



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1989

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1989

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MOST VBP SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES ARE MIGRANTS

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THE VAST MAJORITY OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES AND WHO APPEAL TO THE REFUGEE STATUS REVIEW BOARD ARE MIGRANTS AND IN MOST CASES OBVIOUS MIGRANTS.

THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR FRANCIS BLACKWELL, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HE REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE BOARD SET UP IN MID-JUNE TO STREAMLINE THE APPEAL PROCEDURES.

THE FORMER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE: "REAL REFUGEES ARE HARD TO FIND; LIES ARE LEGION FOR MANY MIGRANTS POSE AS REFUGEES AND TRY TO DECEIVE NOT ONLY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, BUT ALSO THE BOARD.

"WHATEVER THE CASE, THE BOARD CONSIDERS EACH APPEAL WITH GREAT CARE, AND THERE IS FREQUENTLY MUCH ARGUMENT AND AGONISING BEFORE MANY DECISIONS ARE REACHED.

"HOWEVER, ONCE A DECISION IS REACHED, IT IS ABSOLUTELY FINAL AND THERE IS NO APPEAL OR REVIEW THEREFROM.

"IT IS BECAUSE THE DECISION OF THE BOARD CAN HAVE SUCH AN ENORMOUS EFFECT UPON THE LIVES OF THE APPLICANTS AND IN MANY CASES THE LIVES OF THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPENDANTS, THAT THE GREATEST OF CARE IS TAKEN TO ENSURE THE DECISION REACHED IS THE PROPER ONE.

"I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT AT NO TIME HAS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TRIED IN ANY WAY TO INFLUENCE THE BOARD AS TO WHAT DECISION IT SHOULD MAKE.

"THIS ATTITUDE OF OUR GOVERNMENT REFLECTS GREATLY TO ITS CREDIT NOT ONLY IN THE EYES OF ITS OWN PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO RESPECT AND UPHOLD JUSTICE, BUT THIS IS NOW BEING REALISED BY THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE THEMSELVES."

MR BLACKWELL SAID THAT STANDING AS IT WERE ON THE SIDELINES OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED, HE REGRETTED TO NOTE HOW MUCH UNFAIR AND UNWARRANTED CRITICISM WAS LEVELLED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO TRY AND SOLVE THE CURRENT MIGRATION PROBLEM.

"SUCH CRITICISM UNFORTUNATELY OFTEN COMES FROM THOSE WHO FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO THEMSELVES KNOW THE TRUTH OF SITUATION BUT CHOOSE TO DISTORT IT; FROM THOSE WHO COME TO HONG KONG OVER-GENEROUS WITH CRITICISM AND IRRESPONSIBLE SUGGESTIONS, HAVING LIKE PONTIUS PILATE WASHED THEIR HANDS OF THE MATTER SOME 14 YEARS AGO, HAVE LEFT THE POOR HONG KONG AND BRITISH TAXPAYERS TO PICK UP AND PAY THE BILL WITH VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING REIMBURSED IN FULL - OR EVEN PERHAPS IN PART," HE ADDED.

MR BLACKWELL NOTED THAT ON ITS FORMATION, SOME REFERRED TO THE REVIEW BOARD AS A FACELESS BODY AND A KANGAROO COURT.

/"I HOPE .....

"I HOPE THAT IMAGE HAS BEEN DISPELLED FOR IT HAS SHOWN ITSELF NOT ONLY TO BE EFFICIENT BUT TO BE HUMANE AND DISCERNING." HE SAID.

"IT HAS SCREENED IN A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AS REFUGEES THAN ANY OTHER SIMILAR BODY IN THE SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION.

"THIS IS NO REFLECTION UPON THE EXCELLENT WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WHOSE WORK AS OBSERVED BY THE BOARD IS SEEN TO BE METICULOUS AND FAIR.

"EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS THAT THE BOARD IS NOT A GROUP OF FACELESS BUREAUCRATS.

"WITH OUR NEW POLICY OF 'REACHING OUT'. THE VARIOUS BOARDS CONDUCT MANY OF THE REVIEW HEARINGS IN THE CAMPS THEREBY ENABLING SOME OF THOSE SEEKING REVIEWS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES TO THE BOARD BY GIVING VERBAL EVIDENCE AND HAVING SUCH EVIDENCE TESTED."

MR BLACKWELL POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG AS A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM IN SOUTH EAST ASIA WAS NOW BEARING THE BRUNT OF A MIGRATORY MOVEMENT AND AMONG THOSE VAST NUMBERS OF MIGRANTS WAS A SMALL PROPORTION OF REFUGEES.

"IT IS THE FINDING OF THOSE WHO ARE GENUINE REFUGEES WHICH IS THE TASK OF THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION AND THE REFUGEE STATUS REVIEW BOARD," HE SAID.

"WE CANNOT DEPRIVE THE ASYLUM SEEKERS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO HAVE THEIR CASES REVIEWED BUT THE BOARD IS DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT THE REVIEWS AS QUICKLY AND AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WHEN THE POLITICIANS HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF REPATRIATION, THE STATUS OF THOSE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO WILL THEN BE IN HONG KONG WILL HAVE BEEN CLEARLY AND FINALLY DETERMINED."

THE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM NOW CONSISTS OF FOUR BOARDS EACH HEADED BY A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. THE TARGET OF THE BOARDS IS TO DEAL WITH 400 REVIEWS A WEEK.

SO FAR, THE BOARDS HAVE DEALT WITH ALTOGETHER 710 CASES. OF THESE, 669 CASES INVOLVING 1,583 BOAT PEOPLE WERE REJECTED. THE REMAINING 41 CASES INVOLVING 136 BOAT PEOPLE WON THEIR APPEAL.

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SIXTH MEETING OF PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

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THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (PHA) HELD ITS SIXTH MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY) TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF ITS COMMITTEES SINCE THE LAST MEETING HELD ON JULY 11.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PHA, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, SAID GOOD PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN THE WORK OF PHA'S COMMITTEES.

"A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES ARE IN FACT REACHING THE FINAL STAGE IN CONSIDERING MATTERS RELATING TO THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE. IN PARTICULAR THE AUTHORITY STRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAVE ALMOST FINISHED THEIR DELIBERATIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) AND INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS.

"THE LATTER IS NOW BEING VALIDATED BY AN INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS," HE SAID.

SINCE THE PHA WAS SET UP IN OCTOBER 1988, A TOTAL OF 120 COMMITTEE AND 37 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD.

"THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS AND SENSE OF URGENCY ON THE PART OF PHA MEMBERS ARE REDUCING," SIR S.Y. SAID.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PHA REPORT CAN BE FINALISED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"IF THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TARGET DATE OF ESTABLISHING THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IN APRIL 1990 WILL BE ACHIEVABLE."

SIR S.Y. REVEALED THAT THE PHA FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM WITHIN THE HA.

IT HAS AGREED THAT THE FUTURE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS SHOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF THEIR NEEDS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THE ROLES THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY IN THE SYSTEM.

REGARDING THE FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HA AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S VIEW IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW THE HA THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN USING THE MONEY PROVIDED, AND INCENTIVES FOR THE HA TO SECURE MORE RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD, HOWEVER, RETAIN CONTROL OF THE POLICY ON FEES AND CHARGES AND THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROVISION FOR FEES TO BE WAIVED FOR THOSE PATIENTS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY.

"WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS EXAMINED VARIOUS MEANS OF IMPROVING THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS," SIR S.Y. SAID.

/THESE WILL .....

THESE WILL INCLUDE PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL SUPPORT TO PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN ORDER TO RELIEVE THEM OF MUNDANE TASKS, REDUCTION IN THE CLINICAL LOAD OF DOCTORS AND NURSES, AND SECURING ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND STORAGE SPACE AT HOSPITALS.

AS REGARDS STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, WITH ELECTED GRADE REPRESENTATIVES, IS RECOMMENDED TO BE SET UP IN EACH PUBLIC HOSPITAL TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND STAFF.

THE PHA PROPOSALS ON INTEGRATION OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY SUBVENTED HOSPITAL BOARDS. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A HOSPITAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE FOR EACH EX-SUBVENTED HOSPITAL, IN WHICH MEMBERS NOMINATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE IN THE MAJORITY AS COMPARED TO THOSE NOMINATED BY THE HA.

EACH HOSPITAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE HA TO EMPLOY STAFF (EXCEPT THOSE IN VERY SENIOR POSITIONS) AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL FORM THE BASIS OF AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL BOARDS WHICH WILL BE ENTERED INTO BY THE FUTURE AUTHORITY.

"THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE DRAFT HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BILL, WHICH WILL SPELL OUT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE HA, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING FOR ITS STATUTORY INCORPORATION," SIR S.Y. SAID.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF A TEACHING HOSPITAL HAS BEEN CONSIDERED VERY THOROUGHLY BY THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT AND FINANCING OF TEACHING HOSPITALS.

IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE HOSPITAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL, WITH THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL FACULTY RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A MEDICAL COMMITTEE AND A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE HOSPITAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON PROFESSIONAL MATTERS AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES RESPECTIVELY. THE COMMITTEE WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER THE FINANCING OF TEACHING HOSPITALS SHORTLY.

SIR S.Y. ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE VARIOUS CONSULTANCIES COMMISSIONED BY THE PHA.

"THE CONSULTANCY ON NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

/"THE CONSULTANTS .....

"THE CONSULTANTS ARE NOW FINALISING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW PACKAGE FOR HA STAFF, WHICH COMPRISES THREE MAIN ELEMENTS: BASIC SALARY; A CORE BENEFIT PROGRAMME COVERING RETIREMENT, DEATH AND DISABILITY, MEDICAL PROTECTION, HOUSING AND VACATION LEAVE; AND A FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) WHICH IS DERIVED FROM FUNDS RELEASED FROM RESTRUCTURING THE EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE BENEFIT PROGRAMME."

ACCORDING TO CONSULTANTS, HA STAFF WILL HAVE THREE OPTIONS: EITHER TO TAKE THE FSA OUT IN CASH, TO LEAVE IT FOR INVESTMENT EARNINGS, OR TO USE IT TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THE RETIREMENT, DEATH AND DISABILITY PROGRAMME.

THE LATTER TWO OPTIONS WILL RECEIVE A FURTHER SUBSIDY FROM THE HA. THE STAFFING COMMITTEE IS AWAITING FURTHER DETAILS FROM THE CONSULTANTS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON THE MATTER.

"THE WORK OF THE CONSULTANCY ON THE STRATEGY STUDY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS HAS JUST STARTED. THIS WILL COVER THE MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS REQUIRED BY THE FUTURE AUTHORITY AND INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER THIS YEAR."

SIR S.Y. ALSO REMARKED THAT THE PHA IS IN THE PROCESS OF ENGAGING CONSULTANTS TO DESIGN A SET OF PERSONNEL REGULATIONS AND STAFF PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE AUTHORITY AS THE PRESENT CIVIL SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE APPLICABLE.

"THE NEED FOR A UNIFORM PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM IS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY SO THAT JUSTICE CAN BE SEEN TO BE DONE IN THE MIXED STAFF SITUATION UNDER THE HA, INCLUDING STAFF EMPLOYED BY THE HA, AS WELL AS CIVIL SERVANTS AND SUBVENTED HOSPITAL STAFF WHO RETAIN THEIR PRESENT STATUS." SIR S.Y. ADDED.

PROGRAMME OF VISITS TO ALL 35 GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, WHICH STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1988, WAS COMPLETED LAST WEEK.

"THE PURPOSE OF ENABLING PHA MEMBERS TO SEE AT FIRST-HAND THE DELIVERY OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED.

"THE OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE VISITS UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFITTED PHA MEMBERS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THEIR WORK," SIR S.Y. SAID.

"ANOTHER OBJECTIVE OF THE VISITS IS TO ENABLE HOSPITAL STAFF TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE HOSPITAL REFORM.

"THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE PHA IN FORMULATING ITS PROPOSALS." HE ADDED.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE VISIT PROGRAMME TO PUBLIC HOSPITALS, THE PHA IS NOW ORGANISING SEVERAL VISITS TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS SO THAT A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPERATION OF THESE HOSPITALS CAN BE OBTAINED.

AS THE TEMPO OF WORK OF THE PHA IS QUICKENING, THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING OF THE PHA WILL BE HELD IN MID-OCTOBER, AND THESE MEETINGS WILL FOLLOW A MONTHLY SCHEDULE THEREAFTER.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT USA NEXT MONTH

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES FROM OCTOBER 14 TO 21 THIS YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

DURING THE EIGHT-DAY TOUR OF BOTH EAST AND WEST COASTS, SIR DAVID WILL VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C. WHERE HE WILL MEET CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND CABINET MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION.

AFTER WASHINGTON, SIR DAVID WILL GO ON TO VISIT LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO.

WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, HE WILL UNDERTAKE A NUMBER OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND WILL BRIEF BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND THE TERRITORY'S FAR-REACHING LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

DETAILS OF HIS PROGRAMME ARE BEING FINALISED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS WILL BE SIR DAVID'S SECOND VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE TAKING UP OFFICE. HE LAST TOURED THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER 1987.

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GOVERNOR CONGRATULATES HK CLIMBERS ON EVEREST ASSAULT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) CONGRATULATED HONG KONG MEMBERS OF THE JOINT HONG KONG AND CHINA MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION ON THEIR SUCCESS IN CONQUERING MOUNT CHANGTSE, THE NORTH PEAK OF MOUNT EVEREST, IN JULY.

SIR DAVID, WHO IS THE PATRON OF THE HONG KONG TEAM, AND LADY WILSON HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE TEAM INCLUDING THREE WHO REACHED THE CHANGTSE SUMMIT, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG MOUNTAINEERING UNION.

MR TSANG LOK, A TEAM LEADER, MR NG KA-WAI AND MR CHAM YICK-KAI WERE THE THREE HONG KONG TEAM MEMBERS WHO, TOGETHER WITH THREE CHINESE CLIMBERS HAD REACHED THE 7,543-METRE SUMMIT, THUS SETTING AN ALTITUDE RECORD FOR HONG KONG'S MOUNTAINEERS.

THE 19-MEMBER EXPEDITION COMPRISED NINE HONG KONG CLIMBERS AND 10 MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION.

THE EXPEDITION SET OUT TO CONQUER MOUNT CHANGTSE IN EARLY JULY AND THE SIX CLIMBERS TOPPED THE SUMMIT ON THE 24TH OF THE MONTH. THE HONG KONG TEAM IMMEDIATELY SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR INFORMING HIM OF THEIR SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING.

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HYF FARE APPLICATION DISCUSSED

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) MADE A RECOMMENDATION ON AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF) FOR A FARE INCREASE.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT SOME OF HYF'S FARES WERE LAST INCREASED ON JANUARY 1, 1988 WHILE OTHERS HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE JANUARY 1986.

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASES IN COSTS AND INFLATION SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT A GENERAL FARE INCREASE WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE HYF TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE AND IMPLEMENT SERVICE IMPROVEMENT.

MEMBERS HAD ALSO TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXPECTED DOWNTURN IN HYF'S PATRONAGE FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

TAC'S RECOMMENDATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR A FINAL DECISION.

THE TAC ENDORSED THE PROPOSED COMPULSORY DISPLAY OF DRIVERS' IDENTITY PLATES INSIDE TAXIS.

THE MEASURE IS MEANT TO FACILITATE PASSENGERS IN LODGING COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICE. IT WILL ASSIST ENFORCEMENT ACTION AND ENCOURAGE TAXI DRIVERS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO SELF-DISCIPLINE.

THE IDENTITY CARD WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE DASHBOARD TO THE LEFT OF THE TAXI-METER FLAG UNIT.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS FOR THE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS FOR CONSIDERATION.

MEANWHILE, THE FINDINGS OF THE SECOND STUDY OF CROSS HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES (CHAPTS-2) WERE PRESENTED TO TAC MEMBERS.

CHAPTS-2 WAS UNDERTAKEN TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF RECENT CHANGES IN LAND USE AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, FROM THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING UP TO 1996.

THE FIRST CHAPTS STUDY, COMPLETED IN 1986, ASSESSED THE DEMAND FOR CROSS HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES UP TO 1991.

CHAPTS-2 HAD IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR FURTHER RATIONALISATION OF HYF'S SERVICES AND A LIMITED EXPANSION PROGRAMME FOR CROSS HARBOUR BUSES.

TAC MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS IN 1988.

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GREEN PAPER PROJECTS NECESSARY IRRESPECTIVE OF AIRPORT DECISION  
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THE \$29 BILLION TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME OUTLINED IN THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES, THE TRANSPORT IMPLICATIONS OF THE METROPLAN AND THE GROWING CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MAK CHUN-FONG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE ADJUSTED IN TIMING AND SCALE ONCE A DECISION IS MADE ON THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT, HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE "TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE" AT A DINNER MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR MAK SAID THE PROPOSED ROAD AND RAIL PROJECTS WERE NEEDED IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE AIRPORT WOULD BE RELOCATED.

THE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME WAS INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST ROAD LINKS TO MEET THE NEEDS FOR LINKING THE NEW TOWNS AND THE URBAN CENTRES, AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL HARBOUR CROSSINGS AND CROSS BORDER LINKS.

HE SAID WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, KWUN TONG BYPASS, TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, ROUTE 5 AND THE WIDENING OF TAI PO ROAD, THE NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT LINKS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY WOULD BE WELL-ESTABLISHED BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT DECADE WOULD FOCUS ON THE WESTERN SIDE.

ROUTE 3 WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD PROVIDE AN EXPRESSWAY LINKING THE BORDER AND THE FAST DEVELOPING NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES TO THE EVER EXPANDING CONTAINER TERMINALS AS WELL AS PROVIDING ANOTHER MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH LINK TO THE WEST OF THE TERRITORY.

MR MAK SAID WITH THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH OF THE NEW TOWNS IN EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES, THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WERE EXPECTED TO REACH PLANNED CAPACITY IN THE LATE 1990'S.

IN ORDER TO AVOID THE RECCURRENCE OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION NOW EXPERIENCED AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL, A NEW EXPRESSWAY, ROUTE 16, CONNECTING SHA TIN AND WEST KOWLOON WAS PROPOSED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE MID-1990'S TO MEET DEMAND.

IN THE COSMOPOLITAN AREA, HE SAID, THE EAST-WEST ROAD LINKS IN KOWLOON AND ON HONG KONG ISLAND WERE EXPECTED TO BE UNDER PRESSURE IN THE NEXT DECADE.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTING AIRPORT SITE, IF THE AIRPORT WAS RELOCATED ELSEWHERE, WOULD GENERATE A TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN EAST-WEST TRAFFIC IN THE KOWLOON PENINSULAR IN THE LATE 1990'S.

/MR MAK .....

MR MAK SAID ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED HUNG HOM BYPASS AND THE SECOND AIRPORT TUNNEL WOULD HELP TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE BY PROVIDING A DIRECT ROUTE CONNECTING TSIM SHA TSUI AND KWUN TONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO START PLANNING FOR THE LONGER TERM REQUIREMENTS.

HE SAID THE CROSS KOWLOON ROAD SCHEMES BEING EXAMINED INCLUDED:

- \* THE ROUTE 4 CORRIDOR ALONG LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD;
- \* THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR ALONG BOUNDARY STREET AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD;
- \* THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR ALONG ARGYLE STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD; AND
- \* THE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR ALONG GASCOIGNE ROAD AND JORDAN ROAD.

ON HONG KONG SIDE, THE PROPOSED ROUTE 7 AND CENTRAL-WAN CHAI BYPASS WOULD PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS EXPRESSWAY ALONG THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN SHORES OF THE ISLAND.

MR MAK SAID IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT SHIFT OF POPULATION TO THE NEW TOWNS, FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE RAIL NETWORK WAS IMPORTANT IN RELIEVING SUBSTANTIAL ROAD CAPACITY FOR OTHER MODES.

TWO RAILWAY EXTENSIONS WERE PROPOSED TO SERVE THE FAST DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS IN TSEUNG KWAN O AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

A WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN SET UP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO EXAMINE THE TSEUNG KWAN O MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY EXTENSION.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THIS MTR EXTENSION AND ITS FINANCIAL VIABILITY WOULD BE FURTHER ASSESSED WHEN THE REPORT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PHASE 3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN WAS COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE DEVELOPING PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES RAIL LINK WOULD BE EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS IMPACT ON THE MTR TSUEN WAN LINE AND THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR CONGESTION PROBLEM, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG AND TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWNS.

MR MAK SAID THIS LINE WOULD FEED A LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS INTO THE TSUEN WAN LINE AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TRIPS MIGHT BE DESTINED FOR SOUTH KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

THEREFORE, THE TIMING OF ITS PROVISION SHOULD BE CO-ORDINATED WITH THAT FOR THE THIRD RAIL HARBOUR CROSSING TO AVOID AGGRAVATING THE CONGESTION PROBLEM ALONG THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

ON THE PROPOSED THIRD CROSS HARBOUR RAIL LINK, MR MAK SAID IT WAS TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN CROSS HARBOUR TRIPS AND TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION PROBLEM AT THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR AND THE KOWLOON TONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY/KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY INTERCHANGE.

MR MAK SAID WHEN DETERMINING THE ALIGNMENT OF THIS CROSSING, FACTORS WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCLUDED THE PROGRAMME AND LAND USE OF FUTURE HARBOUR RECLAMATIONS, THE CONNECTION TO EXISTING RAILWAY LINES, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER EXTENSION TO CONNECT WITH PROPOSED FUTURE RAILWAY LINES BEYOND THE NEXT DECADE. FOR EXAMPLE THE EAST KOWLOON LINE EXTENDING FROM SHA TIN TO ABERDEEN.

MR MAK ADDED THAT A DEDICATED RAIL LINK TO SERVE THE FUTURE AIRPORT WAS ALSO BEING EXAMINED BY THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY.

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#### HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN ON SEPTEMBER 15 (FRIDAY), THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AND A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THE EIGHT CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE, YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND THE SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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#### DRAFT WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN FOR HONG KONG AT ITS MEETING ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SUGGEST THE URBAN COUNCIL NOT TO RENEW THE LICENCE OF A PIG ROASTING SHOP IN SHEUNG WAN WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

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A MEMBER WILL ASK WHEN IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE BY-PRODUCT PLANT OF THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR.

MEANWHILE, THE 1989-90 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CLEARANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14) IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A SURVEY ON YOUTH BEHAVIOUR AND REPORTS ON PROJECTS FOR YOUNG AND ELDERLY RESIDENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION IN TSUEN WAN  
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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO A MID-AUTUMN LANTERN CARNIVAL ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 15).

A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND FROM 7 PM UNTIL 10.30 PM. THESE INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA, CHINESE FOLK DANCES AND ACROBATIC PERFORMANCES.

MOREOVER, A NUMBER OF STALLS WILL BE SET UP TO PROVIDE GAMES SUCH AS LANTERN RIDDLES AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE FORTUNE-TELLING.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD. ADMISSION IS FREE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 8 PM WILL BE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMITTEE, MR CHAN LAU-FONG.

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LANTERN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION IN WAN CHAI  
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A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD IN THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IN THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS, CANTONESE OPERATIC SINGING, AND A LUCKY DRAW.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR HSU CHUNG-CHI; AND URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR ARTHUR CHAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT LANTERN FESTIVAL VARIETY SHOW WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND, WAN CHAI.

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL NT TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT SPECIAL TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14).

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE :

GOLDEN HILL ROAD LEADING TO KOWLOON RESERVOIR WILL BE CLOSED FROM 6 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO LOBSTER BAY AND ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI WAN TAU WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO OPERATE ALL NIGHT UP TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING WITH A HEADWAY OF 10 TO 15 MINUTES.

TWO ADDITIONAL TRAINS WILL OPERATE BETWEEN KOWLOON STATION AND SHEUNG SHUI STATION AT 12.30 AM AND 12.45 AM RESPECTIVELY ON FRIDAY.

THERE WILL ALSO BE ADDITIONAL KOWLOON MOTOR BUS SERVICES : 80M (FROM SUI WO COURT TO KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION), 81M (FROM SAN TIN WAI TO KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION), 85K (FROM SHA TIN KCR STATION TO HENG ON), 89R (FROM SHA TIN CENTRAL TO SAI KUNG) AND 93R (FROM CHOI HUNG TO PAK TAM CHUNG) WILL EXTEND THEIR OPERATING HOURS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

SUPPLEMENTARY TRIPS MAY OPERATE TO MEET PASSENGER DEMANDS.

IN ADDITION, THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 60K (SHA TIN KCR STATION TO FO TAN COTTAGE AREA) WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR FROM MIDNIGHT TO 1 AM NEXT MORNING.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI, SHAU KEI WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14), THE RESCISSION OF THE TRAM LANE ON HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 447 AND PERCIVAL STREET IN WAN CHAI WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR ANOTHER WEEK TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN LAYING WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNNAMED ROAD NORTH OF A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR ROADWORKS.

/AFFECTED VEHICLES .....

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AFFECTED VEHICLES INCLUDING EASTBOUND CMB BUS ROUTE 85 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY :

- \* A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH A KUNG NGAM ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- \* THE A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD CUL-DE-SAC BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH A KUNG NGAM VILLAGE ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN TO KWA WAN  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE WINSLOW STREET VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 14) TO FACILITATE CLEANSING OF THE UNDERPASS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WINSLOW STREET HEADING FOR TO KWA WAN ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA WINSLOW STREET, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, COOKE STREET, GILLIES AVENUE AND WUHU STREET.

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