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NEW BILL AIMS TO COMPENSATE PEOPLE FOR INCAPACITY
RESULTING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS

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GOVERNMENT HAS DEvised A NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME WHICH IT HOPES TO IMPLEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR.

THE SCHEME IS CONTAINED IN THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) BILL 1980 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL ESTABLISHES A SCHEME FOR COMPENSATING PEOPLE FOR INCAPACITY RESULTING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS (SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS) AND FOR COMPENSATING THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE WHO DIE FROM THE DISEASE.

A FUND WOULD BE SET UP FOR THIS PURPOSE, FINANCED BY A LEVY ON THE MAJOR TRADES AND INDUSTRIES TO WHICH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE SCHEME WOULD NOT REQUIRE COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF WORKERS IN THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS-PRONE TRADES AND INDUSTRIES, THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BE MEDICALLY EXAMINED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN ORDER TO ENSURE EARLY DETECTION OF THE DISEASE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS PLANNED TO SET UP A STATUTORY PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING THE LEVY AND PAYING COMPENSATION AND DAMAGES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAD LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR FIVE YEARS OR MORE AND WAS DIAGNOSED BY A PNEUMOCONIOSIS MEDICAL BOARD TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE WHICH CAUSED INCAPACITY AFTER THE NEW LEGISLATION CAME INTO OPERATION WOULD BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND.

THE FUND WOULD PAY STATUTORY COMPENSATION AND COMMON LAW DAMAGES AND RELATED COSTS.

OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE MEDICAL EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION FOR THOSE INCAPABLE OF LOOKING AFTER THEMSELVES, MEDICAL EXAMINATION FEES INCURRED IN DIAGNOSING THE DISEASE, THE SCHEME'S ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND OTHER RELATED EXPENSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED AS SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE BEFORE THE OPERATIVE DATE OF THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE ENTITLED TO AN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS PAYMENT WOULD BE PAID OUT OF GENERAL REVENUE AND NOT FROM THE FUND.

PAYMENT WOULD BE ON A ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL BASIS, AND CALCULATION WOULD BE BASED ON A FLAT RATE OF EARNINGS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ACTUAL EARNINGS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, AND ON RELEVANT COMPENSATION LEVELS IN THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

ACCOUNT WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE DISEASE, SAID THE SPOKESMAN. THE FIVE-YEAR RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION WOULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS.

NEW BILL PROPOSES REGISTRATION OF
IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS
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ALL IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WILL REQUIRE REGISTRATION WITH THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD AS PROPOSED BY A BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THIS MAY AFFECT SOME 400 IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WHO ARE NOT ALREADY REGISTERED AS WHOLESALE DEALERS IN POISONS BY THE BOARD, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 PROPOSES FOUR MAJOR CHANGES TO EXISTING LEGISLATION:

- * TO ENABLE THE BOARD TO ESTABLISH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH LICENSING AND RELATED MATTERS-
- * INTRODUCE A NEW PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OR ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES-
- * PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF ALL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, AND
- * PROVIDE THAT POISONS MAY ONLY BE EXPORTED BY PERMITTED DEALERS IN POISONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF WIDELY USED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN POISON AVAILABLE AND WHOSE DEALERS DO NOT REQUIRE REGISTRATION WITH THE BOARD.

+THIS IS REGARDED AS UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE MANY OF THE PRODUCTS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DETERIORATION DUE TO POOR STORAGE CONDITIONS AND THE PREMISES IN WHICH THEY ARE HELD ARE NOT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THERE WERE ABOUT 1 000 IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH ABOUT 60 PER CENT WERE LICENSED WHOLESALE DEALERS IN POISONS AND WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENT.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, AS PROPOSED IN THE BILL, WILL ENABLE THE BOARD TO DELEGATE ITS ROUTINE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION FUNCTIONS — OTHER THAN THE REGISTRATION OF PHARMACISTS — TO SUB-COMMITTEES.

THE BILL PROVIDES APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEES OR THE BOARD THROUGH A PHARMACY AND POISONS APPEAL TRIBUNAL TO RESOLVE DISPUTES MORE APPROPRIATELY, EXPEDITIOUSLY AND AT LESS EXPENSE. A FINAL APPEAL COULD BE MADE THROUGH THE HIGH COURT.

THE BILL ALSO AIMS TO CLARIFY AN ANOMALY IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION THAT ALL EXPORTERS OF POISONS SHOULD BE REGISTERED AS EXPORTERS OR LICENSED WHOLESALE DEALERS IN POISONS.

THE BILL ALSO AIMS TO REMOVE THE EXEMPTION PRESENTLY GRANTED TO PEOPLE EXPORTING POISONS.

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WUHU INTERCHANGE - RELIEF FOR CONGESTED JUNCTION IN KOWLOON
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MR DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TODAY (FRIDAY) OPENED THE WUHU INTERCHANGE WHICH FORMS PART OF THE \$400 MILLION HIGH CAPACITY ROUTE BETWEEN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND KWUN TONG.

THE INTERCHANGE, COMPRISING MAINLY A 160-METRE-LONG VEHICULAR SUBWAY, WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR STEAD SAID THE \$16 MILLION INTERCHANGE WOULD PROVIDE GRADE SEPARATION FOR RIGHT-TURNING TRAFFIC INTO HUNG HOM AREA VIA WUHU STREET FROM CHATHAM ROAD.

+THIS FACILITY, TOGETHER WITH SOME LOCAL WIDENING AT CHATHAM ROAD AND WUHU STREET, ENABLES FREE FLOWING CONDITION TO BE PROVIDED FOR TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH THE JUNCTION OF CHATHAM ROAD AND WUHU STREET,+ HE SAID.

+AS A RESULT, THE CAPACITY OF THIS JUNCTION WILL BE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, PROVIDING RELIEF TO WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST CONGESTED JUNCTIONS IN THE KOWLOON AREA.+

REFERRING TO A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM, ALSO PART OF THE INTERCHANGE, MR STEAD SAID IT WOULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE JUNCTION CAPACITY BY REMOVING THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS, BUT ALSO WOULD PROVIDE A SAFE WAY FOR PEOPLE TO CROSS THE JUNCTION.

THE OPENING TODAY MARKS THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PART OF THE WESTERN APPROACHES TO THE AIRPORT TUNNEL WHICH COMPRISES THE WUHU INTERCHANGE, EAST KOWLOON WAY AND SAN SHAN INTERCHANGE, HE SAID.

EAST KOWLOON WAY IS ESSENTIALLY AN ELEVATED DUAL TWO-LANE ROADWAY OF ABOUT ONE KILOMETRES IN LENGTH IMMEDIATELY TO THE NORTH OF THE WUHU INTERCHANGE RUNNING ALONG CHATHAM ROAD AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD.

SAN SHAN INTERCHANGE IS BASICALLY A DEPRESSED ROADWAY JOINING THE EAST KOWLOON WAY AND THE AIRPORT TUNNEL.

WORK ON BOTH THE EAST KOWLOON WAY AND SAN SHAN INTERCHANGE IS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MR STEAD POINTED OUT THAT THE WESTERN APPROACHES FORMED A SECTION OF THE SIX-KILOMETRE HIGH CAPACITY ROUTE, KNOWN AS ROUTE 3.

THE OTHER SECTION CONSISTS OF A 1 200-METRE TUNNEL UNDERNEATH THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE EASTERN CONNECTION WHICH LINKS THE EASTERN PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL WITH KWUN TONG.

ALL THE CIVIL WORK ON THE AIRPORT TUNNEL HAS BEEN COMPLETED WHILE THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORKS ARE IN HAND.

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IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TUNNEL WILL BE PARTIALLY OPENED FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE FULL OPENING A YEAR LATER.

ON COMPLETING THESE PROJECTS, THERE WILL BE A FAST AND DIRECT ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND KWUN TONG.

MR STEAD CONGRATULATED THE ENGINEERS FROM BOTH THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PWD AND THE CONSULTANTS, MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, AND OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

HE THEN UNVEILED THE PLAQUE TO DECLARE THE SUBWAY OPENED.

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PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE GAME HUNTING LICENCES

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HONG KONG'S DIMINISHING WILDLIFE POPULATION WILL HAVE A NEW LEASE ON LIFE UNDER AN AMENDING LEGISLATION AIMED AT DISCONTINUING GAME HUNTING LICENCES.

THE AMENDING LEGISLATION, KNOWN AS THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL PROPOSES BANNING GAME HUNTING WITH THE RESULT THAT ANNUAL GAME LICENCES WOULD NO LONGER BE ISSUED OR RENEWED AND THE USE OF SHOOTING ARMS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SPECIFIC LOCALITIES SUCH AS GUN CLUB PREMISES AND TO SUPERVISED HUNTING PARTIES TO CONTROL THE POPULATION OF WILD PIGS OR ANY OTHER SPECIES OF ANIMALS WHICH IS CAUSING A SERIOUS NUISANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THESE MEASURES WERE NECESSARY FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE NOW MAKING USE OF THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE FOR RECREATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT ANY ONE TIME DURING A WINTER WEEKEND SOME 100 000 PEOPLE COULD BE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE. OVER SEVEN MILLION VISITS WERE MADE IN 1979/80 COMPARED TO HALF A MILLION VISITS IN 1970/71.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LEGAL PROVISIONS PERMITTING HUNTING DATED BACK TO 1936 WHEN THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS VISITED BY VERY FEW URBAN DWELLERS.

HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION HAS CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WITH SEVERAL FORMER VILLAGES HAVING BECOME MAJOR TOWNS, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE ALREADY CONSTRAINTS ON HUNTING UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITED HUNTING IN ALL COUNTRY PARKS= THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE WHICH MADE IT AN OFFENCE TO SHOOT AT ANY WILD ANIMAL WITHIN 100 YARDS OF AN INHABITED HOME OR ROAD= THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITED DISCHARGING A FIREARM WITHIN 200 YARDS OF A DWELLING OR ROAD= AS WELL AS CONSTRAINTS IN AREAS INCLUDED IN TOWN PLANNING LAYOUTS, AREAS WHICH ARE DEVELOPING HIGH RURAL POPULATION DENSITIES AND FRONTIER CLOSED AREAS.

+IN FACT,+ HE SAID, +THERE ARE VERY FEW PLACES LEFT IN HONG KONG WHERE HUNTING CAN LEGALLY BE CARRIED OUT.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT OF THE PRESENT 446 GAME LICENCE HOLDERS, ONLY ABOUT 150 ACTUALLY WENT HUNTING.

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MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR MAY
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THE MONEY SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR MAY 1980 ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

TOTAL CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY ROSE IN MAY BY VERY MUCH LESS THAN IN APRIL, BUT AN INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO HONG KONG, POSSIBLY ON INTEREST RATE CONSIDERATIONS, CAUSED THE MONEY SUPPLY TO INCREASE IN MAY FASTER THAN IN APRIL.

A SHIFT IN LENDING FROM BANKS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REFLECTED INTEREST RATE MOVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH.

THE LONGER TERM GROWTH RATES OF TOTAL CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY AND OF THE MONEY SUPPLY WERE VERY MUCH LOWER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS (WHICH WERE DISTORTED BY LUNAR NEW YEAR IN MID-FEBRUARY, AND BY OTHER SEASONAL FACTORS).

MONEY SUPPLY

THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, M1 (NOTES AND COINS WITH THE PUBLIC, PLUS DEMAND DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, WITH LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY 4.5 PER CENT IN MAY, AGAINST A FALL OF 1.3 PER CENT IN APRIL.

THERE WAS A SHARP RISE IN THE VOLUME OF DEMAND DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS, DESPITE THE CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND TIME DEPOSITS.

M2 (M1 PLUS SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS, OTHER THAN FROM BANKS AND DTCS, WITH LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY 5.1 PER CENT IN MAY, WELL UP FROM A 1.1 PER CENT INCREASE IN APRIL.

M3 (M2 PLUS

M3 (M2 PLUS PUBLIC DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) INCREASED BY 3.6 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A 1.2 PER CENT RISE IN APRIL. IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS M3 ROSE BY 3.8 PER CENT, VERY SHARPLY REDUCED FROM THE RISE OF 12.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS.

CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY

TOTAL LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 2.2 PER CENT IN MAY, DOWN FROM A 3.8 PER CENT RISE IN APRIL. IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, TOTAL LOANS IN HONG KONG ROSE BY 8.3 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH A RISE OF 17.9 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 1980.

BANK LOANS IN HONG KONG FELL IN MAY BY 2.9 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH A RISE OF 3.5 PER CENT IN APRIL. LOANS IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, HOWEVER, ROSE IN MAY BY AN EXCEPTIONAL 23.4 PER CENT, AS AGAINST THE APRIL INCREASE OF 5.0 PER CENT.

THESE MOVEMENTS REFLECTED A SHARP FALL IN MONEY MARKET RATES DURING THE MONTH, AND A CONSEQUENTIAL SHIFT OF BORROWERS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

FOREIGN ASSETS

THE NET IDENTIFIABLE FOREIGN ASSETS OF ALL BANKS ROSE IN MAY BY \$656 MILLION, AND OF ALL DTCS BY \$742 MILLION, SO THAT THERE WAS AN INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO THE HONG KONG MONETARY SECTOR OF \$1 398 MILLION (BANKS AND DTCS MADE NET PURCHASES OF FOREIGN ASSETS FROM NON-BANK CUSTOMERS OF \$1 398 MILLION, AS COMPARED WITH AN OUTFLOW OF \$2 378 MILLION (NET SALES OF FOREIGN ASSETS TO CUSTOMERS) IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

BALANCE SHEET RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL BANKS IN HONG KONG FELL IN MAY TO 48.7 PER CENT FROM 49.6 PER CENT IN APRIL. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO FELL TO 95.3 PER CENT AT THE END OF MAY, FROM 103.6 PER CENT AT THE END OF APRIL.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO FOR ALL DTCS ROSE IN MAY TO 43.4 PER CENT FROM 41.9 PER CENT IN APRIL. THE LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO AT THE END OF MAY ROSE SHARPLY TO 70.1 PER CENT FROM 56.7 PER CENT IN APRIL, REFLECTING THE EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH IN LENDING BY DTCS IN THE MONTH.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

ONE MORE LICENSED BANK BEGAN TO OPERATE IN MAY, BRINGING THEIR TOTAL TO 113. THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY SIX DURING THE MONTH TO 279.

THE DETAILED FIGURES FOR MAY 1980 AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS MONTHS ARE:

MONEY AND BANKING FIGURES - END OF MAY 1980 (IN HK\$ MN)

FIGURES FOR EARLIER MONTHS (% CHANGE):

	<u>MAY 1980</u>	<u>APRIL 1980</u>	<u>FEB 1980</u>	<u>MAY 1979</u>
M 1	20 950	20 039 (+4.5%)	21 647 (-3.2%)	18 331 (+14.3%)*
M 2	80 921	76 973 (+5.1%)	78 219 (+3.5%)	66 551 (+21.6%)*
M 3	111 882	107 967 (+3.6%)	107 770 (+3.8%)	83 515 (+34.0%)
<u>BANKS:</u>				
DEPOSITS	73 367	69 509 (+5.6%)	70 065 (+4.7%)	59 957 (+22.4%)*
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN H.K.	69 916	72 024 (-2.9%)	69 306 (+0.9%)	52 534 (+33.1%)*
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	95.3%	103.6%	98.9%	87.6%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO	48.7%	49.6%	53.6%	48.2%
<u>DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES-</u>				
DEPOSITS	30 961	30 994 (-0.1%)	29 551 (+4.8%)	16 964 (+82.5%)
LOANS AND ADVANCES IN H.K.	21 691	17 581 (+23.4%)	15 304 (+41.7%)	10 491 (+106.8%)
LOAN/DEPOSIT RATIO	70.1%	56.7%	51.8%	61.8%
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO+	43.4%	41.9%	48.1%	+
<u>BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES -</u>				
TOTAL CREDIT TO THE ECONOMY	91 607	89 605 (+2.2%)	84 610 (+8.3%)	63 025 (+45.4%)

/* THESE FIGURES

- * THESE FIGURES ARE RECALCULATED TO EXCLUDE BANKS' LIABILITIES TO, AND CLAIMS ON, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.
- + THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO OBSERVE A MINIMUM LIQUID ASSETS RATIO CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1980.

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ACCIDENTS INCREASE IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS

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THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS REFLECTS THE LACK OF SAFETY MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE PUBLIC, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, MR CHAM SIU-LEUN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST.

QUOTING ACCIDENT FIGURES PROVIDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHAM SAID ACCIDENTS IN ALL OUTDOOR PURSUITS, BOTH LAND AND AQUATIC, ROSE FROM 2 193 IN 1978 TO 2 421 IN 1979, AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT.

+A TOTAL OF 38 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN 1978 AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS INCREASED IN 1979 TO 43,+ MR CHAM SAID.

HE APPEALED TO SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS FOR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN SPREADING THE +PLAY SAFE+ MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC.

MR CHAM EARLIER SAID THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS HAD LOOKED INTO CERTAIN MARINE LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDED FOR GREATER SAFETY FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN AQUATIC SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

AS A RESULT, THE COMMITTEE ADVISED ALL WATER SPORTS BODIES TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S REPLY TO THEIR LETTER ON THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL REGULATION.

THE REGULATION REQUIRES ORGANISERS OF AQUATIC EVENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE NAVIGATION OF VESSELS IN THE PORT, TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF ACCIDENTS AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE EVENT.

MR CHAM SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING INTRODUCING SPEED LIMIT ZONES IN HONG KONG WATERS.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT ZONES, WITH THE SPEED LIMIT LIKELY TO BE FIVE KNOTS AND THE PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ONLY WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HIGH SPEED BOATING MIGHT ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS OF AQUATIC SPORTS, THE COMMITTEE WILL UNDERTAKE TO PUBLICISE THE SPEED LIMIT ZONES WHEN THEY ARE INTRODUCED.

MR CHAM ALSO SAID THAT AS CAMPING HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR, A WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PRODUCING A COMPREHENSIVE BROCHURE ON CAMPING.

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+OUR CHILDREN ARE TOPS+
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WHAT MAKES HONG KONG CHILDREN BETTER ARTISTS THAN MOST OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED BY MR COLVYN HAYE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON WHEN HE OPENED THE YOUNG ARTISTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE.

THE ANSWER, MR HAYE CONTENDED, WAS THAT HONG KONG CHILDREN HAVE THE SPECIAL TALENT OF SEEING THEIR ENVIRONMENT WITH SINGULAR CLARITY AND THE ABILITY TO TRANSLATE THAT VISION IN TERMS WHICH ARE SO VIVID AND MEMORABLE THAT THEY COMPEL ATTENTION.

THE PROOF OF THIS, HE ADDED, CAN BE SEEN FROM THE 31 EXHIBITS FROM HONG KONG COMPARED WITH THOSE OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH ENTRANTS.

MR HAYE SAID THAT ANOTHER ATTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS WAS THE LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG, ENERGETIC AND DEVOTED ART TEACHERS WORKING IN OUR SCHOOLS.

THE EXHIBITION WHICH IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE ART SECTION, CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL JULY 26 AT THE PAO SUI LOONG GALLERIES, FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE.

A TOTAL OF 154 EXHIBITS FROM 19 PARTICIPATING AREAS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM HONG KONG, ARE ON DISPLAY. THE YOUNG ARTISTS RANGE IN AGE FROM SIX TO NINE, 10 TO 13 AND 14 TO 18 IN THREE SEPARATE GROUPS.

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OFFICE ASSISTANT AWARDED ISM

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AN OFFICE ASSISTANT OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR IP HO, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL BY THE QUEEN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR IP WAS WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT HIS SERVICE, JOINING AS A MESSENGER IN 1945. HE WAS REGRADED TO OFFICE ASSISTANT IN 1976.

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KWAI CHUNG A VERY LIVELY AND VIBRANT PLACE

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KWAI CHUNG IS A VERY LIVELY AND VIBRANT PLACE, TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER, DR JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW KWAI CHUNG SUB-BRANCH OF EUROPEAN ASIAN BANK.

+UP TO 1970 THERE WERE ONLY SIX BANKING OFFICES IN KWAI CHUNG. HOWEVER, UP TO MID-MAY THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER HAD RISEN TO 54. THE INCREASE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY MARKED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, + DR HAYES SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IN 1961 THE POPULATION OF TSUEN WAN AS A WHOLE WAS ONLY 84 000. TODAY, KWAI CHUNG SUB-DISTRICT ALONE WAS POPULATED BY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE.

DR HAYES SAID THE AMOUNT OF GROSS LIGHT MANUFACTURING FLOOR SPACE IN THE WHOLE OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN IN 1965 WAS 960 000 SQUARE METRES AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THIS TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT, 36 381. THE RESPECTIVE FIGURES IN 1979 WERE 3.82 MILLION SQUARE METRES AND 142 821 WORKERS. ABOUT 63 PER CENT OF THE FLOOR SPACE WAS IN KWAI CHUNG SUB-DISTRICT.

THE NUMBER OF FACTORIES IN KWAI CHUNG REGISTERED WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN 1976 WAS 1 700. AT THAT TIME, THE NUMBER OF FACTORIES IN TSUEN WAN SUB-DISTRICT WAS ALSO ABOUT 1 700.

HOWEVER, TODAY THE NUMBER OF FACTORIES IN KWAI CHUNG WAS OVER 7 000 AND IN TSUEN WAN SUB-DISTRICT, ABOUT 2 200, DR HAYES SAID.

ON THE KWAI CHUNG COMMUNITY, DR HAYES SAID IT HAD PRESENTED A SERIOUS CHALLENGE FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN THAT NEARLY ALL THE ASSOCIATIONS OF ANY STANDING IN THE NEW TOWN BELONGED TO THE TSUEN WAN PART OF IT.

+WE, AND LOCAL RESIDENTS, HAVE HAD TO BUILD UP AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF LOCAL SOCIETIES TO CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE TASK OF BRINGING ORDER AND IDENTITY TO KWAI CHUNG.

+ALREADY THERE ARE SOME 700 LOCAL SOCIETIES, INCLUDING ABOUT 500 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN MULTI-STORY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, IN THE NEW TOWN. ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THIS LARGE NUMBER ARE LOCATED IN KWAI CHUNG, REFLECTING THE IMMENSE STRIDES TAKEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS BY LOCAL PEOPLE WORKING WITH MY STAFF,+ HE SAID.

THEIR VIEWS ON LOCAL MATTERS WERE REFLECTED THROUGH AREA COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT WORKING IN THE NEW TOWN, DR HAYES SAID.

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TUEN MUN SHORT-TERM TENANCY TENDERS

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THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A SITE IN TUEN MUN FOR STORING AND MAINTAINING CONTRACTOR'S PLANT AND MACHINERY.

THE SITE, WHICH IS SERVED BY LUNG MUN ROAD, MEASURES 5 950 SQUARE METRES. THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS INITIALLY, AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID TENDERERS MUST BE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ON THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT APPROVED LISTS.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON, BEFORE NOON ON JULY 18. THEY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY CHEQUES EQUIVALENT TO SIX MONTHS RENT TENDERED.

DETAILS OF THE TENDER AND TENDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES OF ISLANDS, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

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REST GARDEN FOR TO KWA WAN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) INVITED TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 5 000-SQUARE METRE REST GARDEN AND PLAYGROUND AT THE JUNCTION OF KING WAN STREET AND SHUN FUNG STREET IN TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON.

APART FROM FLOWER BEDS, BENCHES AND ARBOURS, THERE WILL BE A BASKETBALL COURT, A VOLLEYBALL COURT AND A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA.

WORK WILL START NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER.

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