



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988

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TRIBUTE TO LATE SIR DAVID TRENCH

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OBSERVED A MINUTE'S SILENCE AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR SIR DAVID TRENCH, A FORMER GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WHO DIED IN ENGLAND AT THE WEEKEND.

IN A STATEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF SIR DAVID TRENCH.

SIR DAVID SAID: "I FEEL SURE THAT MEMBERS WILL WISH TODAY TO MARK THE RECENT DEATH OF SIR DAVID TRENCH, GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL FROM 1964-71.

"SIR DAVID'S GOVERNORSHIP WAS THE CULMINATION OF A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, MOST OF WHICH HE SPENT HERE IN HONG KONG.

"DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE AS GOVERNOR, HONG KONG HAD TO FACE A SERIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

"THAT THESE WERE OVERCOME OWED MUCH TO HIS FORTITUDE AND CALM, UNRUFFLED LEADERSHIP.

"AS A RESULT HONG KONG ENTERED THE 1970S WITH ENHANCED CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS AND READY TO EXPAND INTO THE MODERN INTERNATIONAL CITY WHICH IT IS TODAY.

"I THINK IT WOULD BE FITTING IF WE NOW STOOD FOR A MINUTE IN SILENCE IN RESPECT FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND IN SYMPATHY FOR HIS WIDOW, LADY TRENCH."

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON EXTENDED SMOKING BAN

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THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONSULTED EARLY NEXT YEAR ON A RECOMMENDATION THAT A TOTAL BAN BE IMPOSED ON SMOKING IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EDWARD HO.

MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH HAD RECENTLY RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE BE AMENDED, MR CHAU POINTED OUT.

MR HO HAD NOTED IN HIS QUESTION THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, NOT LESS THAN 50 PER CENT OF EACH CLASS OF THE SEATING ACCOMMODATION OF A CINEMA, THEATRE, CONCERT HALL OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLE HAD TO BE SET ASIDE AS A NO SMOKING AREA.

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MARKET FORCES DETERMINE INSURANCE PREMIUM LEVELS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO AMEND EXISTING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING, MR JACOBS SAID THE PROPER LEVEL OF INSURANCE PREMIUMS HAD TO BE DETERMINED BY MARKET FORCES, AND NOT BY GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO WAY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD CONTROL THE LEVEL OF CLAIMS.

"PREMIUM INCOME IS NEEDED TO MEET CLAIMS, AND IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO DICTATE THE LEVEL OF PREMIUM, THEN INSURANCE COMPANIES, FACED AS THEY ARE WITH CLAIMS UNDER THEIR POLICIES, MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND CEASE TO WRITE POLICIES ALTOGETHER," HE ADDED.

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SUFFICIENT GUIDANCE GIVEN TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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THE GUIDANCE TO PUBLIC OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY REGULATIONS IS SUFFICIENT TO KEEP CASES OF CARELESS DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO UNAUTHORISED PERSONS TO A MINIMUM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ROBERT UPTON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH COVER BOTH SECURITY OF DOCUMENTS AND SECURITY OF PREMISES, ARE REVIEWED REGULARLY," MR UPTON SAID WHEN REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON HO SAI-CHU CONCERNING LEAKAGE OF CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.

THE REGULATIONS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN ALL CASES, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN A CASE WHERE AN ATTEMPT TO DO DELIBERATE DAMAGE WAS DEMONSTRATED, CRIMINAL ACTION WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED UNDER AN APPROPRIATE ORDINANCE.

"I BELIEVE THAT THESE MEASURES ARE, GENERALLY SPEAKING, QUITE ADEQUATE," MR UPTON SAID.

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IT WAS OFTEN VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE ON THE BASIS OF A STORY OR REVELATION IN THE MEDIA WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN A LEAK OF CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, RATHER THAN SIMPLY A PROCESS OF INTELLIGENT SPECULATION BASED ON MORE-OR-LESS INFORMED RUMOUR, HE SAID.

IN CASES WHERE THERE HAD EXIDENTLY BEEN A LEAK, DISTINCTION WOULD BE MADE BETWEEN DISCLOSURES RESULTING FROM CARELESSNESS AND DISCLOSURES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MADE MALICIOUSLY - THAT WAS, WITH THE INTENT TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OR TO FRUSTRATE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS.

"CASES OF CARELESSNESS ARE MATTERS FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS TO DEAL WITH, BY WARNING OR REPRIMAND.

"CASES OF MALICE ARE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY OFFICER AND HIS TEAM," HE SAID.

MR UPTON SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF CASES ATTRIBUTED TO CARELESSNESS, BUT THERE HAD BEEN 18 CASES IN THE SECOND AND MORE SERIOUS CATEGORY IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

THESE CASES LED TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST EIGHT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, HE SAID.

"GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS WHO HANDLE SENSITIVE ISSUES, AND THE HIGH DEGREE OF ACCESS TO CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS HAVE IN HONG KONG, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LEAKAGE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM IN RECENT TIMES," MR UPTON CONCLUDED.

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EVERY EFFORT MADE TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE TIME

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL IS NOT ASKED TO CONSIDER DRAFT LEGISLATION WITHOUT ITS BEING PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE TIME FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION.

THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SPEAKING AS CHIEF SECRETARY, GAVE THIS ASSURANCE IN THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD ARCULLI.

/MR JACOBS

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT THE USUAL TIMEFRAME FOR THE PASSAGE OF A BILL INVOLVED THE RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND READING AND THIRD READING 14 DAYS AFTER THE BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL.

"MEMBERS ARE, OF COURSE, FREE TO REQUEST MORE TIME TO STUDY ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT COMES BEFORE THEM," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT, IN GENERAL, MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO A BILL AGAINST A SPECIFIC DEADLINE ONLY WHEN THE BILL DEALT WITH AN URGENT OR EMERGENCY SITUATION.

"HAPPILY, SUCH BILLS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN," HE SAID.

"OF THE 90 BILLS ENACTED IN THE LAST SESSION, ONLY FOUR OF THEM FELL UNDER THIS CATEGORY."

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALWAYS LEGAL AND POLICY PROBLEMS TO BE FACED IN TACKLING ALL BUT THE SIMPLEST ITEMS OF LEGISLATION.

"THESE PROBLEMS TAKE TIME TO ANALYSE AND PROCESS," HE SAID.

"WE DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT ACCEPTABLE AND WORKABLE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ARE PLACED BEFORE THIS COUNCIL."

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MEDICAL SERVICES: ENTITLED PERSONS BENEFIT EQUALLY

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ALL ENTITLED PERSONS SHOULD BE EQUALLY ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE HEAVILY SUBSIDISED SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED REGARDLESS OF THE PATIENTS' FINANCIAL MEANS OR THE SOURCE OF THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, MR CHAU SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG.

DR LEONG HAD ASKED WHETHER OR NOT CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO CHARGING THE FULL COST OF HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITAL OR CLINICS, IN RESPECT OF PATIENTS WHOSE EXPENSES WERE COVERED BY INSURANCE OR ASSISTANCE SCHEMES.

"ENTITLED PERSONS ARE THOSE WHO HOLD A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD OR A UK PASSPORT - THE LATTER BECAUSE OF A RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT IN THE UK FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS," MR CHAU SAID.

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"THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE PRIVATE PATIENTS AND NON-ENTITLED PERSONS, FROM WHOM THE FULL COST OF TREATMENT IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS OR CLINICS IS RECOVERED.

"GIVEN THIS POLICY, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SINGLING OUT A PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF ENTITLED PERSONS FOR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT."

MR CHAU SAID THE FACT THAT EXPENSES FOR SOME PATIENTS WERE COVERED BY INSURANCE OR ASSISTANCE SCHEMES WAS NOT REALLY RELEVANT.

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ACID RAIN NOT CAUSING GREAT IMPACT

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THE IMPACT CAUSED BY ACID RAIN IN HONG KONG IS NOT GREAT, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM PROF THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG.

MR BARNES SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN MONITORING ACID RAIN FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND THE LEVEL OF RAINFALL ACIDITY HAD NOT INCREASED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ACID RAIN, BY ITSELF, WAS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY IMPORTANT DIRECT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH, NOR WAS THE LEVEL OF RAINFALL ACIDITY HIGH ENOUGH TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO THE LOCAL VEGETATION OR AGRICULTURE.

"HOWEVER, ACID RAIN, WHEN COMBINED WITH OTHER COMMON AIR POLLUTANTS, IS CERTAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CORROSIVE ATTACKS ON BUILDING MATERIALS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ADDED THAT THE PRINCIPAL MEASURES, WHICH WOULD HELP TO REDUCE THE ACIDITY OF LOCAL RAINFALL, WERE IN FACT THOSE MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY GENERALLY.

"THEY INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT OF THE NEW COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS TO USE COAL OF LESS THAN ONE PER CENT SULPHUR CONTENT, AND PLANS TO CONTROL THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUEL OIL USED BY LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND THE EMISSION OF ACIDIC GASES FROM MOTOR VEHICLES," HE SAID.

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BANKING ORDINANCE PROVIDES BETTER FRAMEWORK

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THE CURRENT SYSTEM FOR SUPERVISING BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IS WORKING WELL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON KINGSLEY SIT, MR JACOBS SAID THE PRESENT BANKING ORDINANCE PROVIDED A BETTER FRAMEWORK THAN THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATION IN RELATION TO THE SUPERVISION OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS.

"NEVERTHELESS, LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ARE REQUIRED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE OF THE OPERATION OF THE ORDINANCE AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

"OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, TWO AMENDMENT BILLS HAVE BEEN ENACTED TO IMPROVE THE WORKING OF THE ORDINANCE."

MR JACOBS SAID THAT SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE INTO THE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR A BILL TO REPLACE THE EXISTING CATEGORIES OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY AND REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WITH TWO NEW CATEGORIES, NAMELY, LIMITED SERVICE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE AND FURTHER AMENDMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED, IF AND WHEN NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

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NEW POLICE BORDER UNIT READY BY 1993

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A NEW UNIT OF THE POLICE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "POLICE TACTICAL UNIT - BORDER DETACHMENT", SHOULD BE READY TO REPLACE THE ARMY ON ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DUTIES ON THE LAND BORDER BY 1993, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ROBERT UPTON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MIRIAM LAU, MR UPTON SAID THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT RESULTING FROM THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GARRISON WAS THE NEED FOR THE POLICE TO RESUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON THE LAND FRONTIER.

"THE ARMY TOOK OVER THAT RESPONSIBILITY IN 1979 AT A TIME OF A VERY SERIOUS INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHEN THE POLICE FORCE WAS HARD-PRESSED TO COPE," HE SAID.

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"STARTING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR WE ARE RECRUITING AN ADDITIONAL 1,200 POLICE OFFICERS OVER AND ABOVE THE NATURAL GROWTH OF THE POLICE FORCE.

"THESE ADDITIONAL OFFICERS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF TRAINING AND ATTACHMENT TO THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT TO PROVIDE A FURTHER SIX COMPANIES OF POLICE OFFICERS WHO WILL REPLACE THE ARMY ON THE BORDER."

NOTING THAT FOR MANY YEARS THE POLICE FORCE HAD HAD THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND STABILITY IN HONG KONG, MR UPTON SAID THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH GARRISON IN THE YEARS BEFORE 1997 CALLED FOR RELATIVELY LITTLE ADJUSTMENT TO THE POLICE FORCE'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

"AS REGARDS INTERNAL SECURITY ITSELF - THAT IS, THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER IN THE EVENT OF RIOTING OR OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE - THE POLICE FORCE HAS MAINTAINED FOR 20 YEARS NOW A VERY SUCCESSFUL SYSTEM OF TRAINING TO PREPARE THEM TO COPE WITH ANY THREAT," HE SAID.

"THIS SYSTEM IS BASED UPON THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT, WHERE ALL POLICE OFFICERS UNDERGO 10 WEEKS TRAINING IN INTERNAL SECURITY METHODS."

THIS WAS MAINTAINED BY CONTINUATION TRAINING AFTER THEY RETURNED TO THEIR ORIGINAL UNITS.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE FORCE, INCLUDING THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE, WILL HAVE THE MANPOWER, THE EQUIPMENT AND THE TRAINING TO ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC ORDER AND INTERNAL SECURITY ARE WELL COVERED THROUGH THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND," MR UPTON ADDED.

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LAW STUDENT INTAKES COULD BE INCREASED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THE EXISTING INTAKES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG AND POSSIBLY INTRODUCING NEW COURSES AT OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD THERE BE AN INDICATION OF A SHORTFALL IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR LAWYERS.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN.

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ON THE EXISTING INTAKE OF LAW STUDENTS IN THE INSTITUTIONS, MR BRIDGE SAID ONLY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (HKU) NOW OFFERED FIRST-DEGREE AND POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN LAW -- BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) AND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL).

"THESE ARE BOTH FULL-TIME COURSES WITH AN INTAKE OF 150 STUDENTS EACH," HE SAID.

"FROM OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (CPHK) HAS ALSO INTRODUCED A FULL-TIME LLB COURSE, WITH AN INTAKE OF 60 STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION (ACLE) HAD COMMISSIONED THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO ESTABLISH HONG KONG'S FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR LAWYERS.

"IF IT INDICATES A SHORTFALL, WE WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THE EXISTING INTAKES AT HKU AND CPHK AND POSSIBLY INTRODUCING NEW COURSES AT OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

ON THE STANDARDS OF LEGAL TRAINING IN THESE INSTITUTIONS, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT HKU AND CPHK WERE INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STANDARDS OF THEIR COURSES.

"BOTH INSTITUTIONS HAVE EXTERNAL EXAMINERS WHO ARE PRACTISING LAWYERS AND ACADEMICS, TO MONITOR THE ASSESSMENT PROCESSES AND ENSURE UNIFORMITY OF STANDARDS," HE SAID.

"CPHK'S COURSE HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY THE UK COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS."

MR BRIDGE ADDED THAT THE INSTITUTIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN INVITED TO DRAW UP THEIR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE 1991-94 TRIENNIUM.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT HKU MIGHT PROPOSE AN EXTERNAL LLB COURSE; CPHK MIGHT PROPOSE A PART-TIME LLB COURSE.

IN ADDITION, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MIGHT ALSO PROPOSE THAT ITS EXISTING MINOR PROGRAMME IN LAW BE EXPANDED INTO A MAJOR PROGRAMME.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMON QUALIFYING EXAMINATION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT PLCC WAS THE MAIN AVENUE OF ENTRY INTO THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

"SINCE HKU IS THE ONLY LOCAL INSTITUTION PROVIDING SUCH A COURSE THERE IS NO NEED TO INTRODUCE A COMMON QUALIFYING EXAMINATION AT PRESENT," HE SAID.

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IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE FLOODING RISK

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IMMEDIATE MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LOCAL FLOODING AT FLOODING BLACKSPOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR BARNES SAID THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES HAD IDENTIFIED OVER 170 AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING IN THE EVENT OF HEAVY RAIN.

THE WORK TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING INVOLVED MINOR IMPROVEMENT MEASURES TO DRAINS AND CULVERTS, IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND CLEARANCE OF STREAMS AND MORE FREQUENT INSPECTIONS, HE SAID IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY.

MANY INSTANCES OF LOCALISED FLOODING WERE CAUSED BY THE BLOCKAGE OF DRAINS WITH REFUSE DISCARDED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS, MR BARNES POINTED OUT.

"GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL CO-OPERATION IN KEEPING WATER-COURSES FREE. THIS WILL BEGIN BEFORE THE COMING RAINY SEASON," HE SAID.

WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, ALL WORKS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE REMINDED BEFORE THE WET SEASON BEGAN TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CONTRACTORS' TEMPORARY WORKS DID NOT INCREASE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN NEIGHBOURING AREAS.

"FOR FIVE VILLAGES, A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN FLOOD CONTROL WILL BE ACHIEVED BEFORE THE NEXT RAINY SEASON, WHEN FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES WILL BE COMPLETED AND OPERATIONAL," MR BARNES SAID.

THE VILLAGES CONCERNED WERE SHEUNG SHUI, KIU TAU WAI, LO UK CHUEN, SIK KONG CHUEN AND SIK KONG WAI.

"SEVERAL MAJOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES ARE IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION, PARTICULARLY IN THE TIN SHUI WAI, YUEN LONG AND SHEUNG SHUI AREAS.

"CRITICAL PARTS OF THESE HAVE BEEN ACCELERATED WHERE THIS IS POSSIBLE, BUT UNTIL FULLY COMPLETED ONLY SMALL LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE SHORT TERM," HE SAID.

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SCHOOL CHILDREN SAFE FROM NOXIOUS EMISSIONS
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS TO 1,499 INCIDENTS INVOLVING ALLEGED NOXIOUS EMISSIONS OR FUMES.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MIRIAM LAU.

MR BARNES SAID NEARLY ALL OF THESE INCIDENTS INVOLVED LEAKAGE OF GAS.

IN 18 OF THE INCIDENTS, OFFICERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) WERE CALLED TO THE SCENE TO CO-ORDINATE THE INVESTIGATION. FOURTEEN OF THESE 18 INCIDENTS AFFECTED SCHOOL CHILDREN.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED RESPONSE PROCEDURES CONCERNING SUCH INCIDENTS TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT LIFE, HEALTH AND PROPERTY.

AT THE SAME TIME CARE WAS TAKEN TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AVOID UNNECESSARY MOBILISATION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LIMIT THE POSSIBILITY OF MASS HYSTERIA.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES WHICH ARE ADOPTED BY SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT AFFECTED CHILDREN ARE GIVEN ADEQUATE ATTENTION, THAT THE ALLEGED GAS OR SOURCE OF EMISSIONS IS ESTABLISHED AND THAT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE NOTIFIED WHERE NECESSARY," HE SAID.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THESE PROCEDURES ARE WORKING EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SO FAR NO PERSON ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL FOLLOWING SUCH AN INCIDENT HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE SUFFERING FROM ANY ILL EFFECTS."

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT IN ONLY THREE OF THE 18 INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY THE EPD WAS IT POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THE SOURCE OF THE NOXIOUS EMISSIONS OR FUMES. THUS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

"HOWEVER, WHERE STATUTORY MEASURES ARE AVAILABLE, WE DO TAKE ACTION - AS IN THE CASE OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KWAI CHUNG IN SEPTEMBER 1988, WHEN A NEARBY FACTORY WAS ORDERED TO SHUT DOWN A MALFUNCTIONING OIL-FIRED HEATER UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

"THE FACTORY COMPLIED."

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STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

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OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING LIAISON BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, MR BRIDGE SAID THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MEASURE WAS A BOOKLET ON GOOD PARENTING ISSUED IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

SUFFICIENT COPIES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ENABLE ALL PARENTS TO RECEIVE A COPY FREE OF CHARGE, HE SAID.

COPIES WERE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THIS ATTRACTIVELY ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET CONTAINED PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON THE ROLE PARENTS SHOULD PLAY IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN, HE SAID.

"FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS AND THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING," MR BRIDGE SAID, ADDING THAT THE INITIAL PRINT RUN OF ONE MILLION COPIES HAD BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY A SECOND PRINTING OF 100,000 COPIES AT A COST OF \$400,000.

MR BRIDGE SAID A CIRCULAR WAS ALSO ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 28 THIS YEAR TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ACCOMPANY THE BOOKLET URGING SCHOOL HEADS TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS WITH PARENTS DURING MEETINGS, SEMINARS, OPEN DAYS AND PARENTS' DAYS.

APPENDED TO THE CIRCULAR WAS A SPECIAL NOTE ON SCHOOL-PARENT LIAISON, SUGGESTING VARIOUS WAYS TO IMPROVE HOME-SCHOOL CONTACT AND MAINTAIN A POSITIVE DIALOGUE WITH PARENTS.

"MANY SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY HELD MEETINGS AND GROUP SESSIONS WITH PARENTS, BOTH TO INTRODUCE THE BOOKLET AND TO DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS AND DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS HAVE ACTED AS GUEST SPEAKERS AT SOME OF THESE MEETINGS."

TWO MORE BOOKLETS FOR PARENTS WERE BEING PREPARED, ONE FOR PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN PUPILS AND THE OTHER FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, HE SAID.

/APART FROM

APART FROM THE BOOKLET, MR BRIDGE SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST HAD BEEN AIRED ON THE CHINESE CHANNELS OF ALL TV AND RADIO STATIONS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS' DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, ALSO PRODUCED A SHORT FILM ON THE SAME THEME WHICH WAS BROADCAST IN THE "METRORAMA" PROGRAMME OF THE TVB JADE CHANNEL IN MID-NOVEMBER.

"IN RECENT YEARS A NUMBER OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO SCHOOLS, NOTABLY THE STUDENT GUIDANCE SCHEME IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THE GUIDANCE SERVICE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"ONE OF THE AIMS OF THESE SERVICES IS TO STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL."

BESIDES OFFERING GUIDANCE TO PARENTS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS, GUIDANCE TEACHERS AND STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS HAD ORGANISED PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS GENERALLY IN EDUCATION.

THESE INCLUDED SEMINARS ON THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM, ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR NEW PUPILS, AND TALKS ON STUDY SKILLS.

MR BRIDGE SAID A SEMINAR FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS, ENTITLED "TOWARDS BETTER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS", WOULD BE HELD IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR TO FURTHER STRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE PARENT/SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT.

"ALL THESE EFFORTS REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE INPUT OF RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY HUMAN RESOURCES, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY THESE IN MONEY TERMS," HE ADDED.

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RE-EXAMINATION OF RATIO OF OFFICE SPACE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED TO RE-EXAMINE THE RATIO OF OFFICE SPACE IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID THE RE-EXAMINATION WAS ADDRESSED NOT ONLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY OF THE USE OF INDUSTRIAL PREMISES, BUT ALSO TO THE WAYS OF RELEASING MORE LAND FOR OFFICE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERMS.

/ "AT PRESENT,

"AT PRESENT, UP TO 30 PER CENT OF THE USABLE FLOOR AREA OF INDUSTRIAL PREMISES MAY BE USED FOR OFFICE PURPOSES WHICH ARE ANCILLARY TO A COMPANY'S INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD'S APPROVAL," HE SAID IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN.

"FOR ANY ANCILLARY OFFICE USE IN EXCESS OF 30 PER CENT OF THE USABLE FLOOR AREA OF INDUSTRIAL PREMISES; ANY PARTLY ANCILLARY OR UNRELATED OFFICE USE AND ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL USE, THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD'S APPROVAL IS REQUIRED."

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THE BOARD HAD ACCEPTED ONLY 20 PER CENT AS BEING A REASONABLE PROPORTION OF A FACTORY'S OVERALL USABLE FLOOR AREA TO BE USED FOR OFFICE SPACE.

IT WAS INCREASED AFTER A STUDY HAD BEEN MADE OF INDUSTRIAL NEEDS.

THIS RATIO COULD NOT BE CHANGED AGAIN PRECIPITATELY OR THE PRINCIPLE OF TIEING OFFICE USE TO FACTORY USE LIGHTLY ABANDONED.

INDUSTRIAL AREAS WERE DESIGNED AND LAID OUT FOR INDUSTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION, AND MANY BUILDINGS WERE IN ANY CASE SIMPLY NOT SUITABLE TO BE USED AS OFFICES.

MR BARNES ADDED THAT THE ESTIMATED TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, EXCLUDING HOTELS AND SHOPPING CENTRES, EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS WAS IN EXCESS OF 500,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE FIGURE FOR INDUSTRIAL PREMISES WAS IN EXCESS OF TWO MILLION SQUARE METRES.

MORE EXACT FIGURES WOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE 1988 PROPERTY REVIEW WAS COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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BILL INTENDED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS POSED BY PRIVATE STREETS

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THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 SETS OUT TO SOLVE THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS POSED BY PRIVATE STREETS WITH MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP THROUGH THE SPEEDING UP OF THE RESUMPTION PROCESS, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL, DR IP NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PRIVATE ROADS.

/THE MATTER

THE MATTER HAD BEEN A FREQUENT ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SPENDING ABOUT \$250 MILLION ON THE REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS OF 300 PRIVATE STREETS.

WITH THIS OBJECTIVE IN MIND, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE ENTITLEMENTS OF OWNERS TO COMPENSATION WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE SIMPLIFICATION IN THE RESUMPTION PROCEDURE.

DR IP POINTED OUT THAT A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED TO STUDY THE BILL.

IN MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS CONCERNED, THE GROUP HAD COME TO APPRECIATE THAT, OWING TO A SEVERE STAFF SHORTAGE IN THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AND OTHER PRIORITY WORK, THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXPEDITE THE RESUMPTION PROCESS.

"TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET OF RESUMING 300 PRIVATE STREETS WITHIN THE NEXT 10 TO 12 YEARS, A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE NEEDS TO BE ADOPTED. IF NOT, THE PROGRAMME WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENDED TO 30 YEARS," SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ORDINANCE WOULD REMAIN.

THESE WERE TO GIVE NOTICE BY PUBLISHING THE INTENTION IN ONE ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE, ONE ISSUE EACH OF A CHINESE AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPER; AND TO AFFIX A COPY OF THE NOTICE ON OR NEAR THE LAND AFFECTED AND TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

SHE SAID THE GROUP HAD ALSO CLARIFIED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION WHETHER THE COMPENSATABLE RIGHT OF OWNERS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL TO DISPENSE WITH INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATIONS.

"ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING (PLANNING) REGULATION, ANY PART OF ANY STREET OR SERVICE LANE IS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING THE PERMITTED SITE COVERAGE AND PLOT RATIO OF A SITE ON WHICH A BUILDING IS ERECTED.

"IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT COMPENSATION DUE TO LOSS OF VALUE OR INTEREST WOULD ARISE," SHE SAID.

"BESIDES, THE ROAD WAS A COLLECTIVE LIABILITY RATHER THAN A BENEFIT TO OWNERS.

"RESUMPTION WOULD MEAN THAT THE OBLIGATION TO REPAIR, MAINTAIN AND MANAGE SUCH STREETS IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE OWNERS TO THE GOVERNMENT."

/SHE ALSO

SHE ALSO SAID THAT, IN AN EFFORT TO OFFER THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION TO OWNERS, AND IN VIEW OF THE COST AND PROCEDURAL COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED, THE GROUP HAD REQUESTED THAT LATE CLAIMS BE PROCESSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WITHOUT REQUIRING THE CLAIMANT TO SEEK A FORMAL EXTENSION FROM THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THIS SPECIAL REQUEST HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DR IP SAID SHE WOULD MOVE AN AMENDMENT UNDER CLAUSE 5(A) AND (B).

THIS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WAS EMPOWERED TO PROCESS LATE CLAIMS SERVED ON HIM OUTSIDE THE ONE-YEAR PRESCRIBED PERIOD IF HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CLAIMANT HAD NOT HAD ACTUAL NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION ORDER.

IN MOVING THE AMENDMENT IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE, DR IP SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENABLE ANY LATE CLAIMANT TO SUBMIT A CLAIM WITHOUT HAVING TO INCUR THE TIME AND EXPENSES OF APPLYING TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR AN EXTENSION.

THE AMENDED BILL WAS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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AMENDED INDUSTRIAL REGULATIONS APPROVED

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THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARTRIDGE-OPERATED FIXING TOOLS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1988 WERE APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REGULATIONS WERE MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON OCTOBER 22.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WERE PURELY TECHNICAL AND DID NOT INVOLVE ANY CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE.

THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, AND THE REVISED PROCEDURE WAS IN LINE WITH OTHER REGULATIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE.

MR BRIDGE SAID SECTION 7(1) OF THE ORDINANCE EMPOWERED THE COMMISSIONER TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

/THE FACTORIES

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARTRIDGE-OPERATED FIXING TOOLS) REGULATIONS WERE MADE IN 1977.

REGULATION 4 PROVIDED THAT NO TOOL OTHER THAN AN APPROVED TOOL LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE SHOULD BE USED IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING.

REGULATION 19 PURPORTED TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

"WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADVISED THAT REGULATION 19 MAY HAVE BEEN ULTRA VIRES SECTION 7(1) OF THE ORDINANCE BECAUSE IT IS EXPRESSED AS A SUB-DELEGATION OF THE POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS, RATHER THAN AS A POWER TO APPROVE CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS WAS TO PUT THE MATTER BEYOND DOUBT BY PROVIDING FOR:

- (A) THE REVOCATION OF THE EXISTING REGULATION 19 AND THE SCHEDULE;
- (B) THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW REGULATION 19 TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER TO APPROVE TOOLS BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE; AND
- (C) THE AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION OF "APPROVED TOOL" TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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TWO BILLS WERE PASSED IN TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

THEY WERE THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988 AND THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

IN ADDITION, A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARTRIDGE-OPERATED FIXING TOOLS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1988, WAS PASSED.

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IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR SAN YICK REFUGEES

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THE REFUGEE COORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MET HALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAN YICK REFUGEE CENTRE TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONDITIONS IN THE BUILDING, HEALTH CARE AND THE OPERATION OF THE LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME.

MR HANSON ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR AN INTERIM MOVE FOR SOME PEOPLE PRIOR TO THE AVAILABILITY OF THE NEW ACCOMMODATION AT PILLAR POINT.

THE REFUGEE REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND AGREED TO CONSULT THEIR FELLOW REFUGEES.

MR HANSON OFFERED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE ANYONE WHO WISHED TO MOVE TO THE TEMPORARY CAMP AT PILLAR POINT.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER ACCOMMODATION ON A TEMPORARY BASIS BY JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MR HANSON EXPLAINED THE CURRENT LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME.

AS PART OF THIS PROGRAMME, HE SAID THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE SAN YICK REFUGEES TO HAVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN THREE ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL VENUES IN TUEN MUN.

"THESE EXTRA VENUES ARE THE TUEN MUN TOWN PARK, THE SAN HUI PLAYGROUND AND THE SOCCER PITCH AT HO TIN STREET," HE SAID.

"AT PRESENT, MORE THAN 860 REFUGEES GO OUT OF SAN YICK EVERY DAY EITHER FOR SCHOOLING, EMPLOYMENT, CULTURAL ORIENTATION OR RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES."

AT THE MEETING, SUPERVISORY STAFF OF THE CENTRE ALSO BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES ON BASIC GUIDELINES OF PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ASKED THEM TO HELP PASS THE MESSAGES TO OTHER REFUGEES.

MR HANSON SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES THAT THE SAN YICK BUILDING IS UNSUITABLE FOR LONG-TERM REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION. IT HAS THEREFORE AGREED TO CLOSE THE BUILDING AS SOON AS ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

"IN THE MEANTIME, THE LIBERALISATION PROGRAMME WILL BRING IMPROVEMENTS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERIM MOVE WILL ALSO HELP.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AND WILL NOT TAKE ANY RISK WITH THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING.

"THE UNHCR REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY AND THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNHCR."

PAPER ON REFUGEE CENTRE TO BE TABLED AT DB MEETING
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A SUMMARY PAPER ON ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE SHAM SHUI PO REFUGEE CENTRE WILL BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PAPER ALSO COVERS THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AGENCIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL SHAM SHUI PO COMPLEX AT PEI HO STREET, FOLLOWING A MEETING ON NOVEMBER 22 BETWEEN A NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL COMMENT ON THE REPLY OF THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE TO A LETTER FROM THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

THE REPLY EXPLAINED THE EXISTING LEGISLATION CONCERNING, AND THE PROCEDURES FOR RAISING AN OBJECTION TO, ANY PROPOSED PERMANENT AND SHORT TERM CHANGE OF LAND USE, AS WELL AS RELATED MATTERS.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ARE THE LICENSING GUIDELINES FOR AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES, LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR AT CHEUNG SHA WAN PLAYGROUND AND THE FORMATION OF A DISTRICT BOARD ATHLETICS TEAM.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING BEGINNING AT 2 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL IN SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE.

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\$960 MILLION BUILDING CONTRACTS AWARDED BY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY AWARDED FIVE BUILDING CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$960 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT OF OLDER ESTATES.

THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FUNG TUNG, AT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS.

THE LARGEST CONTRACT IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FUNG TAK ESTATE PHASE 2 AT DIAMOND HILL NORTH, WHICH IS WORTH OVER \$333 MILLION.

UNDER THE PROJECT, TWO 35-STOREY TRIDENT-4 BLOCKS AND TWO 22-STOREY LINKED NEW SLAB BLOCKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 2 250 FLATS WITH KINDERGARTEN, EARLY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE, HOME CUM CARE AND ATTENTION UNIT, AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OFFICES.

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMERCIAL AND CARPARK COMPLEX WITH LORRY AND CAR PARKING SPACES, SHOPS, MARKET STALLS, ESTATE MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND SQUASH COURTS.

ANOTHER CONTRACT VALUED AT \$177 MILLION IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO 35-STOREY TRIDENT-3 BLOCKS AND ONE SEVEN-STOREY PRIMARY SCHOOL AT KING LAM ESTATE PHASE 2, JUNK BAY.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVIDE 1 870 FLATS OF WHICH 816 UNITS CAN BE TRANSFERRED INTO HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) FLATS FOR SALE.

THE THIRD CONTRACT IS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KWAI FONG ESTATE PHASE 2 AND WORTH OVER \$168 MILLION.

TWO 25-STOREY LINEAR-3 BLOCKS AND ONE 27-STOREY LINEAR-1 BLOCK WILL BE CONSTRUCTED, TOGETHER WITH A HOUSING DEPARTMENT DISTRICT MAINTENANCE OFFICE AND A THREE-STOREY CARPARK BLOCK.

ALSO SIGNED TODAY WERE TWO BUILDING CONTRACTS FOR HOS PROJECTS AT MA ON SHAN AND LAI KING, WORTH \$160 MILLION AND \$121 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

THE MA ON SHAN PROJECT IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE 36-STOREY NEW HOS CRUCIFORM BLOCKS WITH 1 050 FLATS AT MA ON SHAN AREA 103 PHASE 1.

UNDER THE \$121 MILLION CONTRACT, CONSTRUCTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT FOR TWO 36-STOREY FLEXI-3 HOS BLOCKS AT LAI KING WITH 560 FLATS AND A FOUR-STOREY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX ACCOMMODATING 1 500 SQUARE METRE OF SHOPPING AREA AND 150 PARKING SPACES.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988

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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME LAUNCHED

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CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE TRIP BY TAKING PART IN THE SAFETY AWARD SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY OF THE SCHEME, MR MA CHING-KO, SAID THE AIM WAS TO PROMOTE WORK SAFETY AMONG WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE 5TH TIME THAT THE SCHEME WAS HELD AND MANY WORKERS, CONTRACTORS AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES TOOK PART IN THE EVENT IN THE PAST YEARS.

"THIS YEAR, THE SCHEME OFFERS THREE AWARDS - THE OUTSTANDING SAFETY SUPERVISOR CONTEST, THE SAFETY SITE CONTEST, AND THE 'WHAT'S WRONG IN THE PICTURE' IQ SAFETY CONTEST," HE SAID.

THERE WILL BE THREE MAJOR PRIZES AND A NUMBER OF CONSOLATION PRIZES FOR THE CONTESTS.

THE WINNER OF THE "WHAT'S WRONG IN THE PICTURE" IQ SAFETY CONTEST WILL BE GIVEN A TRAVEL COUPON WORTH \$4,000 FOR A PACKAGE TOUR OF HIS CHOICE.

WINNERS OF THE SAFETY SITE CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED WITH ROAST PIGS SYMBOLISING SAFETY TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, WHILE WINNERS OF THE OUTSTANDING SAFETY SUPERVISOR CONTEST WILL BE AWARDED GOLD MEDALS AND SAFETY BOOTS.

ENTRIES FOR THE THREE CONTESTS WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 31.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT; THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION, 182 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION, 395 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE AT 5-8523562, THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION AT 5-724414, OR THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION AT 3-886887.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S CONFERENCE WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR PETER NIE, AND THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988

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SAFETY FORUM FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

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ABOUT 500 WORKERS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK AT A FORUM TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE EVENT, AIMED AT ENHANCING WORKERS' AWARENESS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (FTU) AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL (OSHC).

IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE WORKERS SHOULD PLAY IN SAFEGUARDING THEIR OWN WELL-BEING, AND SERVES AS A REMINDER TO FACTORY OWNERS AND WORKERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES) REGULATIONS, 1988 COME INTO FORCE ON DECEMBER 15.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE FORUM INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER OF THE STAR INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD., MR KENNETH TONGSON; THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF FTU, MISS LAM SUK-YEE; AND THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN.

THE FORUM WILL BE OPENED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK; THE CHAIRMAN OF FTU, MR CHENG YIU-TONG; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF OSHC, MR HO SAI-CHU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FORUM WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE NINTH FLOOR, FTU WORKERS' CLUB BUILDING, 50 MA TAU CHUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN, TOMORROW (THURSDAY). THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 6.30 PM.

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KAI TAK GETTING READY FOR MORE PASSENGERS

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TWO NEW BAGGAGE RECLAIM UNITS WILL COMMENCE OPERATION IN THE ARRIVALS HALL OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING OF THE AIRPORT, ALMOST DOUBLING THE BAGGAGE HANDLING CAPACITY.

EACH NEW UNIT CAN PROCESS 1,440 PIECES OF LUGGAGE PER HOUR. COMBINED WITH THE EXISTING FOUR AUTOMATED RECLAIM UNITS, THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE UP TO 8,640 PIECES BAGGAGE IN AN HOUR.

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AT THE SAME TIME, A NEW 2,000 SQUARE-METRE ARRIVALS HALL, A 2,100 SQUARE-METRE CUSTOMS HALL AND A 3,000 SQUARE-METRE LOUNGE IN THE DEPARTURES RESTRICTED AREA WILL ALSO COME INTO USE AS THE STAGE V PASSENGER TERMINAL EXTENSION PROJECT REACHES COMPLETION.

FINISHING TOUCHES ARE BEING APPLIED TO OTHER NEW FACILITIES INCLUDING TWO NEW CHECK-IN ISLANDS IN THE DEPARTURES HALL, 72 IMMIGRATION COUNTERS, 20 CUSTOMS INSPECTION BENCHES, AND ADDITIONAL AIRLINE OFFICES TOGETHER WITH NEW SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS.

ALL OF THESE WILL BE OPENED TO MEET THE PEAK TRAFFIC PERIOD OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THE \$273-MILLION STAGE V EXTENSION PROJECT IS A FURTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF KAI TAK WHICH HAS UNDERGONE MANY PHASES OF EXPANSION TO COPE WITH THE EVER-INCREASING GROWTH IN PASSENGER DEMAND.

BY THE END OF 1988, MORE THAN 15 MILLION PASSENGERS WILL HAVE USED THE AIRPORT, WELL ABOVE THE ORIGINAL DESIGN CAPACITY OF 12 MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR OF THE EXISTING TERMINAL.

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE NEW EXTENSION WILL PROVIDE A 50 PER CENT INCREASE IN BOTH SPACE AND PASSENGER PROCESSING CAPABILITY, RAISING THE TOTAL TERMINAL HANDLING CAPACITY TO THE ORDER OF 20 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KING'S ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 17 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FUK YUEN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 92 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM CHAI WAN ROAD TO THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR WESTBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT TWO DAYS FOR ROADWORKS.

VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ALDRICH STREET, PO MAN STREET, MONG LUNG STREET, TUNG HEI ROAD AND NAM ON LANE.

MOREOVER, ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10), THE WESTBOUND CMB BUS ROUTE 780 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, TAIKOO SHING ROAD, TAI MOU AVENUE AND TAIKOO WAN ROAD BEFORE REJOINING THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI NORTH AND SHEUNG WAN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10), HARBOUR ROAD IN WAN CHAI NORTH BETWEEN FENWICK STREET AND FLEMING ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

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

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM THE NEXT DAY (SUNDAY), THE EASTBOUND TRAM TRACK IN MORRISON STREET IN SHEUNG WAN FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A TRAM-ONLY LANE.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10).

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON THAT DAY FOR THE CLEANING OF THE UNDERPASS.

MOTORISTS ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LUNG PING ROAD AND LUNG PING ROAD/NAM CHEONG STREET FLYOVER.

TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS, THE SLIP ROAD IN CENTRAL LEADING FROM COTTON TREE DRIVE SOUTHBOUND TO QUEENSWAY WESTBOUND WILL ALSO BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM DAILY ON DECEMBER 10 AND 11.

VEHICLES HEADING FOR CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA COTTON TREE DRIVE, GARDEN ROAD AND QUEENSWAY.

MEANWHILE, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND H.M.S. TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 AM TO 6.30 PM DAILY ON DECEMBER 10, 11, 17 AND 18 FOR THE HOLDING OF A CAREER EXHIBITION.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SLIP ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SLIP ROAD BETWEEN YUEN WO ROAD EASTBOUND AND WO CHE STREET NORTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST UNTIL DECEMBER 29 FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

AS CONGESTION IS EXPECTED DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO USE THIS SECTION OF YUEN WO ROAD.

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