



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE SAFEGUARDS EXTENDED

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THE NECESSITY FOR THE PROVISIONS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA IS, UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY TOO CLEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES WAS MOVING A MOTION UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, SEEKING TO EXTEND SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE FOR A FURTHER YEAR UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1990.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 33,951 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAD ARRIVED, COMPARED WITH 17,805 FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1988.

HE SAID UNTIL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE COULD BE DETERRED FROM COMING TO HONG KONG, RESETTLEMENT FOR REFUGEES STEPPED UP AND BOAT PEOPLE REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM, HONG KONG WOULD STILL NEED THE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

CONCERNING VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE CONTINUING TO COME FROM CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID SOME 315 WERE STILL IN HONG KONG.

"FOR SUCH PEOPLE THERE IS NO CHANCE OF RESETTLEMENT, NOR INDEED ANY OTHER BENEFIT, IN COMING TO HONG KONG. THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO CHINA AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE CHANGE IN POLICY LAST YEAR TO PROSECUTE, BEFORE REPATRIATION, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT HAD HELPED TO REDUCE NUMBERS.

"BUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REMAINS A DELICATE SUBJECT," HE SAID.

IN OCTOBER, WHEN THERE WERE SOME TEMPORARY PROBLEMS REGARDING THE REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS ROSE TO 2,208, OR A DAILY AVERAGE OF 71, MR BARNES SAID.

THIS WAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN ANY MONTH THIS YEAR AND REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 57 PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN OCTOBER 1988.

THE SITUATION HAD NOW IMPROVED AND THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER HAD DROPPED TO 1,875, OR A DAILY AVERAGE OF 63.

"I NEED HARDLY SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT WITH THE GREATEST DETERMINATION THIS POLICY OF PREVENTING, AND DEALING FIRMLY WITH, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION," HE STRESSED.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO RETAIN THE SAFEGUARDS IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

SECTION 18(3) OF THE ORDINANCE WAS FIRST ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

IT REMOVED THE LIMIT OF TWO MONTHS DURING WHICH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER MIGHT REMOVE A PERSON REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, IF IT APPEARED TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION THAT THAT PERSON HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN VIETNAM.

MR BARNES SAID THIS SUBSECTION HAD BEEN RE-ENACTED ANNUALLY AND WOULD EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR UNLESS EXTENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1979 TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TRAFFICKING IN UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION.

UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WHO AIDED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO ENTER HONG KONG COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

OFFENDERS WERE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO \$5 MILLION AND IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE, WHILE THE SHIPS AND OTHER PROPERTY INVOLVED WERE LIABLE TO FORFEITURE.

THESE TWO PARTS HAD ALSO BEEN RE-ENACTED ANNUALLY AND WOULD EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 UNLESS EXTENDED.

"THE MOTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL SEEKS TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS FOR ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1990.

"SHORTLY BEFORE THAT TIME WE SHALL AGAIN REVIEW THE POSITION," MR BARNES CONCLUDED.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

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MOTIONS ON REVISED LEVELS OF COMPENSATION APPROVED

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TWO MOTIONS SEEKING TO REVISE THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO MOTIONS WERE INTRODUCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, UNDER SECTION 48A OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND UNDER SECTION 40 OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY.

MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE FORMER PROVIDED FOR EMPLOYEES WHO WERE INJURED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT TO BE COMPENSATED WHILE THE LATTER PROVIDED FOR PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BY THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO PERSONS INCAPACITATED BY OR DYING AS A RESULT OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

THE LEVELS WERE IDENTICAL UNDER THE TWO ORDINANCES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY SINCE 1978 HAD BEEN TO REVIEW THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION EVERY TWO YEARS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WAGE MOVEMENTS AND OTHER CHANGES.

EXISTING LEVELS OF COMPENSATION HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE JANUARY 1, 1988 AND IT WAS PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE THE REVISED LEVELS WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT A REVIEW CONDUCTED RECENTLY SHOWED THAT NOMINAL WAGES OVER THE PERIOD JANUARY 1988 TO NOVEMBER 1989 HAD RISEN BY 23 PER CENT.

"ACCORDINGLY, IT IS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF COMPENSATION FOR DEATH FROM \$345,000 TO \$424,000, AND FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY FROM \$394,000 TO \$485,000.

"AT THE SAME TIME THE MINIMUM AMOUNTS WILL BE RAISED FROM \$116,000 TO \$143,000 AND FROM \$132,000 TO \$162,000 RESPECTIVELY.

"THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE RAISED FROM \$158,000 TO \$194,000," HE SAID.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED TO RAISE THE LEVELS OF OTHER FORMS OF COMPENSATION WHICH WERE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO MOVEMENTS IN NOMINAL WAGES.

"FIRST, WE PROPOSE TO RAISE THE MINIMUM EARNINGS PER MONTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING COMPENSATION FROM \$920 TO \$1,040," MR YEUNG SAID.

THIS FIGURE WAS BASED ON THE LEVEL OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR A SINGLE PERSON UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE WAS IN LINE WITH A RECENT INCREASE UNDER THAT SCHEME.

SECONDLY, IT WAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FROM \$3,000 TO \$8,000 FOR BURIAL AND MEDICAL EXPENSES WHERE THE DECEASED EMPLOYEE LEFT NO DEPENDANTS.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS BASED ON ACTUAL INCREASES IN MEDICAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES SINCE 1980.

THIRDLY, IT WAS PROPOSED TO RAISE MAXIMUM DAILY REIMBURSEMENTS OF MEDICAL EXPENSES FROM \$40 FOR IN-PATIENTS AND \$20 FOR OUT-PATIENTS TO \$70 IN BOTH CASES.

"THIS PROPOSAL TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASES SINCE 1987 IN FEES CHARGED BY GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, AND THE FACT THAT INJURED EMPLOYEES HAVING TO RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE MEDICAL TREATMENT A DAY ARE CHARGED FOR EACH TREATMENT," HE SAID.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED TO RAISE, UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, THE MAXIMUM PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY AN EMPLOYER TOWARDS THE COSTS OF SUPPLYING AND FITTING A PROSTHESIS OR A SURGICAL APPLIANCE, AND FOR THEIR REPAIR OR RENEWAL.

"THE PRESENT AMOUNTS, \$14,000 AND \$43,000, ARE TO BE INCREASED TO \$16,000 AND \$50,000 IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL INCREASES IN COSTS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID ALL THE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

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ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR STATISTICAL DATA SOUGHT

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A BILL SEEKING TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS IN THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE FOR PROTECTING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA SUPPLIED BY COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS AND FOR REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF SURVEY ENUMERATORS TO COVER VOLUNTARY STATISTICAL SURVEYS, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID THE EXISTING ORDINANCE PROVIDED A GENERAL STATUTORY BACKING ONLY FOR MANDATORY STATISTICAL SURVEYS THAT WERE CARRIED OUT BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

MRS CHAN SAID DATA PROTECTION AND THE REGULATION OF ENUMERATORS INVOLVED IN VOLUNTARY STATISTICAL SURVEYS HAD TO RELY ON ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES MAINLY THROUGH THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

"THIS IS NOT SATISFACTORY.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE IN SUPPLYING INFORMATION TO SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE PROTECTED IN THE SAME WAY AS FOR MANDATORY SURVEYS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ADDED THAT CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF MANDATORY SURVEYS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE EXTENDED TO COVER VOLUNTARY SURVEYS.

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"THUS THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS IS NOT SEEKING ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE CONDUCT OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS WHERE PERSONS SUPPLYING INFORMATION ARE NOT OBLIGED TO DO SO," SHE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS SEEKING STATUTORY INCORPORATION
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THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS, IN SEEKING INCORPORATION BY STATUTE, WISHES TO ENSURE ITS EXISTENCE AND INDEPENDENCE, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS BILL 1989, A PRIVATE BILL, MR CHENG SAID INCORPORATION BY AN ORDINANCE IMPLIED STATUTORY RECOGNITION OF THE INSTITUTE AS THE BODY REPRESENTING THE PROFESSION OF SURVEYORS IN HONG KONG.

HE ALSO SAID THE INSTITUTE WAS NOW WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON A PUBLIC BILL TO BE CALLED THE SURVEYORS REGISTRATION BILL.

"THE REGISTRATION BILL WILL GOVERN THE REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY CONTROL OF THE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF SURVEYORS IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS CONTEMPLATED THAT A SURVEYORS REGISTRATION BOARD WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND MOST OF ITS MEMBERS WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE," HE SAID.

HE SAID IF THE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION, QUALIFICATION AND DISCIPLINARY CONTROL OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS AS PROPOSED WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY ENACTMENT, THE INSTITUTE WOULD BE VESTED WITH WIDE POWERS AND IT WOULD BE INCUMBENT ON THE INSTITUTE TO FIRST STRENGTHEN ITS EXISTENCE AND CONTROL OVER ITS EXECUTIVE ARM.

"UNDER THIS BILL, THE POWERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE ARE CLEARLY DEFINED. THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL ARE GUARANTEED AND ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CONTROLLED AND REGULATED," MR CHENG SAID OF HIS PRIVATE BILL.

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BILL ENSURES INDEPENDENCE OF INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
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THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS INCORPORATION BILL 1989 WILL ENSURE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE LONG RUN, THE HON EDWARD HO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PRIVATE BILL, MR HO SAID ITS PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS THE STATUS OF AN INCORPORATED BODY.

THE INSTITUTE OPTED FOR INCORPORATION BY STATUTE SO THAT IT WOULD BECOME A LEGAL ENTITY WITH PERPETUAL SUCCESSION AND COULD BE DISSOLVED ONLY BY ANOTHER STATUTE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THIS WILL ENSURE THE EXISTENCE AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE LONG RUN," MR HO SAID.

HE SAID ANOTHER IMPORTANT PURPOSE IN INTRODUCING THE BILL WAS CO-ORDINATION WITH THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BILL 1989 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS AND DISCIPLINARY CONTROL OF THE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF REGISTERED ARCHITECTS.

MR HO NOTED THAT THE INSTITUTE NOW HAD 1,038 FULL MEMBERS AND 153 GRADUATE MEMBERS. IT WAS THE ONLY PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION OF ARCHITECTS IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION THE INSTITUTE MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE WERE NOW ASSISTING THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG IN SETTING UP ITS DEGREE COURSE IN ARCHITECTURE.

IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE WERE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

BESIDES, THE INSTITUTE WAS REGULARLY CONSULTED AND EXPRESSED OPINIONS ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE PROFESSION, THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

"THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY IN ENSURING A HIGH STANDARD OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR ARCHITECTS AND IN THE PROMOTION OF BETTER ARCHITECTURE FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

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GOVT TO CONSIDER SITES FOR REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING THE ALLOCATION OF A NUMBER OF RURAL SITES FOR PERMANENT REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ON BUILDING OF REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR BARNES SAID WHERE REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WERE REQUIRED THESE WERE BUILT WHEREVER POSSIBLE ON GOVERNMENT LAND, WHICH WAS FORMALLY ALLOCATED TO THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS.

IN SOME VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE THERE WAS NO SUITABLE GOVERNMENT LAND ON WHICH TO BUILD REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, HE SAID THE PRACTICE HAD BEEN TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY FACILITIES ON PRIVATE LAND, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE LAND OWNER.

HE SAID SHOULD THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WISH TO BUILD PERMANENT FACILITIES ON PRIVATE LAND, THERE WAS NO REASON IN PRINCIPLE WHY THE LAND SHOULD NOT BE RESUMED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

MR BARNES SAID HE HAD ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS TO PROCESS A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES FOR THE FORMAL ALLOCATION OF A NUMBER OF SITES IN RURAL AREAS.

RESUMPTION OF LAND MIGHT BE NECESSARY WHERE THE SITES WERE ON PRIVATE LAND, HE ADDED.

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COMPLICATED TO LEGISLATE ON SALES OF FLATS

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LEGISLATING TO PRESCRIBE HOW PEOPLE SHOULD SELL FLATS WOULD BE VERY COMPLICATED, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID IT WAS TRUE THERE HAD BEEN QUARRELLING AND INCIDENTS IN QUEUES OF PEOPLE BUYING FLATS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS AND IN ADVANCE.

"BUT IT IS NOT A REGULAR OCCURRENCE AND IN HONG KONG WE DO NOT USUALLY PRESCRIBE HOW PEOPLE SHOULD SELL THINGS LIKE FLATS," HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG.

MISS LEUNG HAD MENTIONED IMPROPER AND POSSIBLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY NON-PROSPECTIVE FLAT BUYERS WHEN FLATS WERE PUT UP FOR SALE BY PROPERTY DEVELOPERS, AND SAID A RECENT CASE HAD AGAIN LED TO CONFLICT.

MR BARNES SAID THAT IN THE PAST THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACHIEVED SOME WORTHWHILE IMPROVEMENTS IN SALES PRACTICES, INCLUDING THE STANDARDISED MEASUREMENT OF PREMISES, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY.

IN VIEW OF THE RECENT INCIDENT TO WHICH HE THOUGHT MISS LEUNG WAS REFERRING, DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD WITH THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION ON WHAT COULD BE DONE TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS.

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ROLE OF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO BE REVIEWED

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BEGIN A REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR, IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR, SIR DAVID SAID THE EXTENT OF THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY WOULD BE ONE OF THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE REVIEW.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS HAD COMMENCED OPERATION ONLY IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

"IN HIS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JULY, THE COMMISSIONER NOTED THE CONCERNS OF SOME PEOPLE THAT CORPORATIONS AND AUTHORITIES DISCHARGING PUBLIC FUNCTIONS WERE EXCLUDED FROM HIS JURISDICTION," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF A PUBLIC AUTHORITY BY CERTAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DID COME WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

"THE COMMISSIONER'S JURISDICTION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THESE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

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EXEMPLARY PENALTIES FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BREACHES NECESSARY

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO PRESCRIBE MORE STRINGENT SAFETY STANDARDS AND MEASURES FOR OPERATING PILE-DRIVERS, BUT IT DOES CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR EXEMPLARY PENALTIES FOR SERIOUS BREACHES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, 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 THESE PENALTIES WOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 RESUMED NEXT WEEK.

MR YEUNG SAID THERE HAD BEEN THREE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PILE-DRIVERS DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS. ONE OCCURRED IN 1987 AND TWO THIS YEAR.

"THESE ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY EXAMINED. IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE, WITHOUT GOING INTO THE DETAILS OF EACH CASE, THAT THEY OCCURRED BECAUSE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY OR FULLY OBSERVED, AND NOT BECAUSE THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE IN THEMSELVES INADEQUATE," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRED PILE-DRIVERS TO BE OF GOOD CONSTRUCTION, SOUND MATERIAL AND ADEQUATE STRENGTH, AND TO BE FREE FROM PATENT DEFECTS.

"IN ADDITION THE REGULATIONS ALSO REQUIRE PILE-DRIVERS TO BE FITTED WITH A VARIETY OF SAFETY DEVICES, SUCH AS EFFECTIVE BRAKING AND CONTROL SYSTEMS THAT WOULD PREVENT LOADS SUSPENDED FROM THEM FROM FALLING OUT OF CONTROL," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT PILE-DRIVERS HAD TO BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AND TESTED BY A COMPETENT EXAMINER AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 14 MONTHS.

"BEFORE IT CAN BE USED A PILE-DRIVER MUST BE SECURED AND STABLE.

"THIS REQUIREMENT ALSO APPLIES BEFORE A PILE-DRIVER CAN BE MOVED AROUND ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE.

"WHEN IN USE IT MUST BE INSPECTED BY A COMPETENT PERSON AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

"THE PILE-DRIVER CAN ONLY BE OPERATED BY A COMPETENT PERSON AGED 18 OR ABOVE.

/"THE WORKMAN

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"THE WORKMAN GIVING SIGNALS TO THE OPERATOR OF A PILE-DRIVER MUST ALSO BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR ABOVE AND ADEQUATELY TRAINED IN ORDER TO GIVE THE NECESSARY SIGNALS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THEMSELVES DID NOT OWN OR OPERATE PILE-DRIVERS.

PILING CONTRACTORS WORKING UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS WERE SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, HE SAID.

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GOVT TO ASK CMB TO OVERHAUL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK A FUNDAMENTAL OVERHAUL OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, AND A TIME-TABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARIA TAM, MR LEUNG SAID: "IF THIS STILL DID NOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS, THEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO A PROGRESSIVE OPENING UP OF PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND TO OTHER OPERATORS."

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES TO RESIDENTS.

RECENT EVENTS HAD SHOWN THAT MORE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

ON THE POWERS UNDER THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE WHICH REGULATED THE OPERATION OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICE, MR LEUNG SAID THESE INCLUDED:

- * A PENALTY OF UP TO \$50,000 FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE OR THE FRANCHISE;
- * TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE FRANCHISE IN AN EMERGENCY; AND
- * SUBJECT TO 28 DAYS' NOTICE, THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THE FRANCHISE HOLDER HAD FAILED, OR WAS LIKELY TO FAIL, TO MAINTAIN A PROPER AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC BUS SERVICE.

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COMMONLY USED CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINES TESTED

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MOST OF THE COMMONLY USED CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINES IN THE MARKET HAD BEEN TESTED AND THE SAME PROCEDURE OF ROUTINE CHECKS AND ANALYSIS WAS USED IN MONITORING THE QUALITY OF REGISTERED WESTERN MEDICINES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON. NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HENRIETTA IP, MR SHIPMAN SAID EXISTING MEASURES WERE CONSIDERED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING THE ADULTERATION OF CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINES WITH WESTERN DRUGS.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION WOULD BE MONITORED CLOSELY BY THE FORENSIC PHARMACY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

MOREOVER, THE WIDER QUESTION OF CONTROLS OVER CHINESE MEDICINE WAS CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE MEDICINE.

MR SHIPMAN SAID THAT FROM JANUARY 1985 TO OCTOBER THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 12 SAMPLES INVOLVING NINE PRODUCTS OF CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINES WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN ADULTERATED WITH WESTERN DRUGS.

THE 12 SAMPLES WERE DISCOVERED OUT OF A TOTAL OF 1,171 SAMPLES TAKEN FROM IMPORTERS OR PURCHASED DIRECTLY FROM THE MARKET ON A ROUTINE BASIS DURING THE PERIOD.

"OF THESE, EIGHT WERE IMPORTED PRODUCTS AND ONLY ONE WAS MANUFACTURED LOCALLY.

"IN A FURTHER 54 SAMPLES THERE WERE MINUTE TRACES OF WESTERN DRUGS, BUT AS THE DRUGS WOULD HAVE NO THERAPEUTIC VALUE AT THESE LEVELS, IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE RESULT OF CONTAMINATION RATHER THAN OF DELIBERATE ADULTERATION," HE SAID.

WHEN IMPORTED CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINES WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN ADULTERATED OR CONTAMINATED, MR SHIPMAN SAID THE IMPORTERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO RECALL ALL SUCH MEDICINES FROM THE MARKET AND TO HAVE THEM RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR TO SURRENDER THEM FOR PROPER DISPOSAL.

"IN ALL THESE CASES, THE PRESENCE OF WESTERN DRUGS WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH," HE SAID.

IN THE CASE INVOLVING A LOCALLY MANUFACTURED CHINESE PROPRIETARY MEDICINE DISCOVERED RECENTLY TO HAVE BEEN ADULTERATED BY CERTAIN WESTERN DRUGS WHICH MIGHT ONLY BE DISPENSED ON A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION, SUPPLIES OF THE PRODUCT WERE SEIZED AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WERE BEING INSTITUTED AGAINST THE RESPONSIBLE MANUFACTURER.

"APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO THIS PARTICULAR CASE, AS HAS BEEN DONE FOR SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST, TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE THAT THIS MEDICINE HAD BEEN ADULTERATED.

"THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN DETAILS ABOUT THE CASE," HE ADDED.

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ACTION TAKEN TO SPEED UP SCHOOL REPAIRS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS NOW PREPARED TO TAKE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL MAJOR REPAIRS TO AIDED SCHOOLS OUTSIDE HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES, SO THAT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO NOMINATE, APPOINT AND SUPERVISE AUTHORISED PERSONS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ROSANNA TAM, RELATING TO THE SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL, MR YEUNG SAID THIS SHOULD IN FUTURE SAVE A GOOD DEAL OF TIME IN GETTING REPAIRS DONE.

"THE SCHOOLS COUNCILS ARE NOW BEING CONSULTED, AND I HOPE THAT AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS CHANGE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"THIS WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO ALL SPONSORING BODIES, BUT PARTICULARLY SO TO SMALL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH RUNS SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL," HE SAID.

ON THE GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR FORESEEABLE MAJOR REPAIRS TO SCHOOL BUILDINGS LOCATED OUTSIDE HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES, MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT EVERY YEAR, IN APRIL, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INVITED ALL AIDED SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS, SO THAT FUNDS COULD BE SOUGHT IN THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR.

AN APPLICATION WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WAS GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE, AND THE SCHOOL WAS ADVISED TO SEEK QUOTATIONS, OR TO APPOINT AN AUTHORISED PERSON AND TO ARRANGE FOR TENDERS.

FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE WORK TO PROCEED WAS GIVEN AFTER THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES HAD RECOMMENDED A QUOTATION OR TENDER FOR ACCEPTANCE.

FROM THE INITIAL APPLICATION TO THE ISSUE OF APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE NORMALLY TOOK ABOUT 12 MONTHS.

APPLICATIONS FOR MORE EMERGENCY REPAIRS COULD BE MADE AT ANY TIME, AND APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE WAS NORMALLY GIVEN WITHIN ONE TO THREE MONTHS, HE ADDED.

IN THE CASE OF SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL IN SAI KUNG, MR YEUNG SAID THE SCHOOL WAS A SMALL SPECIAL SCHOOL WITH 46 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, OF WHOM 38 WERE BOARDERS.

THE NEED FOR REPAIRS HAD FIRST COME TO LIGHT IN EARLY 1985, DURING AN INVESTIGATION BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INTO A COMPLAINT FROM THE SCHOOL ABOUT ROCK-BLASTING IN THE VICINITY.

/THE BUILDING

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAD ADVISED THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE FROM ROCK-BLASTING, THE SCHOOL SHOULD AT ONCE APPOINT AN AUTHORISED PERSON TO PREPARE A SCHEME OF REPAIRS TO THE STRUCTURE AND DRAINAGE OF THE SCHOOL, WHICH WERE IN A DILAPIDATED STATE, AND TO PROVIDE COST ESTIMATES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THESE WORKS WOULD BE TREATED AS MORE URGENT REPAIRS WHICH COULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY.

"UNFORTUNATELY, 10 MONTHS PASSED BEFORE A QUALIFIED AUTHORISED PERSON WAS APPOINTED IN JANUARY 1986, AND ANOTHER 20 MONTHS PASSED BEFORE THE COST ESTIMATE FOR REPAIRS WAS SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER 1987.

"THIS INDICATED THAT ABOUT \$2 MILLION WOULD BE NEEDED FOR REMEDIAL WORKS.

"MEANWHILE, THE BUILDING WAS CONTINUING TO DETERIORATE," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT AT THIS STAGE THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES HAD ADVISED THAT REPROVISIONING THE WHOLE SCHOOL WAS LIKELY TO BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE THAN UNDERTAKING MAJOR REPAIRS, PARTICULARLY SINCE A PROJECT TO EXTEND THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN APPROVED SEPARATELY IN EARLY 1987.

RUNNING REPAIRS ONLY WERE RECOMMENDED, TO MAINTAIN THE SCHOOL IN A USABLE CONDITION PENDING REPROVISIONING.

"THE SCHOOL WAS INFORMED OF THIS IN FEBRUARY 1988, AND IN APRIL 1988 THE SCHOOL'S CONSULTANT WAS ASKED TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF A STRENGTH ASSESSMENT SURVEY AND OF THE REPAIRS NEEDED TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE BUILDING BY FOUR YEARS OR SO.

"COSTINGS WERE SUPPLIED IN JUNE 1988, BUT IT WAS ONLY IN NOVEMBER 1988 THAT THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES ADVISED THAT A SURVEY SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED SO AS TO ASCERTAIN THE SCOPE OF THE NECESSARY REPAIRS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF GROWING CONCERN AT THE SLOW PACE OF THE PROJECT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD HELD A MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL AND ITS CONSULTANT IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE CONSULTANT HAD BEGUN HIS STRUCTURAL SURVEY IN FEBRUARY, AND IN JUNE REPORTED THAT REBUILDING WOULD BE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE OPTION.

"THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN THE REPORT THAT THE BUILDING WAS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER. THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED THAT THE BUILDING WAS CAPABLE OF BEING REPAIRED.

"HOWEVER, IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER INCIDENTS OF FLAKING PLASTER AND CONCRETE EXPOSED SERIOUS DEFECTS IN THE REINFORCEMENT OF FLOOR AND CEILING SLABS.

"ON NOVEMBER 3 THIS YEAR THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED THAT THE BUILDING SHOULD BE EVACUATED," HE SAID.

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ON NOVEMBER 21 THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAD DECLARED A PART OF THE BUILDING LIKELY TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

MR YEUNG SAID THIS WAS A SORRY SAGA, WHOSE ONLY REDEEMING FEATURE WAS ITS UNIQUENESS.

"IN MITIGATION I CAN ONLY POINT TO THE COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY THE REPROVISIONING PROPOSAL AND THE EXISTENCE OF A SEPARATE EXTENSION PROJECT," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, SUITABLE TEMPORARY PREMISES FOR THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A NEARBY HOUSING ESTATE, HE SAID.

"THESE SHOULD BE FITTED OUT AND READY FOR USE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS.

"DURING THIS PERIOD THE SCHOOL WILL NEED TO OPERATE AS BEST IT CAN IN THOSE PARTS OF ITS PRESENT BUILDINGS WHICH ARE NOT DANGEROUS.

"IN THE LONGER TERM THE SCHOOL WILL BE REPROVISIONED," HE CONCLUDED.

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GOVT'S APPROACH AIMED AT POSITIVE, REWARDING EDUCATIONAL PROCESS
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THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH IS TO ENSURE THAT THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS IS AS POSITIVE AND REWARDING AS POSSIBLE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS, AND THAT TENDENCIES TOWARDS DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR CAN BE IDENTIFIED, AND STUDENTS AT RISK GIVEN APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE, BEFORE THESE TENDENCIES HARDEN INTO VIOLENCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MICHAEL CHENG, CONCERNING CASES OF WOUNDING COMMITTED IN SCHOOLS BY STUDENTS WITH AN INCLINATION TO VIOLENCE.

MR YEUNG SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PREPARING A SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL HEADS, TO EMPHASISE THE MESSAGE THAT THE BEST WAY OF PREVENTING DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR WAS TO GENERATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN SCHOOLS.

"THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MUST CONTINUE TO LIE WITH TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG NOTED THAT A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR ENHANCED TRAINING FOR TEACHERS IN THE AREAS OF DELINQUENCY IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION.

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"A NEW 60-HOUR COURSE HAS BEEN DEVISED, WHICH THIS YEAR IS BEING PROVIDED TO STAFF IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN PREPARATION FOR GREATER EMPHASIS IN THESE AREAS IN ALL TRAINING COURSES FOR NEW AND SERVING TEACHERS FROM SEPTEMBER 1990.

"MEANWHILE THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IS EXAMINING BEHAVIOURAL AND CURRICULAR PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION, AND WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS REPORT NO. 4 NEXT YEAR," HE ADDED.

WHILE THE CASES OF WOUNDING COMMITTED IN SCHOOLS IN RECENT WEEKS HAD UNDERSTANDABLY CAUSED CONCERN AMONG TEACHERS, PUPILS AND PARENTS, MR YEUNG SAID THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO BE PANICKED BY THESE INCIDENTS INTO IMPRACTICAL AND ILL-CONSIDERED MEASURES.

DRASTIC MEASURES, SUCH AS DAILY SEARCHES OF ALL STUDENTS, HE BELIEVED, WOULD NEITHER BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY NOR EFFECTIVE IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF TEACHERS AND OTHER STUDENTS, SINCE ANYONE INTENT ON DOING MISCHIEF COULD STILL SEEK OUT HIS VICTIMS AFTER SCHOOL HOURS.

AS NO MEASURE COULD GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, MR YEUNG SAID: "WHAT WE CAN DO, AND WHAT WE ARE DOING, IS TO MINIMISE THE LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS."

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EXACT FARES DO NOT INCREASE TUNNEL THROUGHPUT
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REQUIRING ALL MOTORISTS TO PAY EXACT TOLLS WOULD NOT INCREASE TUNNEL THROUGHPUT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR LEUNG SAID THAT IN APRIL 1985 THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTS ON THE TUNNEL TRAFFIC FLOW OF DESIGNATING MORE "EXACT PAYMENT" TOLL BOOTHS.

THE EXPERIMENT SHOWED THAT IN THE PEAK PERIODS AN EXACT PAYMENT BOOTH COULD HANDLE 10 PER CENT MORE VEHICLES THAN ORDINARY TOLL BOOTHS.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO INCREASE IN THE TUNNEL THROUGHPUT AS THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC GOING THROUGH THE TUNNEL CONTINUED TO EXCEED THE TUNNEL'S DESIGN CAPACITY, MR LEUNG SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR VTC
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THE YEAR 1988-89 WAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ONE FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE START OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE COUNCIL'S 19-STORY HEADQUARTERS IN WAN CHAI, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VTC IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEONG SAID THE NEW TOWER WOULD HOUSE THOSE TRAINING CENTRES CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATED IN RENTED PREMISES AS WELL AS ANOTHER NEW TRAINING CENTRE.

THE CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN TWO PHASES, WITH THE FIRST TO BE COMPLETED IN A MONTH'S TIME AND THE SECOND IN MID-1990.

AS PART OF AN OVERALL PROGRAMME TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE TEACHING FACILITIES AND STUDENT AMENITIES IN OLDER INSTITUTES, MR CHEONG SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANNEXES AT THE KWAI CHUNG AND KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WAS COMPLETED EARLY THIS YEAR.

ON OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE VTC, MR CHEONG SAID THE BANKING TRAINING CENTRE WAS OPENED LAST JANUARY, OFFERING SOME 40 IN-SERVICE COURSES TO EMPLOYEES OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES. SO FAR, IT HAD PROVIDED TRAINING TO SOME 6,500 BANKING EMPLOYEES.

HE ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL INTRODUCED DURING THE YEAR TRADE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF CRAFTSMEN TO ASSESS THEIR LEVEL OF SKILLS.

"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT TRADE TESTING HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG AND AS A START THE TEST WAS OFFERED TO TRADESMEN IN FOUR TRADES, NAMELY, ELECTRICIANS, MECHANICAL FITTERS, TYPESETTERS AND VEHICLE MECHANICS.

"THE RESPONSE WAS MOST ENCOURAGING, WITH SOME 2,000 SERVING WORKERS APPLYING FOR THE TEST," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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THREE MOTIONS PASSED

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THREE MOTIONS WERE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ONE PROVIDED FOR A FURTHER YEAR'S EXTENSION OF SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

THE OTHER TWO EFFECTED AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE BY INCREASING CERTAIN LEVELS OF MONETARY COMPENSATION.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

TWO PRIVATE BILLS WERE ALSO INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS BILL 1989 AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS INCORPORATION BILL 1989.

DEBATES ON ALL THREE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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SURVEY ON IMPORTS FROM CHINA FOR FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS

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TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INITIATED A SAMPLE SURVEY THIS YEAR TO ENABLE IT TO SPLIT HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH WERE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1989 ARE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE RESULTS SHOW THAT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 SOME 59 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING; WHILE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 THE FIGURE WAS SOME 57 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS, THESE PROPORTIONS IMPLY THAT SOME \$23,581 MILLION OF THE \$40,292 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING; WHEREAS SOME \$27,641 MILLION OF THE \$48,499 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTING OF GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OF SEMI-MANUFACTURES ARE UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM ESTABLISHMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EXISTING 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 FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE. THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE THUS A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS SURVEY CAN BE VIEWED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY ON EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988.

"RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1989 HAD ALREADY BEEN RELEASED. STARTING FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989, RESULTS OF BOTH SURVEYS WILL BE RELEASED AT THE SAME TIME," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1989 WILL BE INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE SEPTEMBER 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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EXCO APPROVES SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL TO A BILL SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SDB) ON APRIL 1, 1990.

THE DECISION FOLLOWED PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SPORTS CONSULTANCY REPORT, "THE WAY AHEAD", PREPARED BY THE UK SPORTS CONSULTANT, MR EMLYN JONES.

THE RECENTLY FORMED PROVISIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, CHAIRED BY MR WILLIAM PURVES, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE PREPARATORY WORK TO ESTABLISH THE STATUTORY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD. IN ADDITION, IT HAS TAKEN OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

THE MAJOR TASK OF THE BOARD WILL BE TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR SPORTS AND PHYSICAL RECREATION, STRENGTHEN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION, IMPROVE COACHING, ENHANCE THE TRAINING OF TALENTED ATHLETES AND AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORT SPORTS PROMOTION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

THE BOARD WILL BE AN AUTONOMOUS CORPORATION WITH INDEPENDENT STATUS. IT WILL SEEK TO ADOPT A FLEXIBLE AND IMAGINATIVE APPROACH TO SPORTS PROMOTION AND FUNDING.

THE BILL WILL BE GAZETTED IN DUE COURSE.

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FINAL REPORT ON INVESTIGATION SUBMITTED TO FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, IN EXERCISE OF THE POWER CONFERRED ON HIM BY SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, APPOINTED MR MARVIN CHEUNG IN JUNE 1989 AS INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE AFFAIRS OF JADEMAN (HOLDINGS) LIMITED.

A LIMITED INVESTIGATION HAS NOW BEEN CONCLUDED AND THE INSPECTOR HAS SUBMITTED A FINAL REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. AN INTERIM REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON AUGUST 15.

AS THE REPORTS CONTAIN FACTS WHICH MAY HAVE A BEARING ON OR PERTAIN TO CURRENT OR FUTURE COURT PROCEEDINGS, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO PUBLISH THE REPORTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 146(3)(A) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, A COPY OF EACH REPORT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE COMPANY AT ITS REGISTERED OFFICE.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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RE-ORGANISATION RESULTS IN IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

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THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR HAS LED TO A BETTER USE OF MANPOWER AND INTELLIGENCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR K.S. TONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THIS HAD IN TURN IMPROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MR TONG WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN WHICH A PLAQUE AND A COMMEMORATIVE PLATE WERE PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE HONG KONG RICE MERCHANT ENTERPRISE LTD, IN RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMS EFFORTS IN A RECENT CASE INVOLVING COUNTERFEIT SOY SAUCE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, REALISING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING CONSUMER RIGHTS AND MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S GOOD REPUTATION IN OVERSEAS MARKETS, HAD BEEN USING MUCH OF ITS RESOURCES IN CLAMPING DOWN ON COUNTERFEITING ACTIVITIES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST YEARS HAD BROUGHT THESE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES UNDER CONTROL THOUGH SOME HAD GONE UNDERGROUND.

MR TONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT WITH ITS ACHIEVEMENT AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST IN ELIMINATING ALL SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

THE CASE OF THE COUNTERFEIT SOY SAUCE WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT WHEN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A COMPLAINT FROM THE HONG KONG RICE MERCHANT ENTERPRISE LTD IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

ACTING ON THE COMPLAINT, CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF THE INVESTIGATION BRANCH LAUNCHED A TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION WITH A VIEW TO TRACING THE IDENTITY OF THE OFFENDER AND THE SOURCES OF THE FAKE GOODS.

AS A RESULT, CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZED MORE THAN 60,000 BOTTLES OF SOY SAUCE BEARING A FORGED TRADEMARK IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR. THE VALUE OF THE SEIZURE AMOUNTED TO OVER \$230,000.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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ANNUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE STARTS TODAY

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THE ANNUAL SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE CO-ORDINATED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT (CAD) AND INVOLVING A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY UNITS FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION BEGAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AND WILL LAST FOR TWO DAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR CAD SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO TRAIN AND FAMILIARISE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER SUPPORTING UNITS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES.

"THE ALERTING AND CO-ORDINATING PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE TESTED," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE AND TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR PROCEDURES," HE ADDED.

COMPRISING A SHORT-RANGE AND A LONG-RANGE SEARCH OPERATION, THE EXERCISE WILL INVOLVE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS AND VESSELS.

IN THE SHORT-RANGE EXERCISE THIS AFTERNOON, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PARA-RESCUERS DEMONSTRATED THEIR RESCUE TECHNIQUE NEAR THE NINEPIN GROUP OF ISLANDS AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND ROYAL AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS DEMONSTRATED WINCHING OF SURVIVORS FROM THE SEA.

THE LONG-RANGE EXERCISE WILL BE ACTIVATED THIS EVENING SIMULATING AN AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS ABOUT 70 MILES SOUTH-WEST OF HONG KONG. THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, ROYAL AIR FORCE, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ROYAL NAVY, UNITED STATES NAVY AND JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY WILL DISPATCH AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS AND SHIPS TO SEARCH AND LOCATE THE TARGETS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE ARE THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, ROYAL NAVY, ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, ROYAL AIR FORCE, CIVIL AID SERVICES, MARINE DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE U.S. AIR FORCE, NAVY AND COAST GUARD AND THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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GOVT RESPONSIVE TO VIEWS OF RURAL COMMITTEES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND RURAL COMMITTEES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HUI URGED VILLAGERS TO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS FREELY SO THAT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WOULD MEET THE PRACTICAL NEEDS OF RESIDENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE KWAN TEI VILLAGE OFFICE IN FANLING, MR HUI STRESSED THAT IN DEVELOPING THE FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER OVERLOOKED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS.

"MUCH HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE IN THE PAST THROUGH THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ADMINISTERED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1988-89 A TOTAL OF 96 LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, COSTING \$3 MILLION, WERE CARRIED OUT IN THE NORTH DISTRICT.

"IN ADDITION, A LARGE PART OF THE \$800,000 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE DISTRICT WAS IMPLEMENTED IN VILLAGES," HE SAID.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KWAN TEI VILLAGE OFFICE, MR HUI NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD BASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COHESIVE VILLAGE COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIVING.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE, MORE SERVICES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO KWAN TEI VILLAGERS, HE SAID.

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SEMINAR ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD AND DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

THE HOUSING MANAGER OF THE TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING TEAM, MR CHAN KAM-TONG, WILL GIVE A TALK ON THE COMMON PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THERE WILL BE OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. LTD.

/THEY WILL

THEY WILL SPEAK ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN TSUEN WAN, ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION FACILITIES AND SECURITY MEASURES IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

OFFICIATING AT THE SEMINAR'S OPENING WILL BE THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, MR SIN SIU-WAH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, 72 TAI HO ROAD.

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DB TO DISCUSS USE OF FUNDS
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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE USE OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS FROM ITS CENTRAL RESERVE VOTE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

AT PRESENT THE VOTE HAS AN UNCOMMITTED BALANCE OF \$132,378.

IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT \$63,311 SHOULD BE ALLOCATED, AS REQUESTED, TO VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEES, AND \$69,000 BE TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY BUILDING VOTE FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO ORGANISE COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA ARE REPORTS FROM THE FOUR DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

THE SENIOR TOWN PLANNER OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR GRAHAM ROBERTS, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 8.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KAI MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FILMS WITH OBSCENE LANGUAGE

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A MEMBER'S PROPOSAL TO BAN FILMS WITH OBSCENE LANGUAGE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A CHIEF ENTERTAINMENT STANDARDS CONTROL OFFICER OF THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE EXISTING LEGISLATION ON FILMS CONTROL.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE LATEST FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT TEXTILE WORKERS' HEARING

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STARTED A SPECIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HEARING CONSERVATION IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

THE CAMPAIGN, ORGANISED JOINTLY WITH THE FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS AND THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING TRADE WORKERS GENERAL UNION, IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ONGOING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROMOTION PROGRAMME.

IT INCLUDES VISITS TO A NUMBER OF LARGE TEXTILE FACTORIES WHERE WORKERS ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE INDUSTRIAL NOISE.

AUDIOMETRIC TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON WORKERS TO ASCERTAIN ANY POSSIBLE NOISE INDUCED HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

AS AN INCENTIVE TO SAFETY AT WORK, SOUVENIRS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE VISITS TO WORKERS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE NECESSARY HEARING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, WHILE OTHERS WILL BE GIVEN FREE EAR PROTECTORS.

THE CAMPAIGN STARTED WITH A VISIT TO NAM FUNG TEXTILES LTD IN TSUEN WAN TODAY BY A TRIPARTITE TEAM LED BY THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN; CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING TRADE WORKERS GENERAL UNION, MR TSANG CHUNG-FUN; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, MR LEUNG FU-WAH.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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URBAN CLEARWAYS AND LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8), THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH GOLDEN HILL ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 1,400 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 200 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH GOLDEN HILL ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 1,400 METRES SOUTH OF SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

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

ON THE OTHER HAND, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, A SECTION OF ABOUT 400 METRES OF THE MIDDLE AND OUTERMOST LANES OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) NORTHBOUND NEAR SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO JANUARY 24.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8), TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN CENTRAL WILL BE DESIGNATED 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS.

THEY ARE:

- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD (EXCLUDING THE LAYBY); AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF JACKSON ROAD BETWEEN CHATER ROAD AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL (EXCLUDING THE LAYBY).

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

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CHAK ON ESTATE ACCESS ROAD IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN ITS NORTHERN JUNCTION WITH NAM CHEONG STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR KWAN MUN HAU STREET, THE SECTION OF HAM TIN STREET BETWEEN HO PUI STREET AND YEUNG UK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8).

FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE, THE SECTION OF HO PUI STREET BETWEEN HAM TIN STREET AND CHUNG ON STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE WAY EASTWARD TO ONE WAY WESTWARD.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING ON HAM TIN STREET MAY USE HO PUI STREET AND CHUNG ON STREET TO GAIN ACCESS TO YEUNG UK ROAD.

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LONG VEHICLE BAN ZONE IN SHEK KIP MEI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8), THE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHEK KIP MEI STREET BETWEEN BERWICK STREET AND WOH CHAI STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 10 METRES IN LENGTH.

ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 10 METRES IN LENGTH, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE BAN ZONE.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE IN TAI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS, A SECTION OF ABOUT 700 METRES OF THE SLOW LANE AT TOLO HIGHWAY KOWLOON BOUND NEAR SHAN TONG IN TAI PO WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO 6 PM ON JANUARY 23.

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