



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1976

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FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO MTR LOAN ARRANGEMENTS SCHEDULE
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO FURTHER AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 23, 1975 DEALING WITH LOAN ARRANGEMENTS GUARANTEED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, PROPOSED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW ITEMS TO THE SCHEDULE:

* THE FIRST RELATES TO ONE OF THE EIGHT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTS THE CORPORATION LET IN EARLY JULY TO A BRITISH FIRM FOR THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC MULTIPLE UNIT TRAINS. BY THE TERMS OF THIS CONTRACT A GERMAN FIRM IS TO SUPPLY THE BOGIES FOR THE TRAINS AND THE CORPORATION HAS TO PAY THIS FIRM DIRECT IN DEUTSCHE MARKS. THE FIRM HAS ARRANGED A SUPPLIER'S CREDIT FACILITY TO COVER THIS PART OF THE CONTRACT AND THE 10 MILLION DEUTSCHE MARKS INVOLVED WILL BE GRANTED UPON CONDITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES REPAYMENT. THIS SUPPLIER'S CREDIT FACILITY IS QUITE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE EXPORT CREDIT FACILITY TOTALLING 69.6 MILLION DEUTSCHE MARKS WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN GUARANTEED FOR USE IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS OTHER CONTRACTS.

* THE SECOND ADDITION CONCERNS A GUARANTEE OF HK\$67 MILLION IN THE FORM OF EXPORT CREDITS TO FINANCE A CONTRACT PLACED WITH A JAPANESE CONSORTIUM IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOR INSTALLING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE RAILWAY.

* THE THIRD AND FOURTH ADDITIONS ARE TO PROVIDE FOR TWO MEDIUM TERM HONG KONG DOLLAR FACILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED. ONE, FOR HK\$15 MILLION, IS SPECIFICALLY TO FINANCE THE LOCAL PORTION OF A CONTRACT PLACED WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM IN JULY TO SUPPLY THE AUTOMATIC FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR THE RAILWAY. THE OTHER, FOR HK\$60 MILLION, IS TO BE USED TO FINANCE PARTS OF BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTRACTS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE LETTING OF A FURTHER ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACT EARLIER THIS MONTH HAD VIRTUALLY COMPLETED THE CONTRACT LETTING PROCESS FOR THE RAILWAY.

+THE TOTAL VALUE OF THESE CONTRACTS LET IS WITHIN ESTIMATE AND INCLUDES 36 PER CENT IN VALUE LET ON A FIXED PRICE BASIS,+ HE SAID. +ALSO THE ESCALATION DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION ON CONTRACTS WITH PRICE VARIATION CLAUSES WAS ALSO WITHIN ESTIMATE, REFLECTING THE MODERATE INFLATION RATES PREVAILING GENERALLY DURING THAT PERIOD.+

+IN VIEW OF THESE POSITIVE FACTORS THERE MUST BE INCREASED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$5,800 MILLION, EXCLUDING THE COST OF INTEREST DURING CONSTRUCTION, WHICH IS ALSO LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN ANTICIPATED,+ HE ADDED.

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IN CLARIFYING RECENT PRESS AND TELEVISION COMMENT ON THE PROJECT, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT WHEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WAS ANNOUNCED, THE CORPORATION'S CHAIRMAN STATED THAT CAPITALISED INTEREST CHARGES ON LOAN FINANCE DRAWN DOWN BEFORE THE RAILWAY BEGAN TO GENERATE A CASH FLOW WAS LIKELY TO BE ABOUT HK\$900 MILLION.

+THIS FIGURE WAS NEVER INCLUDED IN THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT AT \$5,800 MILLION, THAT IS TO SAY, PRE-CONTRACT EXPENSES AND THE VALUE OF ALL CONTRACTS INCLUDING AN ALLOWANCE FOR ESCALATION OF COSTS THOUGH IT WAS ALLOWED FOR, OF COURSE, IN THE VARIOUS CASH FLOW STUDIES DONE OVER THE YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING VIABILITY,+ HE SAID.

+SUBSEQUENTLY,+ HE CONTINUED, +WHEN THE CORPORATION'S HK\$400 MILLION BOND ISSUE WAS MADE IN JUNE THIS YEAR THE PROSPECTUS FOR THE BOND ISSUE CONTAINED AN ESTIMATE FOR THE CAPITALISED INTEREST CHARGES ON BORROWINGS FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.+

THIS WAS A FIGURE OF HK\$939 MILLION AND THE CHAIRMAN IN A RECENT SPEECH MENTIONED HK\$1,000 MILLION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

+BUT THIS WAS A BROAD BRUSH ESTIMATE AND IN FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE ESTIMATE FOR THESE CHARGES WHICH, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, ARE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY SEVERAL YEARS IN ADVANCE (THOUGH THEY CAN BE VARIOUSLY ALLOWED FOR IN CASH FLOW STUDIES),+ HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN RECOGNISED THAT THE CAPITALISATION OF INTEREST CHARGES INCURRED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD WOULD ACCRUE OVER AND ABOVE THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT AND ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THESE INTEREST CHARGES DID NOT REPRESENT UNFORESEEN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE.

IN REPLY TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM THE HON. T.S. LO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK INVOLVED IN THE SERVICING OF THE CORPORATION'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE LIABILITIES WAS A QUESTION WHICH THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION HAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AS ITS FINANCING STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED.

HE ADDED THAT THE CORPORATION'S DEBT LIABILITIES WERE NOT ENTIRELY DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES BY ANY MEANS, AS A MATTER OF DELIBERATE POLICY.

HE REITERATED THAT THE CORPORATION WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO ARRANGE LONGER TERM FINANCE IN HONG KONG DOLLARS AND FOREIGN CURRENCIES IN PLACE OF EXISTING SHORTER TERM FACILITIES.

+SO, WHENEVER IN THE FUTURE I HAVE TO ASK THIS COUNCIL TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION, THE REASON WILL SIMPLY BE TO AFFORD THE CORPORATION GREATER SCOPE FOR ARRANGING FINANCE ON MORE FAVOURABLE TERMS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE ADDED.

PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS

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THE PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT, WHICH AN UNREGISTRABLE DOCTOR HAS TO GO THROUGH TO OBTAIN A LICENCE TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG AFTER PASSING AN EXAMINATION, SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 WHICH PROVIDES FOR A PERSON WISHING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A LICENTIATE TO SERVE IN AN APPROVED HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION A PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

+THIS PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT,+ HE ADDED, +MAY BE LIKENED TO THE PERIOD OF INTERNSHIP WHICH MEDICAL GRADUATES OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE EXCEPT THAT THE LATTER IS CLEARLY PRESCRIBED BY REGULATION,+

DR. FANG SAID THAT HE AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES CONSIDERED IT ONLY FAIR THAT THE PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT FOR PROSPECTIVE LICENTIATES SHOULD LIKEWISE BE PRESCRIBED.

+WITHOUT SUCH PROVISION,+ HE SAID, +A CANDIDATE WILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA AS TO THE NORMAL PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT WHICH HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO SERVE.+

IN WELCOMING THE BILL, DR. FANG SAID THAT IT GAVE PERSONS WITH MEDICAL TRAINING WHO WERE NOT AT PRESENT ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE EXAMINATION AND SERVE A PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE GRANT OF A LICENCE BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, HE CONTINUED, IT SHOULD HELP EASE THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN HONG KONG PARTICULARLY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

REGARDING THE POSITION OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF UNREGISTRABLE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN, AND STILL ARE, PERMITTED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE IN VARIOUS MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS, DR. FANG SAID: +MANY OF THESE PRACTITIONERS HAVE IN FACT BEEN SO EMPLOYED FOR MANY YEARS.+

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE WOULD LOOK FAVOURABLY UPON APPLICATIONS FROM THEM FOR A REDUCTION OF THE PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE.

DR. FANG ASKED FOR AN ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO UNDUE DELAY IN FINALISING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST SERIES OF EXAMINATIONS FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS ONCE THE BILL BECAME LAW.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR
DISABLED UNDER CONSIDERATION

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RESERVED SEATS AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE DISABLED ON BUSES, TRAMS, SURFACE TRAINS AND FERRIES, AS WELL AS PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS, BUS TERMINALS AND FERRY PIERS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING PARTY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE MEANS OF IMPROVING TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT AS MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS POSSIBLE AND, TO THIS END, IT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON ACCESS OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SYSTEM, AS AT PRESENT DESIGNED, SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THOSE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE WHO ARE REASONABLY MOBILE AND ABLE TO NEGOTIATE STAIRS AND ESCALATORS.

TO THIS END, HE ADDED, THE STATIONS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING LIFTS AT MTR STATIONS FOR THE USE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS HAS BEEN MOST EXHAUSTIVELY STUDIED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THAT THE MATTER HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED WITH UMELCO.

BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF COMPELLING REASONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE NEITHER PRACTICABLE, NOR IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HANDICAPPED THEMSELVES, TO PROVIDE SUCH FACILITIES, HE SAID.

THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT THE MTR WOULD BE A VERY HEAVILY USED SYSTEM AND THE DEGREE OF CONGESTION AND MOVEMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN THOSE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE WHO ARE COMPELLED TO USE LIFTS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF COPING WITH, +AND IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+A SECOND REASON IS THAT, DUE TO THE FACT THAT MOST STATIONS HAVE A CENTRAL PLATFORM, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE LIFTS DIRECT FROM GROUND LEVEL TO PLATFORMS.+

/THIS,

THIS, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD VERY CONSIDERABLY REDUCE ANY BENEFITS WHICH LIFTS WOULD PROVIDE TO THE HANDICAPPED.

GIVEN THE VERY DUBIOUS BENEFITS LIKELY TO RESULT FROM THE INSTALLATION OF LIFTS, THE THIRD REASON -- THE COST -- BECAME RELEVANT, HE ADDED.

+THE CORPORATION HAS ESTIMATED THAT TO INSTAL LIFTS AT STATIONS ON THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM ALONE COULD COST WELL OVER \$30 MILLION.

+THIS ADDITIONAL COST, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE MET FROM PUBLIC FUNDS, WOULD BE OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO THE BENEFIT CONFERRED,+ MR. JONES SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WONG, HE SAID THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CONSTRUCTION NOISE, PARTICULARLY FROM PERCUSSIVE PILING, ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAD BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED DURING THE PLANNING OF THE MTR.

+THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS REQUIRED THAT CONTRACTORS SHOULD TAKE ALL REASONABLE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NOISE OF THEIR PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, AND STRINGENT LIMITATIONS WERE PLACED ON THE NOISE FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M.

+CERTAIN LOCATIONS WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED AS BEING PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO NOISE= AND THE CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS RESTRICTED THE USE OF PERCUSSIVE PILING IN THESE PLACES TO THOSE TIMES OF THE DAY WHEN THEY WOULD LEAST AFFECT THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

FOR INSTANCE, HE ADDED, THE USE OF PERCUSSIVE PILING IS NOT PERMITTED CLOSE TO SCHOOLS DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

MR. JONES SAID PARTICULAR PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN IN CERTAIN AREAS SINCE THE WORK STARTED AND THESE HAVE HAD TO BE DEALT WITH ON THE SPOT AS THEY EMERGED.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID SCHOOLING IN MING YING COLLEGE AND HOLY TRINITY COLLEGE WAS UPSET BY THE PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF NOISE PRODUCED IN THE SHEK KIP MEI STATION BECAUSE OF THE USE OF HEAVY ROCK BREAKING PLANT.

+FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAS PROVIDED, AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, CERTAIN EQUIPMENT IN THE TWO SCHOOLS, INCLUDING AIR-CONDITIONING, VENTILATION FANS AND VOICE AMPLIFYING EQUIPMENT AND THIS IS CONSIDERABLY EASING THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

/MR. JONES

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MR. JONES ADDED: +ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE KWUN TONG AREA, WHERE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS JUST STARTING AND WHERE, BECAUSE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT NOISE PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAVE JOINTLY AGREED VARIOUS MEASURES BY WHICH IT IS HOPED TO REDUCE THE NOISE FROM PILING OPERATIONS IN PARTICULAR.+

THE MEASURES, HE SAID, SEEM TO BE HAVING A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT IN CONTAINING NOISE SO FAR.

+THE POSITION WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED AND FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE NECESSARY,+ HE ADDED.

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FACILITIES FOR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

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THE HON. ALEX WU TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT BEFORE FURTHER LABOUR LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW AND REASSESS THE PRIORITIES IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WOULD IN FUTURE BE ABLE TO ENJOY THEIR FREE TIME TO THE FULL AND AT REASONABLE COST.

SPEAKING ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976, WHICH AIMS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REST DAYS FOR WORKERS IN A YEAR FROM 48 TO 52, HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK THE REQUIREMENT TO IMPROVE THE HOME ENVIRONMENT OF OUR WORKERS, SINCE MANY IN THE UPPER AGE BRACKET MAY WELL PREFER TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME AT HOME.+

HOWEVER, MR. WU WENT ON, FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT WANT TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM USE OF INCREASED LEISURE HOURS, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED, PREPARED AND EXECUTED.

+THEIR POTENTIAL VALUE TO THE LABOUR FORCE -- PARTICULARLY THE YOUNGER ELEMENT WHICH FORMS SUCH A VERY LARGE PART OF IT -- MUST BE REALISTICALLY ASSESSED,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU MAINTAINED THAT THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE AND BALANCED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WAS AS MUCH A PART OF SOCIAL PROGRESS AS WAS THE PROVISION OF TIME TO ENJOY THEM. THIS WAS A VERY REAL PROBLEM, HE EMPHASISED.

+THE LEGISLATION WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING WILL QUITE CLEARLY HAVE ITS GREATEST EFFECT ON PEOPLE LIVING IN THE GROWING INDUSTRIAL TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID. +ONE NEEDS ONLY TO EXAMINE THE SPORTING FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN HUGE TOWNS LIKE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG TO SEE THE IMBALANCE OF THE SITUATION.+

+THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THE PROVISION FOR OTHER LEISURE PURSUITS. UNTIL NOW LIBRARY FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN GROSSLY INADEQUATE.+ HE ADDED.

MR. WU STRESSED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES IN TUEN MUN, TAI PO AND YUEN LONG MUST NOW PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, MUST ENSURE THAT THE FACILITIES AND AMENITIES PROVIDED WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL, MORE CONSCIOUS OF HIS CIVIC DUTIES.

+ALL THIS IS PART OF THE VISION, AS EXPRESSED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, OF A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER PERSONALITY TO THE FULL,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, SAID THAT THE FOUR EXTRA REST DAYS IN A YEAR COINCIDED WITH THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRACTICE OF PROVIDING ONE REST DAY A WEEK, EXCLUSIVE OF ANY STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

+SUCH PRACTICE AND SUCH PROVISION,+ HE ADDED, +ARE OF LONG-STANDING AND IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE FOR US TO FALL IN LINE WITH THE MODERN TRENDS OF UP-HOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROMOTING WORKERS' BENEFITS.+

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EFFECTS OF OFF-COURSE BETTING OFFICES
ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING RACKETS
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SOME INROADS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE INTO ILLEGAL GAMBLING RACKETS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFF-COURSE BETTING OFFICES AT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, HE SAID WITH OFF-COURSE BETTING FACILITIES READILY AND CONVENIENTLY AVAILABLE WITHIN THREE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT SOME PUNTERS WOULD BE ATTRACTED FROM PATRONISING ILLEGAL BOOK-MAKERS.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHETHER THESE OFFICES HAD HAD ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT IN COMBATTING ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN ESTATES IN VIEW OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF ESTATES INVOLVED AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAD ONLY BEEN IN OPERATION FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD.

+BY THEMSELVES THEY ARE ONLY ONE HALF THE ATTACK ON THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID. +THE OTHER HALF IS THE ATTACK ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO MOUNT WHEN IT HAS THE POWERS AND PENALTIES OF THE NEW GAMBLING BILL AT ITS DISPOSAL.+

MR. BRAY EMPHASISED THAT IN DEALING WITH THESE LONG ESTABLISHED AND DEEPLY ENTRENCHED RACKETS, +THE TWIN ARMS OF POLICY -- CONTROLLED BETTING CENTRES AND STRONGER POWERS SHOULD YIELD RESULTS.+

+I SHOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE MATTER AGAIN NEXT SUMMER AFTER NEW POWERS HAVE BEEN USED IN EARNEST,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WONG ON THE GENERAL REACTION OF RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TO THE SETTING UP OF OFF-COURSE BETTING OFFICES, MR. BRAY SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GENERALISE REACTION OF HOUSING ESTATE RESIDENTS ACROSS THE BOARD.

+THEY COMPRISE NEARLY HALF THE POPULATION AND THEIR REACTIONS ARE PROBABLY MUCH THE SAME AS ANYONE ELSE -- A PRETTY GOOD MIXTURE,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THREE BETTING OFFICES HAD BEEN SET UP IN HOUSING ESTATES AND THAT THEY HAD ALL BEEN WELL PATRONISED AND HAD NOT CAUSED COMPLAINT.

+ONE WAS PROPOSED FOR KO CHIU ROAD ESTATE AND WAS RESISTED,+ HE ADDED.

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FUTURE OF MAHJONG SCHOOLS
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THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE POLICY REGARDING MAHJONG SCHOOLS WILL DEPEND ON THE WAYS THINGS GO AFTER THE NEW GAMBLING BILL BECOMES LAW, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO ON MAHJONG SCHOOLS, HE SAID THE NEW BILL WOULD MAKE IT NO LONGER AN OFFENCE TO PLAY MAHJONG PUBLICLY IN LICENSED RESTAURANTS AND IN THE PREMISES OF LAWFUL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SEE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN THE POLICY ON MAHJONG SCHOOLS WHEN THE BILL HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME.

HE RECALLED THAT A POLICE SURVEY IN 1950 HAD REVEALED 39 MAHJONG HOUSES IN OPERATION.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS, WHICH WERE THEN USED AS MEETING PLACES BY TRIADS AND OTHER SORTS OF CRIMINALS, WERE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY FORM OF CONTROL, NOR WERE THEY REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT ANY FORM OF LICENCES, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED INITIALLY TO PROHIBIT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ALTOGETHER BUT LATER DECIDED TO LICENSE THEM BECAUSE, AS THE COLONIAL SECRETARY OF 1956 SAID, 'PROHIBITION OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD PUT A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS OUT OF WORK AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PREVENT ABUSES WHICH HAD ARISEN IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS BY A SYSTEM OF CONTROL THROUGH LICENSING',+ MR. BRAY SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LICENSING OF MAHJONG SCHOOLS HAD BROUGHT THEM UNDER BETTER CONTROL AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE OBJECT OF LICENSING HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

+MAHJONG WAS, AND STILL IS, A COMMON AND POPULAR GAME PLAYED BY MANY AND PROHIBITING SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD ONLY HAVE DRIVEN THEM UNDERGROUND AND INTO THE HANDS OF UNLAWFUL ELEMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 92 MAHJONG SCHOOLS IN OPERATION UNDER THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, MR. BRAY ADDED.

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SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR RETURNING H.K. RESIDENTS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING WAYS TO OVERCOME PRACTICAL PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AT THE AIRPORT IN A BID TO EXPEDITE IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE FOR RETURNING HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO THE HON. LI FOOK-WO WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING SEPARATE IMMIGRATION COUNTERS AT THE AIRPORT FOR HOLDERS OF HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS AND OTHER PASSPORT HOLDERS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS HONG KONG BELONGERS.

+AN EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED IN MAY SHOWED UP A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF THE ARRIVALS HALL, STAFF DEPLOYMENT AND COORDINATION WITH THE AIRLINES,+ MR. DAVIES SAID. +WAYS TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOW BEING STUDIED.+

HE HOPED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR RETURNING HONG KONG RESIDENTS SOME TIME NEXT YEAR.

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BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENT FEMALE OFFICERS
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SINGLE FEMALE OFFICERS, OR MARRIED FEMALE OFFICERS WHO ARE WIDOWED, DIVORCED, OR DEMONSTRABLY SEPARATED FROM THEIR HUSBANDS, RECEIVE THE SAME BENEFITS AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE ONLY CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WHICH MARRIED FEMALE OFFICERS DID NOT RECEIVE WERE THOSE FOR WHICH IN THIS COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY APPEARED GENERALLY TO REST WITH THE MALE SPOUSE AS HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

THESE ARE HOUSING BENEFITS, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILY MEDICAL BENEFITS AND, IN THE CASE OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS, FAMILY PASSAGE ALLOWANCES.

+IT IS NOT AT PRESENT CONSIDERED THAT, BEARING IN MIND THE APPARENT GENERAL VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY, AND PRACTICE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO EXTEND THESE CONDITIONS TO MARRIED FEMALE OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT DIVORCED OR WIDOWED OR DEMONSTRABLY SEPARATED,+ HE SAID.

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MORE LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR N.T.

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EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO PROVIDE MORE LIBRARY FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT THE LACK OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN TO HIM.

HOWEVER, HE WAS HAPPY TO SAY THAT +WE ARE NOW ON THE MOVE+.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL, MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED, HAD ACCEPTED A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF \$6 MILLION FOR FITTING OUT, FURNITURE AND BOOKS, AND EXPENDITURE OF \$4.4 MILLION ON VARIOUS RUNNING EXPENSES.

+THIS FINANCIAL YEAR WE ARE MAKING A START WITH TWO LIBRARIES IN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES, AT TAI PO AND SHEUNG SHUI,+ HE SAID. +TSUEN WAN ALREADY HAS A LIBRARY, BUT IT IS NOT NEARLY BIG ENOUGH, AND HERE AND IN THE OTHER NEW TOWNS, SOME EXPANSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE INTERIM BEFORE THE PLANNED LIBRARIES OF 12,000-16,000 SQ. FT. ARE COMPLETED IN 1980/81.+

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SMALLER BRANCH LIBRARIES, HE SAID, ALL PERMANENT FACILITIES WOULD INCLUDE STUDY ROOMS AS A COMPOSITE FEATURE.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID EVERY OPPORTUNITY WAS BEING TAKEN TO EARMARK MORE ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDY ROOMS -- FOR EXAMPLE IN HOUSING ESTATES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES.

IN ADDITION, HE ADDED THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH WAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A MORE PRECISE EXAMINATION OF THE NEED FOR STUDY ROOMS.

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HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN LOCAL OFFICERS BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING POSSIBLE METHODS OF ASSISTING OFFICERS WHO QUALIFY NEITHER FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING (THAT IS, ON SALARIES UP TO \$2,200 A MONTH) NOR FOR PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE (THAT IS, ON SALARIES OVER \$5,620 A MONTH).

THIS WAS STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

MR. CHEUNG ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF A GRADUATED HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR LOCAL OFFICERS WHO WERE BELOW THE SALARY POINT AT WHICH HOUSING ALLOWANCE WAS AT PRESENT PAYABLE.

+A HOUSING ALLOWANCE OF SOME KIND IS ONE OF THE METHODS BY WHICH ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE PROVIDED, AND IT IS BEING CONSIDERED ACCORDINGLY,+ MR. SCOTT ADDED.

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MORE TOLL BOOTHS FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL
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MORE TOLL BOOTHS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL EARLY NEXT YEAR TO COPE WITH THE STEADY INCREASE IN TRAFFIC USING THE TUNNEL.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG.

MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE BASIC PHYSICAL AND ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COLLECTION OF TOLLS AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

+THEY HAVE WORKED EFFICIENTLY SINCE THE TUNNEL WAS OPENED IN 1967 AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT WITH THE STEADY INCREASE IN TRAFFIC USING THE TUNNEL, THERE WERE CLEARLY NOT SUFFICIENT TOLL BOOTHS IN OPERATION TO COPE WITH THE FLOW DURING PEAK PERIODS.

MR. JONES SAID THAT TO OPERATE MORE BOOTHS WOULD REQUIRE EXTRA STAFF AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAD ALREADY MADE A REQUEST FOR THIS.

HE SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO EXPEDITE THIS REQUEST AND THAT HOPEFULLY, MORE TOLL BOOTHS WOULD BE IN OPERATION EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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ACCEPTANCE TESTS ON DESALTING PLANT EVAPORATORS
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD SAID TODAY THAT ACCEPTANCE TESTS ON THE SIX EVAPORATOR UNITS OF THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT SHOWED THAT ALL UNITS FULLY COMPLIED WITH THE STIPULATED REQUIREMENTS BOTH IN TERMS OF OUTPUT AND THERMAL EFFICIENCY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE FULL TECHNICAL REPORT ON THE TEST-RUNNING OF THE DESALTER HAD BEEN COMPLETED, AND WAS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE SPECIFICATION FOR THE PLANT MAINLY INVOLVED ACCEPTANCE TESTS OF SIX MONTHS' DURATION FOR EACH OF THE SIX EVAPORATOR AND BOILER UNITS.

+HOWEVER IN VIEW OF THE VERY FAVOURABLE WATER STORAGE POSITION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1975 WHEN THE TESTS WERE DUE TO COMMENCE AND IN ORDER TO CONSERVE FUEL, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH THE CONTRACTOR TO CARRY OUT THE FULL TESTS ON ONE UNIT ONLY AND CURTAILED TESTS, WITH BUILT-IN SAFEGUARDS, ON THE OTHER FIVE UNITS.

+CURTAILMENT OF THE TESTS PRODUCED A SAVING ON FUEL AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY \$60 MILLION AND A REDUCTION OF ABOUT \$430,000 ON THE CONTRACT PRICE BY THE ELIMINATION OF PART OF THE CONTRACTOR'S TEST SUPERVISION,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD.

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MORE RAIN GAUGES TO BE INSTALLED

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO INSTALL FIVE MORE SELF-RECORDING RAIN GAUGES IN SELECTED AREAS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE STABILITY OF SLOPES, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT, HE SAID THE GAUGES WOULD BE INSTALLED EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE NETWORK OF 32 ALREADY OPERATED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THESE RAIN GAUGES AND FROM OTHER INSTRUMENTS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE GROUND WILL ENABLE US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GROUND-WATER BEHAVIOUR IN HONG KONG SOILS AND TO REFINE EXISTING STABILITY-ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES TO SUIT LOCAL CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE INVESTIGATIONS, HE SAID, WOULD NOT IN THEMSELVES PROVIDE EARLY WARNING OF POSSIBLE SLOPE FAILURE.

+OTHER INSTRUMENTS, OF WHICH THERE ARE ALREADY MORE THAN 200 INSTALLED AT SOME 26 LOCATIONS, PROVIDE BY REGULAR MONITORING, EARLY WARNINGS OF POSSIBLE FAILURE BY MEASURING GROUND WATER PRESSURES AND SLOPE MOVEMENTS,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD.

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CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL

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AN AMENDMENT BILL WHICH SEEKS TO MAKE PERMANENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE ENABLING THE COURTS TO SUSPEND A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID THE PROVISIONS HAD BEEN IN FORCE FOR ALMOST SIX YEARS.

+EXPERIENCE DURING THAT TIME SHOWS THAT THE POWER TO SUSPEND A SENTENCE PROVIDES THE COURTS WITH A VALUABLE ALTERNATIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH SOME OFFENDERS,+ HE SAID. +THE CHIEF JUSTICE CONSIDERS THAT THE POWER SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE.+

THE PROVISIONS SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE PERMANENT LAW NOW THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ADEQUATE TRIAL PERIOD, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1976/77
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$54.8 MILLION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1976/77.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN MOVING THE MOTION, SAID THAT OF THIS SUM, \$47 MILLION WAS REQUIRED AS THE RESULT OF THE MORE RAPID THAN EXPECTED PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF EXISTING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND FOR FOUR PROJECTS RECENTLY UPGRADED TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS WOULD NOT RESULT IN A NET INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR AS OFFSETTING SAVINGS HAD BEEN FOUND UNDER OTHER SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS UNDER HEAD 50 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SUBHEAD 100 ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, HE POINTED OUT, HAD ALREADY APPROVED ALL ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULE.

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BILLS PASSED
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THREE BILLS PASSED THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976- THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976 AND THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY (HONG KONG BRANCH) BILL 1976, ALSO PASSED ITS COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

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MANAGEMENT'S SUPPORT NEEDED FOR MANPOWER TRAINING

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THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (INDUSTRIAL TRAINING), MR. HORACE KNIGHT, STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FOR MANPOWER TRAINING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IT MUST HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE TOP MANAGEMENT.

MR. KNIGHT WHO WAS SPEAKING AT THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION, PRIZE-GIVING AND CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY FOR 120 APPRENTICES OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY PRAISED THE MANAGEMENT FOR ITS FAR-SIGHTED DECISION TO RE-ORGANISE AND EXPAND ITS APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING BRANCH OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+IN SO DOING,+ HE POINTED OUT, +NOT ONLY IS THE COMPANY LESS DEPENDENT ON THE WHIMS OF THE SKILLED MANPOWER MARKET BUT IS ALSO ASSURED OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED MANPOWER OF A QUALITY NECESSARY TO COPE WITH INCREASING DEMAND RESULTING FROM ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY AND THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF MOTOR TRANSPORT.+

MR. KNIGHT SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE COMPANY'S TRAINING POLICY MATCHED WELL WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL.

HE ADDED THAT THE REPORT ON THE THIRD MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE INDUSTRY WHICH WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION INDICATED THAT THE INDUSTRY WOULD NEED TO TRAIN ANNUALLY 600 CRAFT APPRENTICES, 29 TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES AND SIX TECHNOLOGIST TRAINEES.

THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT AT THE COMPANY LEVEL, EMPLOYERS IN THE INDUSTRY SHOULD TRAIN ANNUALLY ONE TECHNOLOGIST FOR EVERY 11 EMPLOYED, ONE FOR FIVE TECHNICIANS AND ONE FOR 10 CRAFTSMEN.

TURNING TO THE APPRENTICES WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING AND THOSE WHO WERE GETTING SPECIAL PRIZES AT THE CEREMONY MR. KNIGHT URGED THEM TO CONTINUE TO WORK AND STUDY HARD.

HE SAID: +TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT REMAIN STATIC AND NO TECHNICAL PERSON, WHATEVER HIS LEVEL, CAN AFFORD TO STOP LEARNING OR BEING ALIVE TO NEW TECHNIQUES.

+TO ALL OF YOU, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER YOU HAVE COMPLETED OR JUST STARTED TRAINING, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO SET A GOAL FOR YOURSELF AND STRIVE AFTER IT WITH DETERMINATION AND WORK HARD.

+FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE DETERMINATION AND ARE WILLING TO WORK THE WAY UP THE TECHNICAL LADDER IS OPEN TO ALL,+ MR. KNIGHT ADDED.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE TURNED OFF BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO FACILITATE A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JAVA ROAD BETWEEN HEALTHY STREET EAST AND KING'S ROAD, HOUSE NO. 865 TO 971 KING'S ROAD, TONG CHONG STREET, HOI WAN STREET, HOI TAI STREET, HOI KWONG STREET AND FINNIE STREET, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS CO. LTD.

ALSO ON FRIDAY, CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE WITHOUT WATER SUPPLY FOR 10 HOURS FROM 8 P.M.

THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IS TO ENABLE WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE JUNCTION OF PO TUNG ROAD AND HIRAM'S HIGHWAY.

AFFECTED ARE PREMISES AT SAI KUNG TOWN, MAN YUE SUN CHUEN, SHA TSUI SUN CHUEN, TAN CHEUNG, KAP PIN LONG, SHA KOK MEI, LONG MEI, MUK MIN SHAN AND ALONG PO TUNG ROAD.

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