



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EFFECT GIVEN TO COMMISSION'S MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), GIVES EFFECT TO THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF A LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT PUBLISHED IN 1986.

WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID THE COMMISSION'S REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON ATTAINED FULL LEGAL CAPACITY SHOULD, FOR MOST PURPOSES, BE REDUCED FROM 21 TO 18.

"THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED IN HONG KONG, THE ATTITUDE OF ITS PEOPLE TO WORK AND TO EARNING ONE'S LIVING, THE NATURAL ASPIRATION TO OWN PROPERTY AND TO GO INTO BUSINESS, IN SHORT THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NORMAL ADULT LIFE INDICATED TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE ARBITRARY AGE OF 21 WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"IN MEETING THAT RECOMMENDATION THIS BILL REMOVES SOME OF THE IMPEDIMENTS WHICH PROHIBIT MINORS FROM ACQUIRING, HOLDING AND DISPOSING OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CONSEQUENTLY EFFECTS CHANGES TO THE LAW RELATING TO CONTRACTS, WILLS AND COMPANIES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT OTHER LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OTHER AREAS OF THE LAW BECAUSE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF DISPARATE SUBJECTS.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE AGE AT WHICH PERSONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION, MR MATHEWS SAID THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MADE NO RECOMMENDATION IN THIS REGARD, TAKING THE VIEW THAT THIS ASPECT WAS OUTSIDE ITS REMIT.

"THE QUESTION HAS NEVERTHELESS BEEN GIVEN THOROUGH CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

"AS MEMBERS WILL RECALL, ON MARCH 21 THIS YEAR THE CHIEF SECRETARY MADE A STATEMENT IN THIS COUNCIL ON THIS ISSUE.

"HE RECOGNISED THAT THE ARGUMENTS WERE FINELY BALANCED, ADDRESSED MEMBERS AS TO THE COMPETING CONSIDERATIONS, AND INFORMED THEM THAT IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED THAT THE VOTING AGE SHOULD, FOR THE PRESENT, STAY AT 21, BUT THAT CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18 IN 1995," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE BILL.

HE SAID THAT 18-YEAR-OLD COMPANY DIRECTORS OR TRUSTEES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

"PART III OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE DEALS WITH THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

"PUTTING IT SIMPLY, ONE IS ENTITLED TO VOTE IN A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ONLY IF ONE IS REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR AND IN ORDER TO BE REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR FOR A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, ONE MUST FIRST OF ALL BE REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE.

"SECTION 9 OF THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE PROHIBITS PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS FROM REGISTERING AS AN ELECTOR IN ANY REGISTER," HE EXPLAINED.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION THAT 18 SHOULD BE THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON COULD MARRY WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT.

HOWEVER, THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION DID RECOMMEND THAT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS SHOULD CEASE TO HAVE EFFECT AT 18.

"THE RESULT OF THIS WOULD BE THE IMPLIED PARTIAL REPEAL OF THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT TO HEAR APPLICATIONS FROM MINORS FOR CONSENT TO MARRY WHERE SUCH CONSENT HAS BEEN WITHHELD BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

"IT WAS DECIDED, THEREFORE, THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PROVISION WHICH WOULD ENABLE ANY PERSON OF MARRIAGEABLE AGE, WHICH IS 16, WHO REQUIRES THE CONSENT OF A PARENT OR A GUARDIAN TO MARRY, TO APPLY TO A COURT FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY IF CONSENT IS WITHHELD," MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID A COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE WOULD ENABLE A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE TO HEAR IN CHAMBERS AN APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO MARRY BY ANY PERSON OTHER THAN A WARD OF COURT WHO NEEDED THE CONSENT OF ANY OTHER PERSON TO MARRY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT WARDS OF COURT, BECAUSE OF THEIR LEGAL STATUS, ALWAYS REQUIRED THE CONSENT OF A HIGH COURT JUDGE TO CONTRACT A MARRIAGE.

THE BILL WILL BECOME LAW AS THE AGE OF MAJORITY (RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE 1990.

BILL IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL TREND, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECT OF AGE) BILL 1989, IF PASSED, WILL BE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN RECOGNISING AND AFFIRMING THE ABILITY AND MATURITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO THE HON ROSANNA TAM, CONVENER OF THE AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE BILL.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS TAM SAID THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE BILL WAS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL TREND AS WELL AS THE TERRITORY'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

SINCE HONG KONG WAS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT FINANCIAL CENTRES, AND SINCE ITS DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MRS TAM BELIEVED THAT IT WAS ONLY PROPER FOR HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.

SHE NOTED THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ATTAINING MATURITY AND ENJOYING VARIOUS DEGREES OF SOCIAL FREEDOM AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AT A MUCH EARLIER AGE NOWADAYS.

MRS TAM STRESSED THAT AS FAR AS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS WAS CONCERNED, HONG KONG HAD UNDERGONE RAPID CHANGES SINCE THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION FOUR YEARS AGO TO LOWER FROM 21 TO 18 THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON ATTAINED MAJORITY.

EVEN THEN, HONG KONG WAS PREPARED TO GIVE MORE RIGHTS TO ITS YOUNG PEOPLE, SHE POINTED OUT.

"SOCIETY WILL ONLY MOVE FORWARD AS TIME GOES BY," SHE SAID. "WHEN WE REFER TO THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, WE SHOULD OBJECTIVELY ANALYSE THE PRESENTLY PREVAILING SOCIAL CONDITIONS."

MRS TAM CALLED FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE THE LEGISLATION A SUCCESS.

SHE SAID: "AS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY, WE SHOULD CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY TO LOOK AHEAD WITH DECISIVENESS AND TO PREPARE OUR YOUNGER GENERATION FOR THIS CHANGE."

SHE APPEALED TO THOSE ADULTS WHO CONSIDERED YOUNG PEOPLE NOT MATURE ENOUGH AND SOMETIMES UNWILLING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES TO GIVE UP THEIR "PATERNALISTIC" ATTITUDE. SHE BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO TEACH THE YOUNG TO FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIETY WAS TO ENTRUST THEM WITH RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THEY COULD RIGHTLY SHOULDER.

"OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE GIVEN TO THEM TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN INDEPENDENT MANNER. IT IS ONLY BY SO DOING THAT WE CAN REALLY GUIDE THEM TO PLAY AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN SOCIETY," SHE SAID.

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"TO LOWER THE AGE OF MAJORITY IS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS SHOWING OUR TRUST IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE," SHE ADDED.

MRS TAM'S MESSAGE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE WAS THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE USE OF EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY, SO THAT SOCIETY WOULD REALISE THAT TODAY'S YOUNGER GENERATION WAS FAST BECOMING SOCIETY'S MASTERS TOMORROW.

MRS TAM SAID SHE RESPECTED PEOPLE'S DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE AGE OF MARRIAGE WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT AND THE AGE OF VOTING, ADDING THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED AT THE LEGCO IN-HOUSE MEETING THAT SINCE THOSE TWO ISSUES WERE NOT DEALT WITH BY THE BILL, THEY COULD BE SEPARATELY CONSIDERED.

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UNWISE TO LOWER AGE OF MAJORITY

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IT IS UNWISE TO GIVE OUR YOUTH TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY TOO EARLY IN THEIR STATION IN LIFE, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TAI MADE THE REMARK WHEN SPEAKING AGAINST THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR TAI FELT THAT THE LAW REFORM BODY HAD FAILED TO NOTE THE SOCIAL SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM WHEREBY A LOT OF YOUTH AT THE AGE OF 18 YEARS WERE STILL RECEIVING EDUCATION.

HE NOTED THAT WHILE THE BILL REDUCED THE AGE OF MAJORITY TO 18 YEARS, IT DID NOT LOWER THE AGE OF PARENTAL CONSENT FOR MARRIAGE NOR FOR VOTING RIGHTS. HE PERSONALLY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE PIECEMEAL APPROACH.

"IF WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT A YOUNG PERSON AT THE AGE OF 18 IS MATURE ENOUGH TO BE TRUSTED AS AN ADULT, THEN THERE MUST BE CONSISTENT CHANGES.

"THE CHANGE SHOULD EXTEND TO LOWERING THE VOTING AGE AND THE RIGHT TO MARRIAGE WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT, BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO DRAW A DIVIDING LINE," HE SAID.

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AGE LIMIT CHANGE BEARS GREAT IMPLICATIONS

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THE CHANGING FROM 21 TO 18 AT WHICH A PERSON ATTAINED FULL CAPACITY SHOULD CARRY MORE IMPLICATIONS THAN JUST LEGAL EFFECT, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT WAS IF ANYTHING MORE OF A SOCIAL ISSUE THAN A LEGAL ISSUE, HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989, MR CHEONG SAID HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE BILL BECAUSE MOST OF THE 18-YEAR-OLD YOUTHS MIGHT NOT BE MATURE ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO MAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE PROFOUND EFFECT EITHER ON THEMSELVES OR ON OTHERS IN THE SOCIETY.

HE SAID YOUTHS HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY BEFORE 18 AND THE LIMITED SOCIAL INTERACTION WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE MATURING PROCESS OF YOUTH.

"THEREFORE, I AM OF THE VIEW THAT, BY AND LARGE, A 21-YEAR-OLD WILL HAVE HAD MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE EXPERIENCE TO BECOME MORE MATURE THAN AN 18-YEAR-OLD," HE SAID.

MR CHEONG POINTED OUT THAT UNDER SECTION 109A OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURES ORDINANCE, NO COURT SHOULD SENTENCE A PERSON BETWEEN 16 AND 21 YEARS OF AGE TO IMPRISONMENT UNLESS THE COURT FOUND THAT NO OTHER METHOD OF DEALING WITH SUCH PERSON WAS APPROPRIATE.

"MY VIEW IS THAT IF A PERSON UNDER 21 IS NOT CONSIDERED OLD ENOUGH AND MATURE ENOUGH TO ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR HIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, THE SAME LOGIC SHOULD APPLY FOR CIVIL LAW," HE SAID.

MR CHEONG SAID HE FOUND MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES SHARED HIS SENTIMENT AND REASONING ON THE ISSUE ALTHOUGH THEY DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE BILL.

HE NOTED THAT THESE MEMBERS GAVE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE BILL BECAUSE THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS IN THE BILL, NAMELY MARRIAGE AGE AND VOTING AGE, WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROVISIONS, AND IN THE INTEREST OF STABILITY.

"WHILST I SALUTE MY COLLEAGUES FOR BEING SO UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR COMPROMISE AND QUIET DIPLOMACY IN HONG KONG, I MUST CAUTION THE ADMINISTRATION THAT ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH GREAT CAUTION.

"MY HUMBLE ADVICE IS THAT BEFORE THE QUESTIONS OF MARRIAGE AGE AND VOTING AGE ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO THIS COUNCIL, CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, ESPECIALLY PARENTS, SHOULD BE WIDELY HELD," HE SAID.

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CALL TO ACKNOWLEDGE CHANGING TIMES

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THE HON DAVID LI CONCURRED WITH THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP THAT STUDIED THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989 THAT THE CHANGING TIMES IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY FORMALLY REDUCING THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18 YEARS.

"IN SO DOING, WE WOULD BE CORRECTING AN ANOMALY OF THE LAW THAT IS NEITHER REASONABLE NOR REALISTIC IN THIS DAY AND AGE," HE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT IN 1983 HE CHAIRED THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES SURROUNDING A REDUCTION IN THE AGE OF MAJORITY IN HONG KONG, MR LI SAID THE BILL FOLLOWED LARGELY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND WAS, IN THE MAIN, UNCONTROVERSIAL.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, IT WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE STRANGE THAT IF THE BILL BECAME LAW, A PERSON OF 18 YEARS COULD BECOME A DIRECTOR OF A PUBLIC COMPANY, THEREBY INFLUENCING THE LIFESTYLES OF THOUSANDS, YET COULD NOT MARRY OF HIS OWN ACCORD.

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LOWERING THE AGE OF MAJORITY OPPOSED

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THE HON NELLIE FONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) A CHANGE IN THE AGE OF MAJORITY SHOULD ONLY BE CONTEMPLATED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THE GENERAL MATURITY OF THE PUBLIC HAD RISEN AND THAT THEY COULD BE GIVEN MUCH HEAVIER RESPONSIBILITIES AT AN EARLIER AGE.

THE FIXING OF A LEGAL AGE OF MAJORITY WAS BOTH SUBJECTIVE AND SENSITIVE, SHE SAID.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989, MRS FONG OPPOSED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION TO LOWER THE AGE OF MAJORITY BECAUSE SHE FOUND THE ARGUMENT OF MAKING A COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WAS VERY WEAK.

SHE ALSO FOUND THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC OPINION REVEALED THAT THE SENTIMENTS OF THOSE SEGMENTS WERE COMPLETELY THE OPPOSITE OF THE RECOMMENDATION.

THE SURVEY ATTRACTED 1,500 REPLIES FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS AND ORGANISATIONS, AND THESE WERE OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOUR OF RETAINING THE AGE OF MAJORITY AT 21 IN EIGHT OUT OF THE 10 SCENERIOS PRESENTED, SHE SAID.

/THE EXCEPTIONS .....

THE EXCEPTIONS INVOLVED ONLY LOWERING THE AGE FOR SEEING MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND THE MINIMUM AGE PERMITTED TO GET MARRIED, SHE ADDED.

"I FOUND NO GOOD REASON WHY OVERWHELMING GENERAL OPINIONS COULD BE IGNORED. THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT IT WAS GUIDED BY THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY, THAT IS NOT APPARENT.

"HOWEVER, THE REPORT ALSO REFERRED TO THE SURVEY AS NOT HAVING BEEN A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY, BUT RATHER A SURVEY OF THOSE ORGANISATIONS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVING DEALING WITH YOUNG PERSONS IN THEIR DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES," SHE SAID.

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, SHOULD THEIR OPINIONS NOT HAVE BEEN HEARD, SHE ADDED.

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YOUNG PEOPLE NOW MORE EDUCATED AND SOPHISTICATED

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THE HON MIRIAM LAU TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WELCOMED THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989, SUGGESTING THAT IT WAS A MOVE TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY A GREATER PART IN THE RUNNING OF THE SOCIETY.

SHE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IT WAS TIME THAT A PATERNALISTIC AND OUTDATED VIEW OF YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD END AS THEY WERE NOW MORE EDUCATED AND MORE SOPHISTICATED.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MRS LAU SAID IT WAS NOT RIGHT TO ALLOW HONG KONG TO LINGER BEHIND TIMES WHEN MOST COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING ASIAN COUNTRIES, HAD LOWERED THE AGE OF MAJORITY TO UNDER 21 YEARS, IN MOST INSTANCES 18 YEARS.

SHE SAID THE BILL WAS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN RECOGNISING THE CAPABILITIES AND VALUE OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND SHE REGRETTED THAT MOST MEMBERS DISAGREED WITH THE AD HOC GROUP'S MAJORITY VIEW THAT MARRIAGE AGE AND VOTING AGE SHOULD ALSO BE LOWERED TO 18.

MRS LAU SAID THAT THERE WERE SUFFICIENT SAFEGUARDS IN THE LAWS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO ENABLE 18-YEAR-OLD YOUTHS FULLY TO TAKE UP THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING COMPANY DIRECTOR, TRUSTEE OR GUARANTOR, AND MANY OF THE WORRIES EXPRESSED BY SOME MEMBERS WERE UNFOUNDED.

"HONG KONG IS MOVING TOWARDS A TIME WHEN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL NECESSARILY HAVE A GREATER PART TO PLAY IN THE RUNNING OF OUR SOCIETY.

/"IT REMAINS .....

"IT REMAINS OUR SOCIETY'S DUTY TO EDUCATE THEM, TRAIN THEM AND GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES OR ADVANCEMENT, BUT EVENTUALLY IT MUST BE THE YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHO MUST SHOW THEIR WORTH.

"TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO, WE MUST GIVE THEM THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH THEY DESERVE.

"IN THIS REGARD, I PERSONALLY HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS," SHE SAID.

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18-YEAR-OLDS ARE MATURE ENOUGH  
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THE 18-YEAR-OLDS ARE PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY MATURE ENOUGH TO TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITIES, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989, DR LEONG ALSO ADVOCATED THAT THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE LOWERED TO 18.

IT MUST BE ESTABLISHED THAT WHILST RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD ONLY BE GIVEN IN THE FACE OF MATURITY, RESPONSIBILITIES CULTIVATED MATURITY, HE NOTED.

DR LEONG SAID ONE COULD NOT DISPUTE THE FACT THAT THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT LAST YEAR IN THE TERRITORY HAD VIVIDLY SHOWED THE HIGH LEVEL OF POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONCERN OF YOUNG PEOPLE OVER THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THAT OF CHINA.

HE ADDED THAT LOWERING THE VOTING AGE WAS DEFINITELY A MEANS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN THE FACE OF THE EXODUS OF PROFESSIONALS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO CHOSE TO VOTE WITH THEIR FEET.

HE SAID, "OVER A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, A POLITICAL SYSTEM NEW TO HONG KONG WILL COME INTO BEING. AMONG ITS FEATURES IS A HIGH DEGREE OF MASS PARTICIPATION."

YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE ENCOURAGED AND ALLOWED TO SHAPE THEIR OWN DESTINY, HE CONCLUDED.

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MEASURE WILL PROVIDE HELP FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES BILL 1990 WILL GO A LONG WAY IN PROTECTING UNFORTUNATE EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED AT WORK, THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR NGAI, CONVENER OF A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE BILL, WAS SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE MEASURE.

THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE GROUP HAD BEEN THE HIGH COST OF SETTING UP THE SECRETARIAT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD, WHICH WAS ESTIMATED AT \$650,000 PER ANNUM, HE SAID.

HE SAID MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT AS THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL ALREADY HAD A SECRETARIAT, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER MAKING USE OF IT FOR RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE LEVIES SO AS TO MINIMISE THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST.

DISCUSSION WAS NOW BEING HELD WITH THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE LEVY SCHEME WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER, HE SAID.

THE GROUP ALSO FELT THAT THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY WAS A VERY COMPETITIVE BUSINESS, AND SECRECY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED REGARDING THE INFORMATION IT GAVE TO THE BOARD IN THE COURSE OF COLLECTING THE LEVY ON THE BOARD'S BEHALF, MR NGAI SAID.

HE SAID THE GROUP HAD SUGGESTED, AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAD AGREED, TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL TO THE EFFECT THAT EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD WHO DID NOT KEEP THE INFORMATION SECRET WOULD COMMIT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ENSURE THAT THE LEVY IMPOSED ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA WAS COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.

HE SAID THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION WOULD INVOLVE A DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WERE NOW BEING EXAMINED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"I AGREE WITH THE AD HOC GROUP THAT THE BILL SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE EMPLOYEES OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD TO REFRAIN FROM DISCLOSING ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY INSURANCE COMPANIES, EXCEPT IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES.

"THIS WILL PROTECT BUSINESS INFORMATION AGAINST UNAUTHORISED DISCLOSURE," HE SAID.

/MR YEUNG .....

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MR YEUNG ALSO AGREED WITH THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND SAID THEY SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE BILL TO BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD.

"FOLLOWING ITS ENACTMENT WE WILL PROCEED QUICKLY TO APPOINT THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD AND TO INTRODUCE THE TWO PER CENT COMBINED LEVY ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA.

"AS I SAID IN THIS COUNCIL ON MARCH 14, THE MANAGEMENT BOARD WILL COLLECT THE COMBINED LEVY ON BEHALF OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL AND THE PROPOSED EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME," HE SAID.

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CIVIL SERVICE PENSION INCREASE APPROVED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1990.

THE ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, IN TWO MOTIONS MOVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY WAS TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING PENSIONS PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

"THIS IS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC PENSION ADJUSTMENTS IN LINE WITH MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)," HE SAID.

"DURING THE LATEST REVIEW PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1989 TO MARCH 31, 1990, THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 12 POINTS WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO 10 PER CENT."

THE TOTAL COST OF THE PENSION ADJUSTMENT WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$107 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR, SIR DAVID ADDED.

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/11 .....

LEGISLATION GIVEN NEW NUMBER

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990 DURING THE BILL'S COMMITTEE STAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR PIERS SAID THE AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21, 1990, WAS STILL BEING EXAMINED BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF LEGCO.

"THE NUMBERING OF THIS PRESENT PIECE OF LEGISLATION, THEREFORE, NEEDS TO BE CHANGED FOLLOWING ENACTMENT," HE ADDED.

"IT WILL BE ENTITLED THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1990."

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PROCEDURES FOR VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER EXPLAINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG AND CHINESE VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER WERE ALREADY STREAMLINED.

MR LEUNG MADE THIS REMARK IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NELLIE FONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID HONG KONG VEHICLES ENTERING CHINA HAD TO SATISFY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES' INSPECTION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THEY COULD CROSS THE BORDER.

SIMILARLY, CHINESE VEHICLES ENTERING HONG KONG HAD TO BE INITIALLY REGISTERED AND LICENSED WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT TO CHINESE VEHICLES PASSING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLES EXAMINATIONS AND ON PAYMENT OF THE NECESSARY FEES, THEY COULD BE REGISTERED AND LICENSED IN HONG KONG.

THIS PROCEDURE WAS IDENTICAL TO THAT APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG VEHICLES AND NORMALLY TOOK ONLY A FEW DAYS TO COMPLETE.

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IT CAN BE FURTHER STREAMLINED GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT ALL VEHICLES RUNNING ON HONG KONG'S ROADS SATISFY THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING AND ROAD WORTHINESS," MR LEUNG SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION, BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINESE VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER HAD TO POSSESS VALID CROSS BORDER PERMITS ISSUED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO PASS THROUGH THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA.

THE PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR SUCH PERMITS WAS MADE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE. NORMALLY, AN APPLICATION COULD BE PROCESSED WITHIN A FEW DAYS, HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE GOODS VEHICLE TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, MR LEUNG SAID, THERE WERE AT PRESENT NO RESTRICTIONS ON HONG KONG GOODS VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER TO CHINA.

OTHER CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES WERE SUBJECT TO QUOTAS BILATERALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

FOR CHINESE VEHICLES, THERE WAS AT PRESENT A QUOTA OF 350 GOODS VEHICLES AND 100 FOR OFFICIAL CARS. THESE WERE ALSO SUBJECT TO REVIEW.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THERE WERE REGULAR LIAISON MEETINGS BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON TRANSPORT MATTERS. IF ANY NEW MEASURES TO FACILITATE VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE BORDER WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY, THEY COULD ALWAYS BE RAISED FOR DISCUSSION AT THESE MEETINGS.

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UNLEADED PETROL UPGRADING POSES NO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD  
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THE UPGRADING PROCESSES TO IMPROVE THE OCTANE RATING IN UNLEADED PETROL WOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM PROF THE HON C.K. POON, MR OXLEY SAID OIL COMPANIES HAD AGREED NOT TO INCREASE THE TOXIC COMPONENTS OF PETROL IN THE PRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL.

"I WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THERE IS NO RISK OF ENGINE DAMAGE," HE SAID.

ON THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VEHICLES AFFECTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL, MR OXLEY SAID 66 PER CENT OF VEHICLES COULD SWITCH TO UNLEADED PETROL WITHOUT MODIFICATION OR ADVERSE EFFECTS, ACCORDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S STUDIES.

A FURTHER 13 PER CENT COULD SWITCH IF MINOR ADJUSTMENTS TO SPARK IGNITION TIMING WERE MADE.

OF THE REMAINING 21 PER CENT, SOME 14 PER CENT COULD USE UNLEADED PETROL FOR MOST OF THE TIME, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NEED AN OCCASIONAL DOSE OF LEADED PETROL TO LUBRICATE VALVE SEATS.

NOTING THAT THE REMAINING SEVEN PER CENT OF VEHICLES COULD NOT USE UNLEADED PETROL, MR OXLEY SAID LEADED PETROL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THESE VEHICLES.

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CLOSE CO-OPERATION IN TRAINING AMBULANCEMEN  
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THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY CLOSE CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR AMBULANCEMEN, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON IAN STRACHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"HENCE, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO PLACE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE UNDER THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SO AS TO ACHIEVE THESE TRAINING OBJECTIVES," HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

MR STRACHAN SAID IT WAS ALWAYS USEFUL, WHEN EXAMINING THE CURRENT PROVISION OF A PUBLIC SERVICE, TO CONSIDER HISTORICALLY WHY SUCH A SERVICE WAS PROVIDED IN THE WAY IT WAS.

HE SAID IN 1953, NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, PROVIDED BY THE THEN MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, PROVIDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WERE AMALGAMATED AND PLACED UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR STRACHAN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HISTORY HAD PROVEN THIS DECISION TO HAVE BEEN A CORRECT ONE.

"THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONTROL CENTRE DEALS WITH ALL EMERGENCY CALLS FOR FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES.

"THE TRANSFER OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE TO THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD RESULT IN EITHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CONTROL CENTRE, WITH CONSIDERABLE DUPLICATION AND LOSS OF FLEXIBILITY AND EXPERTISE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE EXISTING CONTROL CENTRE, OR IT WOULD RESULT IN PROBLEMS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL IF THE PRESENT COMBINED CONTROL CENTRE WERE RETAINED, BUT UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF TWO DEPARTMENTS.

"THUS, TO ENSURE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THESE RESOURCES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO ENABLE A PROMPT RESPONSE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, I CONSIDER THAT THE AMBULANCE SERVICE SHOULD REMAIN UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1990

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FEE-CHARGING POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTERS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A FEE-CHARGING POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTERS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR OXLEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S BROAD INTENTIONS WERE THAT POLLUTERS SHOULD PAY.

"THIS GENERAL POLICY HAS NOT IN THE PAST BEEN APPLIED CONSISTENTLY FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

"HISTORICALLY NO CHARGE HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATERS AND SOLID WASTES, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE COSTS ARE MET BY GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

"THE QUESTION OF DIRECT CHARGING FOR THESE SERVICES IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW," HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO COST RECOVERY ON LICENSING AND THE ISSUE OF PERMITS, MR OXLEY SAID THERE WAS ALREADY FULL COST RECOVERY IN SOME CASES, SUCH AS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING FEES UNDER THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

IN OTHER CASES, SUCH AS LICENCES FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF OFTEN SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS ISSUED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, ONLY A NOMINAL FEE WAS CHARGED IN ORDER NOT TO DISCOURAGE APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES SINCE FAILURE TO BE LICENSED WOULD INCREASE THE CONTROL EFFORT REQUIRED AND BE GENERALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

"AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, AND PARTICULARLY AS POLLUTERS AND GENERATORS OF WASTE COME TO ACCEPT MORE FULLY THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEALING WITH THIS ASPECT OF THEIR OPERATIONS, THEN THE FEES CHARGED WILL BE RECONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF FULL COST RECOVERY," MR OXLEY ADDED.

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FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY ENCOURAGED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED THE FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY AT THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES, TO HELP RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR YEUNG SAID WHERE NEGOTIATIONS FAILED THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALWAYS SHOWN ITSELF WILLING TO MEDIATE.

"VOLUNTARY NEGOTIATION, UNDERPINNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCILIATION SERVICE, HAS SERVED US WELL," HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO WHERE THE EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION NO. 98 TO HONG KONG OBLIGED THE TERRITORY TO LEGISLATE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, MR YEUNG SAID THE OBLIGATION DID NOT EXIST.

HE SAID ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONVENTION PROVIDED THAT MEASURES APPROPRIATE TO NATIONAL CONDITIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN, WHERE NECESSARY, TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE FULL DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF MACHINERY FOR VOLUNTARY NEGOTIATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS OR EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS AND WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO NEGOTIATE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE CONVENTION HAVING CREATED AN OBLIGATION UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY STATUTE.

"COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TENDS TO WORK EFFICIENTLY ONLY IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE A SMALL NUMBER OF BUSINESSES EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE REPRESENTED BY TRADE UNIONS, AND WHERE BOTH SIDES CONSIDER IT MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO AVOID THE TROUBLE AND EXPENSE OF NEGOTIATING AT THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT CLEARLY DID NOT EXIST IN HONG KONG GIVEN THE MULTIPLICITY OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE TERRITORY AND HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE LOCAL TRADE UNIONS REPRESENTED A RELATIVELY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE WORKFORCE.

ON THE LOSS OF WORKING DAYS THROUGH INDUSTRIAL ACTION, MR YEUNG SAID HONG KONG COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

"THE NUMBER OF MAN DAYS PER 10,000 WORKING MAN DAYS HONG KONG HAS LOST THROUGH INDUSTRIAL ACTION OVER THE THREE YEARS 1986 TO 1988 WAS 0.04, COMPARED WITH 0.12 FOR JAPAN, 0.13 FOR SOUTH KOREA, 1.86 FOR THE UNITED STATES AND 3.53 FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"MOREOVER, OF THE 47,150 DISPUTES INVOLVING THE CONCILIATION SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OVER THE THREE YEARS 1987 TO 1989, NO FEWER THAN 35,719 CASES, OR 76 PER CENT, HAVE BEEN RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY," HE SAID.

NO INTENTION TO EXTEND HA PACKAGE TO SUBVENTED SECTORS

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THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT INTEND TO EXTEND THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY REMUNERATION PACKAGE TO THE SUBVENTED SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION SECTORS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MRS WONG SAID THERE WERE ENTIRELY SEPARATE CONSIDERATIONS SURROUNDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS AUTHORITY WHICH AMOUNTED TO A RE-ORGANISATION EXERCISE TO BRING ABOUT MANAGEMENT REFORMS.

"GIVEN THE INTENTION THAT THE SUBVENTED AND GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SECTORS WILL MERGE UNDER A SINGLE AUTHORITY, IT IS CLEARLY NECESSARY TO PROVIDE COMMON TERMS OF SERVICE FOR STAFF WHO ELECT TO JOIN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

"THERE ARE NO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE VOLUNTARY WELFARE SECTOR OR FOR AIDED SCHOOLS," SHE SAID.

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SUPPLY OF GRADUATES EXPECTED TO BE ADEQUATE

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXPECT ANY SHORTFALL IN THE SUPPLY OF GRADUATE LEVEL MANPOWER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT-RELATED OCCUPATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE DEMAND FOR QUALIFIED MANPOWER CAME MAINLY FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, WHICH ENFORCED LEGISLATION; THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, WHICH PROVIDED A RANGE OF ADVISORY AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO INDUSTRY; AND INDUSTRY ITSELF, WHICH ENGAGED CONSULTANTS TO DESIGN ANTI-POLLUTION SYSTEMS AND STAFF TO RUN THEM.

AT PRESENT, THE ENTRY QUALIFICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS A FIRST DEGREE, PREFERABLY IN THE SCIENCES OR IN ENGINEERING, AND THREE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN A RELEVANT AREA.

NOTING THAT THE PRESENT ANNUAL OUTPUT OF SOME 1,800 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRADUATES FROM OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE MORE THAN DOUBLED BY THE MID-1990S AS THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAME ON STREAM AND THE EXPANSION OF FIRST DEGREE PLACES GATHERED PACE, MR YEUNG SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY SHORTFALL IN THE SUPPLY.

/MOREOVER, MR .....

MOREOVER, MR YEUNG SAID, THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS HAD ANTICIPATED THE GROWING PUBLIC INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THEY NOW OFFERED NO FEWER THAN 22 ENVIRONMENT-RELATED COURSES AT FIRST DEGREE AND POST-GRADUATE LEVELS AND FIVE AT SUB-DEGREE LEVEL.

ADDITIONAL COURSES WERE BEING PLANNED FOR THE NEXT TRIENNIUM.

"THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH A DIVERSIFIED RANGE OF CHOICES MEANS THAT STUDENTS ARE GIVEN THE BROADEST POSSIBLE GROUNDING BEFORE THEY ENTER THE JOB MARKET," MR YEUNG NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING TO ENSURE THAT THEIR NEWLY APPOINTED GRADUATES BECAME PROFICIENT IN THEIR JOBS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, OUT OF A CURRENT STRENGTH OF 133 PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS IN THE EPD, 100 HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SOME KIND OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND THERE ARE PLANS TO TRAIN THE REST WITHIN THREE YEARS.

"AT THE NON-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL OPERATES EIGHT ENVIRONMENT-RELATED COURSES EACH YEAR FOR ABOUT 650 TECHNICIANS AT ITS TECHNICAL INSTITUTES," MR YEUNG SAID.

AS HONG KONG BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES AND ACCEPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS AN IMPORTANT CIVIC OBLIGATION OVER TIME, MR YEUNG SAID IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE DEMAND FOR ORGANISED TRAINING WOULD GROW AND TAKE MORE CONCRETE SHAPE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WOULD BE WILLING TO RESPOND WITH MORE SPECIFIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF PROFICIENCY," HE ADDED.

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ACCOUNT OF MAY 3 MARINE INCIDENT GIVEN

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON IAN STRACHAN, GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE MARINE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED ON MAY 3, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MIRIAM LAU, MR STRACHAN STATED THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT AS THE GOVERNMENT KNEW THEM AS FOLLOWS:

/"THE POLICE .....

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1990

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"THE POLICE ORGANISED AN OPERATION ON MAY 2 AGAINST A GROUP WHO WERE BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE THEFT OF CARS WITH THE INTENTION OF SMUGGLING THE VEHICLES TO CHINA.

"THE OPERATION INVOLVED THE HIRE BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLICE, WORKING UNDER COVER, OF A LIGHTER AND A TUGBOAT, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FIVE-MAN CREW.

"THE VESSELS WERE MOORED AT THE PIER AT TAP SHEK KOK AT 8 PM ON MAY 2. AN AMBUSH WAS SET BY OTHER POLICE OFFICERS SURROUNDING THE PIER.

"JUST AFTER 10 PM A SPEEDBOAT CAME TO THE SIDE OF THE LIGHTER. IN IT WERE FIVE MEN IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE CHINESE OFFICIAL UNIFORM, AND ONE MAN IN PLAIN CLOTHES.

"THE LATTER BOARDED THE LIGHTER AND ENQUIRED ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOODS. AFTER HALF AN HOUR HE RETURNED TO THE SPEEDBOAT WHICH DEPARTED.

"THE SPEEDBOAT SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED AROUND MIDNIGHT AND THE SAME MAN AGAIN BOARDED THE LIGHTER. HE MADE TELEPHONE CALLS WITH A WIRELESS TELEPHONE. THE FIVE MEN IN UNIFORM WERE STILL ON BOARD THE SPEEDBOAT.

"THE SPEEDBOAT SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT BUT RETURNED ONCE MORE AROUND 3 AM. SHORTLY AFTER 4 AM THREE MERCEDES BENZ CARS ARRIVED AT THE PIER AND WERE LOADED ONTO THE LIGHTER.

"JUST AFTER 4.40 AM THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, BUT WAS BY NOW ALSO WEARING WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN OFFICIAL UNIFORM, GAVE THE ORDER TO SAIL. HE HIMSELF LEFT IN THE SPEEDBOAT.

"FOUR OF THE PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM STAYED ON BOARD THE TUG AND THE LIGHTER. AT LEAST ONE OF THEM WAS ARMED. ALSO ON BOARD THE TUG AND LIGHTER WERE THE FIVE-MAN CREW AND THE TWO UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICERS.

"AT 4.50 AM THE POLICE ARRESTED THREE MEN ON THE PIER IN CONNECTION WITH THE THEFT OF THE CARS.

"SHORTLY AFTER 5 AM THE MARINE POLICE INTERCEPTED THE TUGBOAT AND REQUESTED IT TO STOP. THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED. WHEN THE POLICE LAUNCH SUBSEQUENTLY ATTEMPTED TO COME ALONGSIDE, A WEAPON WAS POINTED AT THE LAUNCH.

"AT ABOUT 5.50 AM A CHINESE BORDER INSPECTION VESSEL CAME ALONGSIDE THE HONG KONG POLICE LAUNCH. THE POLICE LAUNCH SOUGHT CO-OPERATION FROM THE CHINESE VESSEL IN STOPPING THE LIGHTER, BUT THIS WAS NOT FORTHCOMING.

/"ON RECEIVING .....

"ON RECEIVING A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S OFFICE REQUESTED THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLICE, THE TUG, THE LIGHTER AND THE FIVE CREW, AND THE STOLEN CARS.

"THE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN TO THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY OVER THE INCIDENT AND REQUESTED A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT HAD OCCURRED. THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS RETURNED TO HONG KONG ON THE EVENING OF MAY 3."

IN REPLY TO MRS LAU'S QUESTION ON WHETHER OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN INCIDENTS OF CHINESE BOATS CARRYING ARMED OFFICIALS STRAYING INTO HONG KONG WATERS, AND IF SO, HOW DID THE MARINE POLICE DEAL WITH SUCH INCIDENTS, MR STRACHAN SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAD BEEN OCCASIONS WHEN CHINESE BORDER INSPECTION VESSELS HAD STRAYED IN ERROR INTO HONG KONG WATERS AND SOUGHT TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION.

"ON THESE OCCASIONS, THE MARINE POLICE HAVE INFORMED THE CHINESE PERSONNEL INVOLVED THAT THEY WERE IN HONG KONG WATERS AND DIRECTED THEM TO LEAVE," MR STRACHAN SAID.

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MEASURES FOR TACKLING WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY HEAVY METALS  
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES SIX LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO TACKLE WATER POLLUTION BY HEAVY METALS FROM ELECTROPLATING AND PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD FACTORIES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW, ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO TACKLE WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE DISCHARGE OF HEAVY METALS FROM THESE INDUSTRIES, MR OXLEY SAID THERE ARE ABOUT 800 ELECTROPLATING AND OVER 100 PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD FACTORIES IN HONG KONG.

MR OXLEY SAID THE MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE:

1. THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE EXISTING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (WPCO) (SHORT TERM).

THIS ORDINANCE WAS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED IN FOUR WATER CONTROL ZONES -- TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL, SOUTHERN WATERS, PORT SHELTER AND JUNK BAY.

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, UNLESS THEY QUALIFIED FOR EXEMPTION, ALL POLLUTING EFFLUENTS INCLUDING THOSE FROM ELECTROPLATING FACTORIES AND THOSE MANUFACTURING PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS MUST BE LICENSED.

ALL NEW FACTORIES MUST INSTAL ADEQUATE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES BEFORE A LICENCE WAS GRANTED TO ALLOW THEM TO DISCHARGE THEIR EFFLUENTS INTO THE SEWERS.

MR OXLEY SAID THERE HAD BEEN SEVEN SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS AGAINST OFFENDERS IN FO TAN AND TAI PO IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE REMAINING WATER CONTROL ZONES WILL BE DECLARED BY THE END OF 1991.

2. STRENGTHENING THE WPCO (MEDIUM TERM).

THE ORDINANCE'S EFFECTIVENESS WAS SEVERELY LIMITED BY ITS GENEROUS EXEMPTION PROVISIONS. THESE ALLOWED MOST FACTORIES IN EXISTENCE WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED IN EACH WATER CONTROL ZONE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND TO INCREASE THEIR EFFLUENTS BY UP TO 30 PER CENT. THE EXEMPTION PROVISION ALSO CREATED A CONTROL STRUCTURE THAT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER.

MR OXLEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD THEREFORE GAZETTED A BILL TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE BY DELETING THE EXEMPTION PROVISION IN THE ORDINANCE. UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, ALL EFFLUENTS WOULD, WITHIN TWO YEARS, HAVE TO COMPLY WITH EFFLUENT STANDARDS BASED ON GUIDELINES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE AS A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM.

THE BILL WAS DUE FOR ENACTMENT IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF LEGCO. THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT ITS PROVISIONS WOULD APPLY TO THE NEXT GROUP OF WATER CONTROL ZONES TO BE DECLARED LATER IN THE YEAR, HE SAID.

3. LANDFILL DISPOSAL OF TOXIC WASTES (SHORT TERM).

SOME WASTES FROM ELECTROPLATING AND PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD MANUFACTURING CONTAINED TOXIC CHEMICALS IN HIGH CONCENTRATIONS, AND COULD NOT PRACTICALLY BE TREATED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGE TO THE SEWERS.

THESE WASTES HAD TO BE COLLECTED AT THE FACTORIES IN DRUMS AND TAKEN BY THE PRODUCER TO THE GOVERNMENT'S JUNK BAY WASTE DISPOSAL LANDFILL, WHERE THEY COULD BE DEPOSITED IN AN APPROVED AND SAFE MANNER.

THE CHEMICAL WASTE WAS DEPOSITED ALONG WITH MUCH LARGER QUANTITIES OF MUNICIPAL WASTE. HOWEVER, THE CAPACITY OF THE LANDFILL TO RECEIVE CHEMICAL WASTE WAS VERY LIMITED, HE SAID.

4. PROVISION OF A CENTRALISED CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY (MEDIUM TERM).

/TO OVERCOME .....

TO OVERCOME THIS DEFICIENCY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL NEEDS, A CENTRALISED CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY WOULD BE DEVELOPED ON TSING YI ISLAND.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WERE NOW BEING EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE SERVICE WOULD BE IN OPERATION IN 1992-93.

5. ENFORCEMENT OF CHEMICAL WASTE CONTROL REGULATIONS (MEDIUM TERM).

INDUSTRY, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THOSE ASSOCIATIONS MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH ELECTROPLATING FACTORIES AND CIRCUIT BOARD MANUFACTURERS, WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THESE REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD BE PROMULGATED BEFORE THE TREATMENT FACILITY COMES INTO OPERATION.

6. PROMOTING LOCALLY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY IN WASTE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY (LONG TERM).

MR OXLEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROMOTING LOCALLY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELDS OF CLEAN PRODUCTION, POLLUTION CONTROL AND WASTE RECOVERY FOR THE INDUSTRIES.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO INSTAL WASTE RECOVERY SYSTEMS AND SOME FACTORIES IN THESE SECTORS HAD, VIA ENERGY SAVING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY, FOUND THAT SUCH SYSTEMS PROVIDE A GOOD FINANCIAL RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT.

IN CONCLUSION, MR OXLEY SAID THE PROVISION OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND WAS A KEY FEATURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME TO DEAL WITH WASTEWATERS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE COST OF OPERATING THIS PLANT IS ESTIMATED AT \$365 MILLION PER ANNUM.

"A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THIS COST WILL BE REQUIRED TO REMOVE SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF TOXIC METALS DISCHARGED FROM INDUSTRIAL AREAS SUCH AS TSUEN WAN AND KWUN TONG," HE ADDED.

UNIFICATION A LONGER-TERM QUESTION

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THE WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WILL ADDRESS ISSUES OF WHOLE-DAY NURSERY CLASSES, CONTROL OF STAFFING STANDARDS, TEACHER:PUPIL RATIOS AND SPACE RATIOS IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR YEUNG SAID ONCE THE WORKING PARTY HAD FINALISED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THESE ISSUES, IT WOULD TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE LONGER-TERM QUESTION OF UNIFICATION OF CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER UNIFICATION WITHOUT HAVING FIRST SORTED OUT THE FOREGOING ISSUES," HE SAID IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY.

HE SAID THE WORKING PARTY HAD MET THREE TIMES SINCE DECEMBER 1989 AND HAD EXAMINED ASPECTS OF TEACHER TRAINING AND OVER-ENROLMENT.

MR YEUNG SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, SET UP IN OCTOBER 1986, COMPLETED ITS TASK LAST SEPTEMBER.

HE SAID THAT PARTLY ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER.

"THE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, FOR INTRODUCING A NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND FOR THE ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALES ARE NOW WELL KNOWN TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS," MR YEUNG SAID.

THE PROPOSALS WERE DEBATED AT SOME LENGTH IN RECENT WEEKS.

"BUT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO ENDORSED THE VIEW THAT, HOWEVER DESIRABLE IT MAY BE IN THE LONG TERM, THE UNIFICATION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES WITH KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN THE SHORT TERM.

"IN ARRIVING AT THE DECISION, BOTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS SERVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES, THAT THE STANDARDS OF THE TWO TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS DIFFER WIDELY, AND THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE MODUS OPERANDI ARE DIFFERENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT IT WAS PARTLY IN RECOGNITION OF THESE DIFFERENCES THAT A CONSCIOUS DECISION WAS TAKEN TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF FEE REMISSION TO HELP NEEDY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN.

"THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF UNIFICATION BETWEEN THE TWO TYPES OF SERVICES IN THE LONG TERM," HE SAID.

ACCORDINGLY, THE WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, WITH BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, HAD BEEN SET UP TO STUDY, INTER ALIA, THE FEASIBILITY OF ULTIMATE UNIFICATION.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1990

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BILL ON LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE PASSED

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THE LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FIFTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, AND FIVE OF THEM SPOKE AGAINST THE MEASURE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOUND UP THE DEBATE.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1990 WAS ALSO PASSED.

OTHER BILLS PASSED INCLUDED THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES BILL 1990.

DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, IT WOULD BE ENTITLED THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1990.

A PRIVATE BILL, THE DEN NORSKE BANK BILL 1990, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON LAU WAH-SUM, WAS ALSO PASSED.

ANOTHER PRIVATE BILL, THE DAO HENG BANK LIMITED BILL 1990, WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON DAVID LI FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, TWO MOTIONS CONCERNING CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS AND PENSIONS UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSION SCHEME WERE ALSO PASSED. THESE WERE MOVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

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PROVISION OF POST OFFICES TO KEEP PACE WITH DEVELOPMENT

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THE POST OFFICE IS NOW A PART OF DAILY LIFE FOR EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG AND THE PROVISION OF NEW POST OFFICES MUST THEREFORE KEEP PACE WITH THE TERRITORY'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LAM POST OFFICE, THE FIRST POST OFFICE AT TSEUNG KWAN O, MR WONG SAID IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING POLICY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE POSTAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES WITHIN EASY REACH OF CITIZENS IN ALL POPULATED AND COMMUNITY AREAS.

"WITH THIS IN MIND WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE OPENING OF MORE NEW POST OFFICES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

THE NEW PO LAM POST OFFICE, LOCATED AT RB1, GROUND FLOOR, RESTAURANT BLOCK, PO LAM ESTATE, OPENED FOR BUSINESS TODAY AT NOON.

THIS POST OFFICE PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES. ITS BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 703 0000.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THIS MORNING WERE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN HON-CHEUNG, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK K.S. TONG.

WITH THE OPENING OF THIS NEW OFFICE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG IS NOW 114.

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STATISTICS ON TRADE WITH CHINA OF OUTWARD PROCESSING NATURE

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IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989, SOME 59 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME 56 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 78 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 47 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

IN JANUARY - DECEMBER 1989, SOME 58 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING; WHEREAS SOME 53 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, THE FIGURE WAS 76 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 44 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY AS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 TO DISTINGUISH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO CHINA - BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS - INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS ALSO BEEN EXTENDED AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT. THE RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AND JANUARY - DECEMBER 1989 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, SOME \$31,586 MILLION OF THE \$53,358 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME \$20,272 MILLION OF THE \$35,982 MILLION OF TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES WERE \$8,545 MILLION OUT OF \$10,978 MILLION FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND \$11,727 MILLION OUT OF \$25,003 MILLION FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

IN JANUARY - DECEMBER 1989, SOME \$113,581 MILLION OF THE \$195,390 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, SOME \$76,868 MILLION OF THE \$145,051 MILLION OF TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN 1989 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES WERE \$31,962 MILLION OUT OF \$42,080 MILLION FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND \$44,906 MILLION OUT OF \$102,971 MILLION FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTING OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURERS FROM HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING, WITH THE RESULTING PROCESSED GOODS BEING SUBSEQUENTLY RE-IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG; WHILE IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTING OF GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURERS ARE UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA (IMPORTS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) ARE SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM ESTABLISHMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, ARE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE. THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, HOWEVER, FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS."

SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AND MORE DETAILED STATISTICS FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 1989 WILL BE INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE MARCH 1990 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WHICH WILL BE ON SALE NEXT WEEK AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$27 PER COPY.

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GOVT REPLY TO UNHCR ON SEARCH AT WHITEHEAD

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, HAS DENIED CHARGES BY THE UNHCR THAT TEAR GAS WAS EXCESSIVELY USED DURING THE WEAPONS SEARCH ON MAY 4 AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE.

HE HAS ALSO REJECTED CLAIMS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF BOAT PEOPLE WERE LEFT IN THE OPEN IN POOR WEATHER AND WITHOUT ADEQUATE TOILET FACILITIES FOR THE FULL DURATION OF THE SEARCH.

IN HIS REPLY LETTER TO THE UNHCR, MR ASPREY SAID PEPPER FOG, A MILD FORM OF TEAR GAS, WAS USED IN OVERCOMING VIOLENT RESISTANCE FROM PEOPLE WHO HAD BARRICADED THEMSELVES INSIDE THE DORMITORY BLOCKS.

"C.S. GAS WAS ALSO USED, BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER THE USE OF EITHER TO HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVE," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT AS THE POLICE COMPLETED THE SEARCH OF EACH DORMITORY, THE RESIDENTS WERE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

THE SEARCH WAS A LONG AND COMPLEX OPERATION WHICH WAS NOT COMPLETED UNTIL MID-AFTERNOON. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE VBP WERE LEFT IN THE OPEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE WHOLE OPERATION AS THE UNHCR CLAIMS," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY EMPHASISED THAT THE POLICE AND CSD OFFICERS CARRIED OUT THEIR DUTIES WITH THE MINIMUM DEGREE OF FORCE.

"THERE WAS A REAL THREAT TO THEIR SAFETY, AS THERE WAS TO THE SAFETY OF THE CAMP POPULATION IN GENERAL FROM THE VIOLENT MINORITY, AND I BELIEVE THAT THESE OFFICERS BEHAVED WITH GREAT DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINT IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SPECIFIC CLAIM OF ILL-TREATMENT DURING THE SEARCH BUT ANY SUCH CLAIM WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE (CAPO).

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO REJECTED CLAIMS THAT NO PRIOR WARNING WAS GIVEN TO THE WHITEHEAD POPULATION.

"THE POLICE MADE THEIR PURPOSE PLAIN AS THE OPERATION BEGAN; THE VIOLENT RESISTANCE OF SOME VBP CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED BY CLAIMING THAT THEY MISUNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF THE POLICE OPERATION."

MR ASPREY ALSO SAID THAT UNHCR OFFICERS WERE INFORMED OF THE NATURE OF THE OPERATION AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY ONCE THE OPERATION BEGAN.

"THEY WERE GIVEN FULL AND UNRESTRICTED ACCESS DURING THE SEARCH," HE SAID.

"IN MOST INSTANCES, WE AIM TO PROVIDE UNHCR WITH PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SEARCHES AND THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE GENERAL PRACTICE. HOWEVER, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IT WAS DECIDED THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION WOULD NOT HAVE FACILITATED A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SEARCH."

MR ASPREY EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SEARCH WAS TO FIND AND REMOVE DANGEROUS WEAPONS.

"THE FACT THAT MORE THAN 2,500 DANGEROUS WEAPONS WERE REMOVED FROM THE CAMP IS AMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE OPERATION," HE SAID.

"IT TOOK PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INTIMIDATION BY GANG MEMBERS OF OTHER BOAT PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE, ASSAULTS ON CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF, ARMED ESCAPES AND THE WIDESPREAD POSSESSION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS.

"THESE ARE SERIOUS OFFENCES WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE RULE OF LAW INSIDE THE DETENTION CENTRES, AND THE MAY 4 SEARCH WAS INTENDED TO DO EXACTLY THAT."

MR ASPREY SAID THE PROGRAMME OF SEARCHES AT WHITEHEAD AND THE OTHER DETENTION CENTRES WOULD CONTINUE.

"WEAPONS WILL BE REMOVED AND THOSE COMMITTING OFFENCES WILL EITHER BE CHARGED OR REMOVED TO ANOTHER CENTRE," HE SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE SCOPE AND QUALITY OF THE SERVICES TO THE BOAT PEOPLE AND TO IMPROVE THE REPRESENTATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS."

MR ASPREY SAID THIS WORK WAS ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE CENTRE.

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KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT THE PROVISION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE AT THE NEW LUNG PING ROAD TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

TWO WORKING GROUPS ON THE FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY AND ON THE REPORT ON HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BRIEF THE COMMITTEE ON THEIR WORK PROGRESS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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FIRST TUEN MUN MUSIC CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY

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THE FIRST TUEN MUN MUSIC CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MAY 20), PROVIDING A RICH PROGRAMME TO CULTIVATE RESIDENTS' INTEREST IN MUSIC.

AMONG THE ACTIVITIES, THE ANNUAL MUSIC AFFAIR NEW TERRITORIES TRAINEES' CONCERT WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF TUEN MUN TOWN HALL.

SOME LESS FORMAL MUSICAL ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CULTURAL SQUARE ADJACENT TO THE TOWN HALL. THESE INCLUDE POPULAR MUSIC, FOLK SONGS, KARAOKE PERFORMANCE, CHINESE MUSIC, CANTONESE OPERATIC SINGING AND CHINESE FOLK DANCES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY ORCHESTRAS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS.

ACTIVITIES IN THE SQUARE WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM WHILE THE TRAINEES' CONCERT WILL BEGIN AT 3.15 PM. ADMISSION TO BOTH IS FREE.

TICKETS FOR THE CONCERT CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 1 TUEN HI ROAD, THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AND THE MUSIC OFFICE'S TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE AT 167 CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

/JOINTLY ORGANISED .....

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE '90 TUEN MUN MUSIC CARNIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD.

OFFICIATING AT THE CARNIVAL'S OPENING AT THE CULTURAL SQUARE WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS MR ADOLF HSU, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR MRS AGNES ALLCOCK, TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN MR LAU WONG-FAT, DISTRICT OFFICER MR JOHN WAN AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR TAI CHIN-WAH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE '90 TUEN MUN MUSIC CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MAY 20) AT 2.30 PM AT TUEN MUN CULTURAL SQUARE, ADJACENT TO TUEN MUN TOWN HALL.

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AIDS EXHIBITION IN SHA TIN  
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT AIDS WHEN THEY VISIT AN AIDS EXHIBITION IN SHA TIN WHICH WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (MAY 18).

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION, THE 11TH IN A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WILL BE HELD AT THE LUNG HANG COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY.

"THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AIDS, AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE FOCUS IS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO ENGAGE IN RISK BEHAVIOUR, YET ARE OFTEN LESS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE RISKS OF INFECTION WITH AIDS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COVERS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS.

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APART FROM SHOWING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES HOW AIDS THREATENS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE COUNTERED.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON AIDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN HANDSOME PRIZES BY ANSWERING A QUIZ DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL RUN UNTIL SUNDAY (MAY 20), AND WILL MOVE TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN ON JUNE 15.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR KWAI CHUNG SITE  
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A GOVERNMENT SITE IN LAI KING HILL ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,960 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NON-OFFENSIVE GOODS EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR 18 MONTHS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 1.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, NEW TERRITORIES; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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ACAF MEMBERS RE-APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF 13 NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (ACAF) FOR THE 1990-91 TERM.

THEY ARE MR ANDREW WONG, MR LAU WONG-FAT, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, MR CHENG FOR-YAU, DR STAN CHEUNG, MR HO TAK-YAU, MR IP YEUK-LAM, DR LAM KIN-CHE, MR LEUNG CHIK, MR LEUNG TIN-PUI, MR SO MOON-CHEUNG, MR YUNG TIN-TACK AND DR ZEE SZE-YONG.

MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN SERVING ON THE ACAF SINCE ITS INAUGURATION IN MAY 1988 AND THEY WILL NOW SIT ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ANOTHER YEAR WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 20.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE.

A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED BODY, THE ACAF PROVIDES A FORMALISED CONSULTATION MECHANISM TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES PRODUCTION, ON THE FORMULATION OF THEIR LONG-TERM POLICIES AND ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS.

ITS MEMBERS ARE DRAWN FROM THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND MARKETING SECTORS AND EXPERTS IN THE RELATED FIELDS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OMELCO, THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS.

THE ACAF IS ASSISTED IN ITS WORK BY ITS FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES ON CROP FARMING, LIVESTOCK, AQUACULTURE, CAPTURE FISHERIES AND MARKETING.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THESE SUB-COMMITTEES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN HAPPY VALLEY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT CERTAIN TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HAPPY VALLEY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 18) FOR TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS.

LUN HING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND, WHILE TSUN YUEN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO TWO-WAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, VEHICLES EXCEEDING 5.5 METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SECTION OF HIP WO LANE BETWEEN LUN HING STREET AND TSUN YUEN STREET 24 HOURS DAILY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1990

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SHEUNG SHUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 18), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- \* FAN KAM ROAD SECTION BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD (KWU TUNG) AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES SOUTH OF SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT; AND
- \* THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (KWU TUNG) BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH FAN KAM ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 18), THE SECTION OF THE UNNAMED ROAD BEHIND CLAGUE GARDEN AT THE WEST OF TSUEN WAN TRANSPORT COMPLEX WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

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WATER CUT IN SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG

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FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 18) BECAUSE OF THE SUSPENSION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO HA LO WAI SALT WATER PUMPING STATION.

THE WATER CUT WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE, SHEK YAM ESTATE, SHEK LEI ESTATE AND WO YI HOP ROAD.

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