



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXCO APPROVES REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES

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A REVISED FRAMEWORK FOR REGULATING PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS FOLLOWED THE PUBLICATION OF A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT IN JUNE 1988 SETTING OUT PROPOSALS FOR A FRAMEWORK OF SELF-REGULATION BY EMPLOYERS, SCHEME MEMBERS, TRUSTEES, AUDITORS AND ACTUARIES WHICH WOULD ALLOW SCHEME BENEFICIARIES TO PROTECT THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

"THE ULTIMATE AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS CAN BE DELIVERED TO SCHEME MEMBERS UPON RETIREMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MORE THAN 50 SUBMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM PROFESSIONAL, COMMERCIAL AND EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS, DISTRICT BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER 1988.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BUT THE SUBMISSIONS INDICATED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF REGULATION AND FOR THE KEY PROVISIONS INCLUDING REGISTRATION OF ALL SCHEMES WITH AN AUTHORITY TO BE SET UP AS PART OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, ADEQUATE FUNDING, SEPARATION OF ASSETS, DISCLOSURE AND ANNUAL AUDIT.

THE REVISED FRAMEWORK REPRESENTS NO CHANGES TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF LARGELY TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

"LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS BASED ON THE REVISED FRAMEWORK ARE NOW BEING PREPARED. SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, IT IS HOPED TO INTRODUCE A BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * BAN ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EMPLOYER AS SOLE TRUSTEE -

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PLACED UPON THE APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF SCHEME BENEFICIARIES.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF IMPOSING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES AS THERE IS NO COMPELLING NEED TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF TRUSTEES TO BE APPOINTED.

/MOREOVER,

MOREOVER, THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE AGAINST FRAUDULENT BEHAVIOUR BY ANY TRUSTEE AND, IN THE EVENT OF MAJOR FRAUD, EVEN THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF A CORPORATE TRUSTEE MIGHT BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE COMFORT TO THE VICTIMS. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE REMEDIES AGAINST ANY BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES BY A TRUSTEE IN THE COMMON LAW.

THE ONLY RESTRICTION ON THE CHOICE OF TRUSTEE IS A BAN ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EMPLOYER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE AS THE SOLE TRUSTEE AND IT IS SEEN AS AN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF ABUSE. WITHOUT IT, THE OTHER KEY PROVISIONS, FOR EXAMPLE SEPARATION OF ASSETS AND ADEQUATE FUNDING, WOULD PROVE INEFFECTIVE.

* RESTRICTION ON SELF-INVESTMENT -

INVESTMENT IN THE EMPLOYER'S COMPANY OR RELATED COMPANY WILL BE LIMITED TO 10 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NET ASSETS OF THE RETIREMENT SCHEME. SELF-INVESTMENT, IF UNCHECKED, COULD UNDERMINE THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF ASSETS.

LOANS TO THE COMPANY OR RELATED COMPANY OR ANY DIRECTOR WILL BE BANNED. THIS FOLLOWS THE APPROACH IN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA.

AS A FURTHER SAFEGUARD, ANY INVESTMENT OF MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE SCHEME ASSETS IN THE SECURITIES OF A PARTICULAR COMPANY WILL NEED TO BE DISCLOSED TO SCHEME MEMBERS AS THIS WOULD REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE CONCENTRATION OF RISK.

* CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE -

THE TITLE OF THE "MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE" OF THE RETIREMENT SCHEME WILL BE CHANGED TO "CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE" TO REFLECT MORE CLEARLY ITS ADVISORY ROLE. THE COMMITTEE WILL SERVE AS A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION BETWEEN THE TRUSTEES AND SCHEME MEMBERS.

IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATION OF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE INTERESTS, EXCEPT WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE SCHEME MEMBERS HAVE VOTED NOT TO SET UP SUCH A COMMITTEE.

* SIMPLIFIED ROLE OF THE REGISTRATION AUTHORITY -

INSTEAD OF THE AUTHORITY ISSUING A MODEL TRUST DEED, THE LEGISLATION WILL LAY DOWN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE TRUST DEED AND CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS OF REGISTRATION.

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AS A RESULT, THE EMPLOYER, IN SUBMITTING THE SCHEME FOR REGISTRATION, WILL BE REQUIRED TO CERTIFY THAT THE TRUST DEED COMPLIES WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS WHILE THE TRUSTEES, IN THE ANNUAL RETURN, WILL BE REQUIRED TO CERTIFY THAT THE CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE, THE AUDITOR OF THE SCHEME WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE TRUSTEES IS CONSISTENT WITH THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS.

IN ESSENCE, THE BURDEN OF CHECKING COMPLIANCE WILL LIE WITH THE EMPLOYER'S PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS. THIS WILL RELIEVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE ONEROUS AND TIME-CONSUMING TASK OF EXAMINING IN DETAIL TRUST DOCUMENTS AND ANNUAL RETURNS. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN ADOPTED SUCCESSFULLY IN AUSTRALIA.

* TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS -

INSTEAD OF REQUIRING EMPLOYERS OPERATING RETIREMENT SCHEMES TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN 24 MONTHS OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION AND TO FUND VESTED LIABILITIES WITHIN A FURTHER THREE YEARS FROM THAT DATE, THE REVISED FRAMEWORK WILL ALLOW EMPLOYERS FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION TO COMPLY WITH THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION WILL REMAIN THE SAME. THIS IS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO APPLY FOR EARLY REGISTRATION AS EMPLOYERS WILL STILL HAVE A FULL FIVE YEARS IN WHICH TO MEET THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.

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PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP TO SUPPORT ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY DRIVES

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PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP WILL BE SOUGHT TO AUGMENT LOCAL ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY EFFORTS FROM NEXT YEAR, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), DR GERALD CHOA, SAID THIS WHEN HE MET THE MEDIA TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE INVITED ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS WITHOUT AFFECTING THE BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ACAN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS VOTE, WHICH HAD BEEN ALLOCATED \$1.3 MILLION FOR 1989-90.

"THIS WILL NOT ONLY PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF FUNDING TO PROMOTE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS BUT ALSO PROVIDE MORE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DRUG PROBLEM."

/DR CHOA

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DR CHOA SAID TWO MAJOR PROJECTS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND AGREED BY ACAN AS SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

"ONE IS A GRAND CONCERT TO BE STAGED AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM ON JULY 1, 1990.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE CONCERT WILL BE TWOFOLD: TO PUBLICISE THE MESSAGE 'ENJOY LIFE WITHOUT DRUGS' AND TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACAN.

"TO CREATE MAXIMUM IMPACT, A SERIES OF PRE-CONCERT ACTIVITIES WILL BE ORGANISED AND THE CONCERT WILL BE TELEVISED LIVE BY HK-TVB.

"THE SECOND PROJECT IS TO PRODUCE AN ANTI-NARCOTICS VIDEO TEACHING KIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

"PREVENTIVE EDUCATION HAS FORMED AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ANNUAL EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, IN THAT IT ARMS STUDENTS WITH THE CORRECT CONCEPT ABOUT DRUGS AND THEIR HARMFUL EFFECTS SO THAT THEY WILL NOT FALL PREY TO DRUG PEDDLERS.

"IN ADDITION TO SENDING STAFF TO SCHOOLS TO GIVE TALKS TO STUDENTS IN FORMS 1 TO 7, THE DIVISION HAS PROVIDED ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A REGULARLY-UPDATED DRUG EDUCATION TEACHING KIT WHICH COMPRISES SYNCHRONISED COLOUR SLIDES AND OTHER AUDIO AND VISUAL AIDS TO ASSIST TEACHERS IN CONDUCTING THEIR LESSONS ON THE SUBJECT.

"TO KEEP UP WITH IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXTENSIVE USE OF VIDEO MACHINES IN SCHOOLS, A VIDEO TEACHING KIT, TOGETHER WITH NECESSARY ANCILLARIES, WILL BE PRODUCED TO REPLACE THE SLIDE SHOW."

DR CHOA SAID THE NARCOTICS DIVISION WOULD APPROACH BIG CORPORATIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE BANKING SECTOR FOR SPONSORING THE TWO MAJOR PROJECTS.

HE URGED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FULLY SUPPORT ACAN AND THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF A DRUG FREE GENERATION IN HONG KONG.

TALKING ABOUT THE MAJOR PUBLICITY THEME THIS YEAR, DR CHOA SAID IT WOULD BE A CONTINUATION OF LAST YEAR'S ON WARNING YOUNGSTERS OF THE DANGERS OF ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND AROUSING PARENTAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE.

"A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES IS BEING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER.

"OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO PUBLICISE DRUG TRAFFICKING PENALTIES WITH EMPHASIS ON THE HEROIN PROBLEM," HE SAID.

/WHILE REVIEWING

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WHILE REVIEWING THE DRUG SITUATION IN 1988, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY, SAID THE YEAR SAW A CONTINUATION OF THE DOWNWARD TREND, WHICH BEGAN IN 1984, IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS NEWLY REPORTED TO THE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE.

"THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OF ALL AGES NEWLY REPORTED DECREASED BY 10.9 PER CENT TO 2,139 FROM 2,400 IN 1987.

"THE NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 DROPPED BY 5.3 PER CENT, FROM 717 TO 679.

"THERE ARE ABOUT 41,000 ACTIVE DRUG ABUSERS RECORDED IN THE REGISTRY. AMONG THEM, 96 PER CENT ARE HEROIN ADDICTS AND THE REMAINING FOUR PER CENT TAKE MAINLY MANDRAX AND CANNABIS," HE SAID.

MR MULLOY STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS REPORTED ABUSING CANNABIS, FROM 20 IN 1987 TO 106 IN 1988, THE SITUATION HAD NOT REACHED AN ALARMING LEVEL.

"PUBLICITY HAS, NEVERTHELESS, BEEN STEPPED UP AGAINST CANNABIS ABUSE IN RECENT MONTHS.

"A WARNING POSTER HAS BEEN PRODUCED AND POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY AT GOVERNMENT POSTER SITES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WHILE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST IS NEARING COMPLETION AND WILL BE SCREENED ON TELEVISION SHORTLY," HE SAID.

MR MULLOY WARNED THAT CANNABIS WAS A HALLUCINOGENIC PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG.

"EVEN OCCASIONAL USE CAN LEAD PEOPLE INTO DANGER BECAUSE IT CAN INDUCE DISTORTION OF TIME AND SPACE AND POOR JUDGEMENT AND CONCENTRATION.

"CONTINUOUS ABUSE MAY LEAD TO BRONCHITIS, CONJUNCTIVITIS AND POSSIBLE ORGANIC DAMAGE.

"MOST DANGEROUSLY IT CAN SERVE AS A GATEWAY OR INTRODUCTION TO HEROIN," HE ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID 1988 ALSO SAW SOME REMARKABLE SUCCESSES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

"A TOTAL OF 944 KILOGRAMS OF ILLICIT OPIATES, INCLUDING 625 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN AND 252 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 4 HEROIN, WERE SEIZED DURING THE YEAR.

"THE SEIZURES OF NO. 3 AND NO. 4 HEROIN WERE THE HIGHEST SINCE 1971, AND WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING SEIZURES IN 1987 THE INCREASE WAS 75 PER CENT AND 94 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY."

A TOTAL OF 6,413 TABLETS OF MANDRAX WERE SEIZED IN 1988, AGAINST 58,699 IN 1987, REFLECTING THAT THE PROBLEM OF MANDRAX HAD BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.

/FIFTY-FIVE

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FIFTY-FIVE KILOGRAMS OF CANNABIS WERE SEIZED DURING THE YEAR, COMPARED WITH 284 IN 1987, WHILE THE FIGURES UP TO APRIL THIS YEAR (337 KILOGRAMS) WERE ABOUT THE SAME OF THOSE FOR THE WHOLE OF 1987 AND 1988, MR MULLOY SAID.

"THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 29.3 PER CENT TO 7,547 IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR MAJOR DRUG OFFENCES IN 1988 WHILE THE FIGURES FOR MINOR DRUG OFFENCES FELL BY 25.9 PER CENT TO 3,839.

"THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR ALL DRUG OFFENCES SLIGHTLY INCREASED BY 2.7 PER CENT TO 11,560.

"PROSECUTION OF PERSONS AGED UNDER 21 ALSO SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1.3 PER CENT TO 782," MR MULLOY ADDED.

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STRATEGY TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL NT

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A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR GRAHAM BARNES.

KNOWN AS THE RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RPIS), ITS AIM IS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH UNPLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND THE LACK OF CONTROL, WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE TO URBAN SPRAWL, POLLUTION, FLOODING AND INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES.

THE RURAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE RPIS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$4 BILLION.

THESE INCLUDE FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES; IMPROVED VILLAGE ACCESS AND ROAD MAINTENANCE; IMPROVED SEWERAGE, WATER SUPPLY AND WASTE COLLECTION; FORMED AND SERVICED LAND FOR THE EXPANSION OF VILLAGES; AND PROVISION OF SITES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

ANOTHER COMPONENT OF THE STRATEGY WILL BE AN EFFICIENT STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN PLANNING AND LAND CONTROL, AND TO CO-ORDINATE RURAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

MR BARNES SAID THE RPIS WOULD REQUIRE A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG THE GOVERNMENT, LAND OWNERS AND PRIVATE DEVELOPERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND DRAW UP PLANS FOR APPROPRIATE LAND USE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAND, MOST OF WHICH IS PRIVATELY OWNED.

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"A LOT THEN DEPENDS ON PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND WHETHER THE LAND IS USED IN WAYS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING AREA," MR BARNES SAID.

OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSULTING VARIOUS INTERESTED GROUPS FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE RPIS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ARE WELCOME TO WRITE TO THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE JULY 31.

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PROPER USE OF AIR-CONDITIONERS URGED

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PROPER INSTALLATION AND REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF AIR-CONDITIONERS WILL NOT ONLY ABATE NUISANCES SUCH AS DRIBBLING AND EMISSION OF EXCESSIVE NOISE AND HEAT BUT WILL ALSO SAVE COSTS IN REPAIRS IN THE LONG RUN.

THE ADVICE COMES FROM THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH IN VIEW OF THE GROWING USE OF AIR-CONDITIONERS IN SUMMER.

STARTING THIS MONTH, THE UNIT HAS LAUNCHED A TERRITORY-WIDE "1989 GET YOUR AIR-CONDITIONERS READY FOR THE SUMMER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN" TO ALERT THE PUBLIC OF THE POSSIBLE SANITARY NUISANCES ARISING FROM THE IMPROPER INSTALLATION OR MAINTENANCE OF AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS.

AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN, A 24-HOUR HEALTH EDUCATION TELEPHONE HOTLINE, 3-7230013, HAS BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PREVENTION OF NUISANCES FROM THE VENTILATING SYSTEM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE SUBJECT MAY LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER LISTENING TO THE TAPED INFORMATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNIT SAID DRIBBLING FROM AN AIR-CONDITIONER COULD BE AVOIDED IF A WATER BASIN WAS FIXED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MACHINE TO COLLECT WATER, AND THEN DIVERTING IT TO A CONTAINER OR THE OPENING OF A DRAINAGE THROUGH A PIPE.

"TO REDUCE THE EMISSION OF NOISE, RUBBER TUBING FILLING THE SPACE BETWEEN A WINDOW TYPE AIR-CONDITIONER AND THE WINDOW FRAMES WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE OF A CUSHION.

"SOUND-PROOF AND HEAT-PROOF MATERIALS SHOULD BE USED FOR LARGE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS," HE CONTINUED.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EXCESSIVE GREASE AND DUST ACCUMULATED IN THE EXHAUST FAN WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SHAFT TO MOVE PROPERLY.

"FRICTION CAN BE REDUCED AND NOISE NUISANCES MINIMISED BY ALWAYS KEEPING THE EXHAUST FAN CLEAN AND BY APPLYING LUBRICATION OIL TO IT REGULARLY." HE ADDED.

HE CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN CHOOSING AN AIR-CONDITIONER.

"BESIDES THE PRICE AND THE THERMAL UNITS, OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED ARE WHETHER THE UNIT IS OF A LESS NOISY TYPE AND WHETHER IT MAY DRIBBLE."

UNDER CHAPTER 132 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO CAUSE NUISANCES SUCH AS DRIBBLING AND EMISSION OF EXCESSIVE NOISE OR HEAT FROM AIR-CONDITIONERS, AND THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$10,000.

THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT HAS PRODUCED LEAFLETS OUTLINING SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES ON CHOOSING, INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING AN AIR-CONDITIONER.

THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MANAGEMENT OFFICES OF LARGE PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES, AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITH AIR-CONDITIONED SHOPPING ARCADES; RESTAURANTS; HOTELS; MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES; AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO APPEALED TO SUPPLIERS OF AIR-CONDITIONERS SUGGESTING THEM TO ATTACH A LEAFLET TO THE BILL OR WARRANTY FOR CUSTOMERS' INFORMATION.

THE LEAFLETS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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'OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND YOU' EXHIBITIONS, SEMINAR
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A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK WILL BE HELD IN FOUR COMMERCIAL SHOPPING CENTRES IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND TUEN MUN STARTING FROM SATURDAY (MAY 6).

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HARBOUR JAYCEES, AND SPONSORED BY WAH KIU YAT PO.

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"IT IS INTENDED TO GIVE THE PUBLIC A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES, AS WELL AS THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FIRST EXHIBITION, TO BE OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI BETWEEN SATURDAY (MAY 6) AND MONDAY.

IT WILL THEN MOVE TO THE CHINA HONG KONG CITY, TSIM SHA TSUI (FROM MAY 9 TO 14); TO THE EMPIRE CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST (FROM MAY 15 TO 21); AND TO THE TUEN MUN CITY PLAZA, TUEN MUN (FROM MAY 22 TO 28).

"APART FROM INTRODUCING SOME COMMON OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRY, SUCH AS SILICOSIS, ASBESTOS AND DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, THE EXHIBITIONS WILL ALSO COVER HAZARDS TO OFFICE WORKERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THESE INCLUDE NOISE POLLUTION, WORK STRESS, EFFECTS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS AND OTHER HAZARDS PRESENT IN AN OFFICE ENVIRONMENT."

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS AND MEDICAL STAFF FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ON SATURDAY, A SEMINAR ENTITLED "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND YOU" WILL BE HELD AT THE LECTURE HALL OF THE HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM BETWEEN 3 PM AND 5.30 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG WORKERS HEALTH CENTRE AND THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SPEAK ON THE EFFECTS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS, OFFICE ENVIRONMENT, STRESS AND THE EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE SEMINAR WILL PROVIDE A FORUM FOR PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE WITH THE SPEAKERS' USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS ABOUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 2 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 6).

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CONSULTATION ON FORMATION OF AREA COMMITTEES

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TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE CONSULTED ABOUT THE FORMATION OF AREA COMMITTEES IN THE AREA AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ACCORDING TO A PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, STARTING FROM JUNE 1, FOUR AREA COMMITTEES WILL BE FORMED TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS AS WELL AS TO FACILITATE MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES IN COMMUNITY BUILDING.

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON TWO CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS. THEY ARE THE "LOCAL CRAFT SAFETY AND CONTROL" AND THE "HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH REPORT ON ANTI-SMOKING".

AT THE SAME TIME, THE REPORT OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE POSITION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES, WILL BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ANTI-SMOKING PROPOSALS

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON ANTI-SMOKING PROPOSALS.

MEMBERS WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON A PACKAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH REGARDING THE RESTRICTION OF USE, SALE AND ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PRESENT PROVISION AND LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN KWUN TONG.

/IN ADDITION

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IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER THE WORK PLAN FOR 89/90, ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY, AND PLANS FOR THE FIRST YOUTH FESTIVAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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SAI KUNG COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BUS ROUTE PROGRAMME

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE SETTLED BUS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 1989-90 IN RESPECT OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

THE SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER/NEW TERRITORIES EAST OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR CHARLES LAU, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF BUS SERVICES IN JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AND THE BUS ROUTES BETWEEN SAI KUNG AND SHA TIN DISTRICTS.

ANOTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY SLOW TRAFFIC AT THE STEEP SLOPE NEAR PIK UK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 10 AM.

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DB CULTURE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR HOLDING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS ON ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES, LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL START AT 3 PM.

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SITE VISIT BY TSUEN WAN BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (IBMCC) INSPECTED THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO ONE OF THE TARGET BUILDINGS IN TSUEN WAN TODAY (THURSDAY).

A TOTAL OF SIX INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN TARGETTED FOR IMPROVEMENT BY THE TSUEN WAN IBMCC.

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP EARLIER THIS YEAR TO SPEED UP CO-ORDINATION OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL ACTION AIMED AT UPGRADING THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE TARGET BUILDINGS AS WELL AS THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF NEARBY DOMESTIC DWELLINGS.

THE ACTING TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SANDY HO, WHO HEADS THE IBMCC, SAID THE COMMON PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN THESE BUILDINGS WERE CHOKAGE OF UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE, UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS, PUNCTURED CHIMNEYS, OBSTRUCTIONS TO FIRE ESCAPES AND LACK OF MAINTENANCE.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO STIMULATE A MORE EFFECTIVE SELF-HELP PROCESS AMONG THE OWNERS," MISS HO SAID.

"SO FAR, THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING AS GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT CAN BE OBSERVED IN SOME OF THESE BUILDINGS," SHE SAID.

TAKING PART IN TODAY'S VISIT WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH VISITS CLINICS IN KOWLOON

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THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S. H. LEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE YUNG FUNG SHEE MEMORIAL CENTRE AND LAM TIN POLYCLINIC IN KOWLOON TO SEE THE OPERATION OF THE TWO CLINICS AND TO GET TO KNOW THE STAFF.

THE VISITS WERE THE FIRST OF A SERIES SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT.

DURING HIS STAY, DR LEE WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATION OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE TWO INSTITUTIONS. HE ALSO HAD USEFUL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THE STAFF.

DR LEE DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS CONSTRUCTIVE, ADDING "IT NOT ONLY ENABLED ME TO EXPLAIN THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT, BUT ALSO PROVIDED ME WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK TO THE FRONT-LINE STAFF WORKING IN THE CLINICS AND TO UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS AT FIRST-HAND."

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN KWUN TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 6), TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWUN TONG.

YEE ON STREET BETWEEN HONG NING ROAD AND TUNG MING STREET; AND TUNG MING STREET BETWEEN YEE ON STREET AND NGAU TAU KOK ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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

MEANWHILE, THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUNG MING STREET SECTION BETWEEN HANG ON STREET AND YEE ON STREET; YEE ON STREET SECTION BETWEEN HONG NING ROAD AND TUNG MING STREET; AND TUNG MING STREET BETWEEN YEE ON STREET AND NGAU TAU KOK ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS PUBLIC LIGHT BUS URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

WITHIN THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS URBAN CLEARWAYS ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS.

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