SIMILAR PROPERTY TAXES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, WITH THE PROPOSED LEVEL OF RATE RELIEF SET AT 20 PER CENT, FEW RATEPAYERS IN 1984-85 WILL PAY +MORE THAN THAT PAID IN 1983-84 PLUS 20 PER CENT+.

+I SAY FEW RATEPAYERS, SINCE THERE MAY BE SOME INSTANCES WHERE RATES IN 1984-85 WILL EXCEED THAT LIMIT WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS TAKE PLACE OR THE POSITION REGARDING THE SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT WATER IS CHANGED.

+WHILE IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE RELIEF PROVISIONS SHOULD CONTINUE AS A PERMANENT FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S RATING SYSTEM, THE PERCENTAGE LIMIT CAN BE AMENDED BY RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ MR FRY EXPLAINED.

ABOUT 75 000 PREMISES, OR JUST OVER 10 PER CENT OF THE TENEMENTS ON THE ASSESSMENT LISTS, WILL PAY AN INCREASE OF LESS THAN 20 PER CENT AND, OF THESE, ABOUT 32 000 WILL PAY LESS RATES THAN IN THE 1983-84 FISCAL YEAR.

MR FRY SAID THAT RATES WILL YIELD OVER \$2.5 BILLION IN REVENUE IN 1984-85, WITH \$1.19 BILLION GOING TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND \$1.34 BILLION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

HE BELIEVED THAT RATES, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BEING +CERTAIN, REASONABLY FAIR IN APPLICATION, INEXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO EVADE+, WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE HONG KONG WELL PROVIDED THAT REALISTIC RATEABLE VALUES WERE MAINTAINED THROUGH REGULAR REVALUATIONS.

HE SAID THAT HIS VIEWS WERE SHARED BY ONE LOCAL NEWSPAPER WHICH RECENTLY SUGGESTED REVALUATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED EVERY TWO YEARS SO THAT INCREASES IN RATEABLE VALUES WOULD NOT BE SO PRONOUNCED.

+THIS, I HOPE, WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED TECHNIQUES FOR MASS APPRAISAL WORK,+ MR FRY ADDED.

BECAUSE OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF REDUCED PERCENTAGE RATE CHARGES IT WAS ALSO THOUGHT NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE WAY IN WHICH THE CONCESSIONS FOR WATER ARE APPLIED.

CURRENTLY A TWO PERCENTAGE POINT REDUCTION IS MADE WHERE THERE IS NO SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT WATER AND ONE PERCENTAGE POINT REDUCTION WHERE THE SUPPLY IS FROM AN UNFILTERED SOURCE.

+WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, THESE DEDUCTIONS WILL BE APPLIED TO THE GROSS RATE CHARGE AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT THEY BE 15 PER CENT AND 7.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/+THUS THE

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+THUS THE VALUE OF THE CONCESSION WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. HOWEVER, THESE PERCENTAGES CAN ALSO BE AMENDED BY RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ MR FRY EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER MAJOR CHANGE IS THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE \$200 MINIMUM RATEABLE VALUE DETERMINED IN 1961 TO \$1 000.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT THE MINIMUM RATEABLE VALUE IS NOT A SOCIAL EXEMPTION FOR SMALL PREMISES, BUT AN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE TO ENSURE THAT THE COST OF RAISING AND MAINTAINING AN ASSESSMENT DOES NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT RECOVERED IN RATES,+ HE SAID.

DURING THIS MONTH RATEPAYERS CAN LODGE OBJECTIONS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY SENIOR RATING AND VALUATION OFFICERS WHO MAY DECIDE TO REDUCE AN ASSESSMENT, INCREASE IT OR LEAVE IT UNCHANGED.

SO FAR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS REGISTERED SOME 15 000 VALID PROPOSALS, OR JUST OVER TWO PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS. HOWEVER, MORE WERE BEING RECEIVED EVERY DAY, AND THERE WERE STILL NINE DAYS TO GO TO THE END OF THE MONTH.

+THIS MIGHT SEEM A LARGE NUMBER BUT IT DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE NEW VALUES HAVE BEEN OVER-ASSESSED.

+IN SOME INSTANCES, I BELIEVE, PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN LODGED BECAUSE THE RATEPAYERS HAVE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE BASIS OF RATEABLE VALUE AND I HOPE THAT ONCE THE ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED IN GREATER DETAIL MOST WILL NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO PURSUE THE MATTER TO APPEAL.

+MAY I ADD THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE WORRIED HAD THERE BEEN ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF PROPOSALS, FOR THAT MIGHT INDICATE THAT THE NEW VALUES WERE UNDER-ASSESSED,+ MR FRY SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT WHATEVER THE RATEABLE VALUE, THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY APRIL 30.

IF THE RATEABLE VALUE IS SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCED, AN ADJUSTMENT WILL BE MADE FOR ANY RATES OVERPAID.

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MORE FACILITIES FOR HOLIDAY CAMP
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (THURSDAY) OPENED A STADIUM AND A SOCCER PITCH IN THE PO LEUNG KUK HOLIDAY CAMP AT PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, HE SAID THE CAMP HAD DEVELOPED INTO AN IDEAL AND SCENIC SPOT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO SPEND A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM THE CROWDS AND BUSY ROUTINE OF CITY LIFE.

MR AKERS-JONES RECALLED THAT WHEN HE OPENED THE CAMP FIVE YEARS AGO, IT HAD SEVEN TWO-STOREY HOSTELS OFFERING DAY CAMPING FACILITIES AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION FOR 224 PEOPLE.

+SINCE THEN, I HAVE WATCHED THIS RECREATIONAL PROJECT GROW WITH MORE AND MORE FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ADDED IN EACH PHASE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

+THE FREQUENT OVERSUBSCRIPTION FOR CAMPING FACILITIES EXPERIENCED BY THE CAMP, ESPECIALLY ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS, SPEAKS FOR ITSELF ON HOW POPULAR THE HOLIDAY CAMP IS WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC.+

MR AKERS-JONES ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PO LEUNG KUK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL THE ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAD PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE BUILDING OF NEW FACILITIES IN THE CAMP.

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LICENCE FORMS FOR PLB OPERATORS
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APPLICATION FORMS FOR A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE WILL BE MAILED TO ALL REGISTERED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS OPERATORS IN PHASES STARTING NEXT MONTH, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MARCH 22).

UNDER THE NEW PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) AND (PUBLIC OMNIBUS, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND PUBLIC CAR) REGULATIONS, A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE AND A CERTIFICATE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUSES, PRIVATE BUSES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES INCLUDING MAXICABS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT A LETTER ADVISING ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUS OPERATORS OF THE NEW SYSTEM WAS OFFICIALLY ISSUED LAST WEEK.

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THE LETTER GAVE ASSURANCE THAT REGISTERED OWNERS OF EXISTING LICENSED PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WHO APPLY FOR PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES WILL RECEIVE THEM. THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF VEHICLE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SYSTEM OF LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR PASSENGER SERVICES MORE EFFECTIVELY.

+IT IS NOT INTRODUCED TO RESTRICT THE NORMAL OPERATION OF PASSENGER CARRYING SERVICES BUT TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURES IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES,+ HE STRESSED.

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN AUGUST, EACH OPERATOR WILL BE ISSUED WITH ONE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE AND A SEPARATE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE FOR EACH OF THE VEHICLES HE OPERATES. A CHARGE OF \$150 FOR THE LICENCE AND \$15 FOR EACH CERTIFICATE WILL BE APPLIED.

THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE DISPLAYED ON THE VEHICLE'S WINDSCREEN AND A PLATE SHOWING THE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE NUMBER ON THE REAR OF EACH VEHICLE.

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CAR PARKS GOING PRIVATE FROM APRIL * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS AT GARDEN ROAD, MURRAY ROAD, RUMSEY STREET, STAR FERRY AND CITY HALL WILL BE PRIVATISED FROM APRIL 1, FOLLOWING THE PRIVATISATION OF THE MIDDLE ROAD AND YAU MA TEI CAR PARKS.

AS FROM MONDAY (MARCH 26), THE NEW OPERATOR, WILSON PARKING (HONG KONG) PTY. LTD., WILL BE ISSUING PASSES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL FOR USE AT THE CAR PARKS.

THE COMPANY PLANS TO RESERVE THE STAR FERRY CAR PARK FOR CASUAL PARKING AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE CITY HALL OR MURRAY ROAD CAR PARK NEARBY FOR MONTHLY USE.

MEANWHILE, THE ROOF OF THE STAR FERRY MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL REPAIR WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

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PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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THE WAY IN WHICH THE EXPECTATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED AND WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT YET SUBTLE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF KWUN TONG AND THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

IN A DINNER SPEECH TO THE LIONS CLUB OF KWUN TONG, HE SAID: +THIS HAS RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM INCREASED LEVELS OF INCOME AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF IN THE FORM OF DEMANDS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, NEW AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES AND PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT OF ALL, A WISH TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

+IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT WHEN WE DRAW UP GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS OF PROVISION OF FACILITIES, WE CONSIDER WHAT PEOPLE WANT RATHER THAN WHAT WE THINK THEY WANT.+

MR MAK ADDED THAT THE BUILDING OF A COMMUNITY LARGELY DEPENDED UPON THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED AND +IT IS THEREFORE ONLY RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD NOT RELY ON PLANNING STANDARDS ALONE, BUT SHOULD INVITE COMMENT FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES AS WELL AS OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS.+

HE CITED THE UPGRADING OF THE CHA KWO LING ROAD PROJECT AND THE ADVANCING OF THE CONSTRUCTION DATE OF THE KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND AS EXAMPLES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SUCCESS IN EXERTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S WISHES.

ANOTHER FACTOR ON THE DISTRICT'S DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT BETWEEN NOW AND 1988 MORE THAN 11 PER CENT OF THE HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR THE TERRITORY WOULD BE IN KWUN TONG. THESE WOULD INCLUDE PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING, REDEVELOPMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

+THERE WILL BE MORE NEW PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING IN KWUN TONG FROM NOW UNTIL 1988, THAN IN THE REST OF KOWLOON OR ON THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

THESE NEW ESTATES, PROVIDING OVER 20 000 FLATS FOR 100 000 PEOPLE, WOULD BE OF HIGH QUALITY AND SELF-CONTAINED IN TERMS OF COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND REDUCE THE HIGH POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS IN EXISTING HOUSING ESTATES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE SAU MAU PING IMPROVEMENT PHASE I SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION LATER THIS YEAR AND PHASE II OF THE LAM TIN EXTENSION IN 1987/88 WOULD DECANT OVER 3 800 AND 10 000 PEOPLE RESPECTIVELY FROM THE EXISTING ESTATES.

/+THERE IS

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+THERE IS ALSO AN URGENT NEED TO UPGRADE MANY OF THE OLD ESTATES IN THE DISTRICT BUILT IN THE 1960'S TO RELIEVE THE CRAMPED AND CONGESTED LIVING CONDITIONS, AND IN THIS RESPECT, IMPROVEMENT WORK HAS RECENTLY BEEN CARRIED OUT ON TSUI PING ROAD ESTATE AND JORDAN VALLEY ESTATE,+ HE SAID.

MR MAK SAID THE THIRD FACTOR, WHICH WAS MORE TANGIBLE AND CONCRETE, WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AND THE POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

BOTH PROJECTS WOULD GENERATE NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND HOUSING DEMANDS, AND PUT KWUN TONG IN NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REST OF THE TERRITORY.

BESIDES PROVIDING NEW FACILITIES, MR MAK ALSO RECOGNISED THE INFLUENCE OF THE PAST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF UPGRADING AND MAKING THE BEST USE OF THOSE ALREADY EXISTED.

+IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE THAT WE DO NOT FORGET THAT THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF KWUN TONG WAS BUILT DURING THE 1960'S,+ HE SAID.

+MUCH OF THE DISTRICT WAS CONSTRUCTED AT A TIME WHEN THE NEED TO PROVIDE LAND FOR HOUSING AND INDUSTRY MITIGATED AGAINST PROVIDING WHAT WOULD TODAY BE REGARDED AS A SENSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE COMPETING DEMANDS FOR HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, TRANSPORT SERVICES, EDUCATION, MEDICAL, SOCIAL WELFARE AS WELL AS RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

+THE RESULT HAS BEEN THAT THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH THE RAPID BUILD-UP OF POPULATION, AND ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WE NOW FACE SUCH AS SHORTAGES OF HOSPITAL BEDS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES CAN BE REMEDIED THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS, WE ALSO HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THE FACT THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS CANNOT ALONE SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS.+

MR MAK SAID THESE FACTORS WERE OF COURSE NOT THE ONLY ONES THAT WOULD SHAPE THE CHARACTER OF KWUN TONG IN THE YEARS TO COME.

+IT IS ONLY BY IDENTIFYING THESE AND OTHER INFLUENCES THAT WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY PLAN AND CO-ORDINATE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

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DB TO DISCUSS PRIVATE BUILDING PROBLEMS
* * * *

SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

A GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR WILL TALK ON PRIORITIES IN STEPPING UP CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AGAINST THESE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO EMPOWER THE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO TACKLE PROBLEMS IN PRIVATE TENEMENTS, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND SQUATTER AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

AND THEY WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE RECENT PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF PRATAS STREET, BETWEEN SHUNG NING ROAD AND PO ON ROAD, FOR USE AS A RECREATIONAL GROUND WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC HOUSING RENT POLICY, THE SETTING UP OF AN INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR 1984-85.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 39 TONKIN STREET.

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AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, WILL PRESENT FIRST AND SECOND CLASPS TO THE COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDAL TO 29 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF FOR THEIR LONG EXEMPLARY SERVICE AT A PARADE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE PARADE WILL BE HELD AT THE PARADE GROUND OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

SEVEN CONTINGENTS COMPRISING 204 OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE UNDER THE COMMAND OF SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT FRANCIS WONG.

/THE PARADE

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THE PARADE WILL ALSO MARK THE PASSING-OUT OF 91 RECRUIT OFFICERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED SIX MONTHS OF BASIC TRAINING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PARADE AND THE PRESENTATION OF CLASPS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, AT 4 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE PARADE GROUND OF THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AT 47 TUNG TAU WAN ROAD IN STANLEY.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 3 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FAREWELL SALUTE
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, WILL INSPECT A PASSING OUT PARADE OF 27 INSPECTORS AND 71 CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24).

THIS WILL BE THE LAST SALUTE TO BE TAKEN BY MR JORDAN PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT IN MAY.

A GOVERNMENT COACH AM2988 WILL BE WAITING AT HUNG HOM FERRY PIER BETWEEN 8.45 AM AND 9 AM ON MARCH 24 TO TAKE GUESTS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL AND LATER RETURN THE PARTY TO KOWLOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR COUNTRY PARKS URGED
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PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WERE URGED TODAY TO CONTINUE TO HELP PROTECT AND TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR COUNTRY PARKS.

MAKING THE REQUEST, THE SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU, EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD BE CONTRIBUTING TO AREAS OF WORK FOR WHICH PUBLIC FUNDS WERE NOT READILY AVAILABLE.

MR IU, WHO WAS SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVIDING HELP BY SPONSORING PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL IN THE FORM OF PAMPHLETS, SUCH AS +HOW TO GET TO COUNTRY PARKS+, AND CALENDARS.

POINTING OUT THAT 21 COUNTRY PARKS, COVERING 40 PER CENT OF THE SURFACE OF THE TERRITORY, HAD BEEN BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST DECADE, MR IU SAID THAT A SERIES OF VISITOR CENTRES WERE NOW ALSO BEING BUILT IN THE MORE HEAVILY USED PARKS.

THESE CENTRES WERE BUILDINGS WHERE PARK VISITORS COULD OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACILITIES AND THE NATURAL AND HUMAN HISTORY OF THE AREA, HE SAID.

RECALLING THAT +OVER EIGHT MILLION VISITS WERE MADE BY PEOPLE TO THE COUNTRY PARKS+, MR IU SAID ALSO THAT THE FIRST PURPOSE-DESIGNED VISITOR CENTRE WAS NOW BEING BUILT AT PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG.

+ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS FUNDED THE BUILDING, CONSIDERABLE FUNDS WERE ALSO NEEDED FOR SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS SOUND-SLIDE PROJECTOR, THREE-DIMENSIONAL DISPLAYS,+ HE ADDED.

THERE WAS ALSO SCOPE FOR SMALL BUILDINGS TO BE DEDICATED BY SERVICE CLUBS, SUCH AS THE ROTARY, IN THE PARKS AND IDEALLY THESE SHOULD BE FUNDED, DESIGNED, SUPERVISED AND CONSTRUCTED BY SPONSORS USING THE SKILLS AND CONSIDERABLE PROFESSIONAL TALENTS USUALLY AVAILABLE TO SUCH CLUBS, MR IU SAID.

SPONSORS COULD ALSO PROVIDE PLAY APPARATUS FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

TWO PICNIC SITES FOR THESE PEOPLE WERE BEING CONSTRUCTED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AT PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG AND ABERDEEN RESERVOIR.

+WHILE SITE DEVELOPMENT AND THE BASIC FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PROVISION OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED PLAY APPARATUS WILL BE VERY WELCOME AMENITIES,+ MR IU SAID.

HE ENCOURAGED MORE GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS +LITTER COLLECTION WALKS+ AND +PATH CLEARING EXPEDITIONS+ IN THE PARKS AS A PERSONAL SERVICE.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP WILL BE NEEDED FOR TRANSPORT, LUNCHES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR OUT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS, HE ADDED.

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STALLS IN SAI KUNG FOR BIDDING

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TWENTY-EIGHT VACANT STALLS AT THE TUI MIN HOI MARKET IN SAI KUNG WILL BE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC BIDDING ON MONDAY (MARCH 26).

THE BIDDING WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF 1 PO TUNG ROAD, STARTING AT 10 AM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

OF THE 28 STALLS, ONE IS FOR SELLING FRESH MEAT, ONE FOR SELLING ICE, THREE FOR SELLING FISH, EIGHT FOR SELLING DRY GOODS AND 15 FOR SELLING WET GOODS.

+THERE WILL BE NO FIXED UPSET RENTAL BUT THE NTSD WILL ACCEPT ANY BID WHICH EQUALS OR EXCEEDS THE RESERVED PRICE FOR EACH STALL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MAY START BUSINESS ON APRIL 1 ON A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT, AND MUST PAY THE RENT QUARTERLY.

BIDDERS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SAI KUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE OF THE NTSD ON TELEPHONE 3-2813707.

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SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX FOR TUEN MUN

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WORK HAS STARTED ON CONSTRUCTING A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AT TUEN MUN.

A CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$20.38 MILLION, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO DICKSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE WORK INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING ONE MAIN POOL, TWO PADDLING POOLS, AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WITH A SPECTATOR STAND, FOUR SQUASH COURTS, A TOILET BLOCK WITH PROVISION FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDING A RESTAURANT.

THE COMPLEX, WHICH OCCUPIES A 3.5-HECTARE SITE NEAR THE TEMPORARY HOVERFERRY PIER, WILL BE READY FOR THE SUMMER OF 1986.

ON COMPLETION, IT WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR MANAGEMENT.

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MORE CHLORINATION EQUIPMENT FOR TSUEN WAN WORKS

MORE CHLORINATION EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED AT TSUEN WAN WATER TREATMENT WORKS AS PART OF AN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO RAISE THE PLANT'S CAPACITY TO 317 000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

A CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$650 000, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ECCO ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT INCLUDES MODIFYING THE CHLORINATION ROOMS AND INSTALLING MORE CHLORINATORS AND EVAPORATORS.

WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK AND TAKE ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORK IS NECESSARY TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR WATER RESULTING FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TSUEN WAN.

TSUEN WAN TREATMENT WORKS, SITUATED AT SHING MUN ROAD NEAR LO WAI, STARTED OPERATION IN 1954 WITH A CAPACITY OF 182 000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

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WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL ROAD WORKS

A NUMBER OF ROADS IN WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALLOW WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

HARBOUR ROAD BETWEEN FLEMING ROAD AND THE ENTRANCE OF EAGLE HARBOUR PUBLIC CAR PARK IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT TOMORROW (MARCH 23) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE CLOSURE WILL BE REPEATED FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ALSO IN WAN CHAI, INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN MARSH ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 11 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24), AND FROM 8 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 25) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE PERIODS, TONNOCHY ROAD BETWEEN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND JAFFE ROAD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO VEHICLES REQUIRING LOCAL ACCESS.

MEANWHILE IN CENTRAL, HARBOUR VIEW STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT PLACE AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESTRICTED TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TRAFFIC FOR A FURTHER SIX WEEKS, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF PIPE LAYING WORKS.

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URBAN CLEARWAY
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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24), THE SECTION OF CHEUNG WAH STREET BETWEEN SHUN NING ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE AUTHORISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS OR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

AND FROM THE SAME DAY, THE 24-HOUR PROHIBITED ZONE ON THE UNNAMED ACCESS FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI) SOUTHBOUND TO ROAD 4B IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CANCELLED.

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WORK STARTS ON NEW PLAYGROUND
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THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR SITE PREPARATION WORK AT CHOI HUNG ROAD PLAYGROUND.

THE WORK, COSTING MORE THAN \$411 000, WILL BE COMPLETED IN THREE MONTHS.

THE PLAYGROUND WILL OCCUPY A 20 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE WHERE THE FORMER KAI TAK AMUSEMENT PARK STOOD.

WORK ON CONSTRUCTING THE PLAYGROUND IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1986 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$40 MILLION.

PHASE I OF THE WORK WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A 420-METRE LONG JOGGING TRACK, TWO MINI-SOCCER PITCHES, A CHINESE PAVILION AND SITTING-OUT AREAS.

WORK IN PHASE II INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING WITH 82 COOKED FOOD STALLS ON THE LOWER FLOORS AND AN INDOOR GAMES HALL ON THE UPPER FLOORS.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND PLAY AREAS, SIX INDOOR BADMINTON COURTS, FIVE TENNIS COURTS, TWO BASKETBALL COURTS, A VOLLEY BALL COURT, A HAND BALL PITCH AND A REST GARDEN.

THE PLAYGROUND WILL BE LANDSCAPED.

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FOOTBRIDGE FOR NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD
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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO BUILD A 26-METRE-LONG COVERED FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR CHOI WAN ESTATE.

IT WILL BE CONNECTED AT BOTH ENDS WITH STAIRS AND RAMPS, AND WILL LINK UP WITH THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE ADJOINING THE MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AT CHOI WAN ESTATE.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE BUILDING BUS BAYS AND MINOR REALIGNMENT OF FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD.

WORK WILL START IN LATE 1984 AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1986.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE.

A PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT :

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 9TH FLOOR, 405, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON;
- * KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BEFORE MAY 22.

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CHINESE-STYLE PAVILION TO BE BUILT
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A \$450 000 CONTRACT FOR BUILDING A CHINESE-STYLE PAVILION AT THE POPULAR SILVERMINE WATERFALL AREA ON LANTAU ISLAND HAS BEEN AWARDED TO KIN MING AND COMPANY.

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER.

THE PAVILION, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SHELTER FOR VISITORS, IS TO BE BUILT ON A SITE WHERE THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE AREA WILL BE PRESERVED.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC TOILET.

THE CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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REST GARDEN TO BE BUILT IN YAU TONG

A REST GARDEN IS TO BE BUILT IN YAU TONG ON A 2 500-SQUARE-METRE SITE OPPOSITE THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL CLUB HOUSE AT KO CHIU ROAD.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE LANDSCAPED AREAS, A CHINESE PAVILION, ARBOURS, BENCHES, FLOWER BEDS, RETAINING WALLS AND STEPPED TERRACES.

A STOREROOM WILL ALSO BE BUILT.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 13.

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TRAM-ONLY LANE

FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24), THE TRAFFIC LANE ON THE WESTBOUND TRAM TRACK OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN TAI NING STREET AND TAI LOK STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS TRAM-ONLY LANE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

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