



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXCHANGE FUND USED RESPONSIBLY, DECISIVELY -- SIR JOHN
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HONG KONG HAS COME THROUGH A ROUGH FOUR YEARS OF BANKING PROBLEMS WITH MINIMUM REAL TROUBLE BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS USED THE POWERS AVAILABLE TO IT, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE FUND, RESPONSIBLY, PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN RESPONSE TO RECENT REQUESTS FROM SOME MEMBERS FOR CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE USE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND TO SUPPORT TROUBLED LOCAL BANKS.

EXPLAINING THE LEGAL BACKGROUND TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN THIS FIELD, SIR JOHN SAID THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR A SEPARATE LEGAL REGIME IN RESPECT OF THE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND. THIS ORDINANCE PREDATED THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE AND CONSTITUTED AN EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT MONIES RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHALL FORM PART OF THE GENERAL REVENUE.

SIR JOHN POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 3(1) OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE CLEARLY REQUIRES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO CONSIDER MATTERS THAT MAY AFFECT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG CURRENCY.

+THE USE OF THE WORDS 'AFFECT' AND 'INDIRECTLY' ENABLE ME TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE USE, OR THE FAILURE TO USE, THE FUND, BUT ALSO SECOND-ORDER CONSEQUENCES, THE SO-CALLED 'KNOCK-ON' EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

THUS, HE ADDED, +IF I BELIEVE, HAVING CONSIDERED ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, THAT FAILURE TO USE THE EXCHANGE FUND TO SUPPORT A BANK MAY, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, THEN I AM WITHIN MY POWERS TO ACT. INDEED I HAVE A DUTY TO DO SO.+

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THE RESERVES OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, IN CONNECTION WITH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WITH REGARD TO THE BANKING ORDINANCE AND THE EXCHANGE FUND RESPECTIVELY, FORMED A LENDER OF LAST RESORT -- A QUASI CENTRAL BANK AS EXISTED IN MANY OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD.

SUCH AN INSTITUTION +MUST BE READY WHEN ESSENTIAL TO CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BANKS IF AND WHEN THEY RUN INTO PROBLEMS+, SIR JOHN SAID, STRESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

RECALLING THE EVENTS OF 1983, SIR JOHN SAID IT WAS HIS JUDGEMENT THAT, IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RESCUED HANG LUNG BANK AT THAT TIME, OTHER BANKS COULD HAVE COLLAPSED AND OTHER IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN SET AT TOTAL RISK.

/+MOREOVER, SUCH

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+MOREOVER, SUCH PROBLEMS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN CONTAINED WITHIN HONG KONG AND WE HAVE TO HAVE REGARD FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. IN MY VIEW, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME, NOT ONLY WOULD THE CURRENCY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE COLLAPSED ALTOGETHER,+ SIR JOHN ADDED.

SIMILARLY, SIR JOHN POINTED OUT, +IF KA WAH BANK HAD COLLAPSED LAST SUMMER AT THE SAME TIME AS OTB THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS DOMINO EFFECT ON OTHER SMALL BANKS AND THE INTERBANK SYSTEM. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE HAD A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.+

SIR JOHN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED BY LAW ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE BANKING COMMISSIONER FOR DEALING WITH BANKING PROBLEMS COULD NOT BE SHARED MORE WIDELY FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST WAS THE NEED FOR BANKING SECRECY, WHICH WAS NOT UNIQUE TO HONG KONG BUT REFLECTED NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. THE SECOND WAS THE NEED FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND PROMPTLY, DECISIVELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY WHEN PROBLEMS AROSE.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INVOLVED IN THE HANG LUNG AND OTB TAKEOVERS NOT BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE MONEY, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN ARRANGED UNDER THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE, BUT BECAUSE SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO EXPROPRIATE PRIVATE ASSETS WAS REQUIRED. +SUCH ACTION HAS NOT SINCE BEEN NECESSARY. I HOPE IT NEVER WILL BE AGAIN,+ SIR JOHN SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE THE DIFFICULT RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING MANAGEMENT FOR THE BANKS THAT IT OWNS.

TURNING TO THE SCOPE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, SIR JOHN DISCLOSED THAT +IT CONTAINS THE MAJOR PART OF HONG KONG'S VISIBLE RESERVES -- SAY \$19 BILLION -- PLUS THE NOTE AND COIN BACKING -- SAY ANOTHER \$19 BILLION.+

HE SAID THIS FUND HAD BEEN WELL MANAGED FOR MANY YEARS AND CONSIDERABLE SURPLUSES HAD CONSEQUENTLY BEEN BUILT UP.

+THE COST OF ACQUIRING HANG LUNG AND OTB HAS ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN OFF IN THE EXCHANGE FUND ACCOUNTS AND, EVEN IF WE WERE TO TAKE A 'WORST CASE' VIEW OF EVERY OTHER COMMITMENT INTO WHICH THE FUND HAS ENTERED IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO BANKS -- AND THIS IN MY VIEW WOULD BE OVERLY PESSIMISTIC -- THE SUM INVOLVED WOULD STILL BE LESS THAN HALF OF THE GROWTH OF THESE INNER RESERVES IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THERE WERE THUS NO GROUNDS FOR CONCERN THAT THE RESERVES WERE BEING USED UP IN SUPPORT OF TROUBLED LOCAL BANKS. INDEED, SIR JOHN SAID, +THE HOLDING OF LARGE RESERVES WOULD BE PURPOSELESS IF THE ECONOMY HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A DESERT BY OBSTINATE REFUSAL TO USE THOSE VERY RESERVES WHICH WE HAD PRUDENTLY MADE AVAILABLE FOR JUST SUCH A PURPOSE.+

/SIR JOHN

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SIR JOHN EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT EACH CASE WAS DIFFERENT AND MUST BE HANDLED ON AN AD HOC BASIS. +NO BANKER AND CERTAINLY NO SHAREHOLDER IN A LOCAL BANK SHOULD BE LULLED INTO AN IMPRUDENT BELIEF THAT IF HE GETS INTO TROUBLE EXCHANGE FUND SUPPORT IS NEVITABLE,+ HE WARNED.

HE ADDED THAT +THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL NOT AGREE THAT GOVERNMENT MONEY SHOULD KNOWINGLY BE PUT IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO CANNOT BE TRUSTED.+

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, SIR JOHN ATTRIBUTED HONG KONG'S BANKING PROBLEMS TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS, INCLUDING A SUPERFLUITY OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, THE ENDING OF THE MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUE OF BANKING LICENCES, CLEAR INSTANCES OF MALFEASANCE AND CORRUPTION, THE PROPERTY BUST, VARIOUS RECENT DEVELOPING PROBLEMS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND A FAIR DEGREE OF INCOMPETENT BANK MANAGEMENT.

HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY REQUIRED STRENGTHENING. +OTHERWISE WE WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERING WITH URGENCY A NEW BANKING BILL,+ HE SAID.

SIR JOHN ADDED THAT HE KNEW OF NO MORE IMPORTANT TASK FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THAN TO COMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF THE BANKING BILL AND GET IT ON TO THE STATUTE BOOK.

FINALLY, SIR JOHN SAID THAT THE NEW BANKING BILL INCLUDED PROVISION FOR AN ANNUAL REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER THROUGH THE BANKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. +WITH THEIR APPROVAL THE REPORT CAN THEN BE PUBLISHED ANNUALLY. THIS MIGHT WELL BE TIMED JUST BEFORE EACH YEAR'S BUDGET DEBATE AND PRODUCE A FORM OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN THIS VERY SENSITIVE AREA,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNOR INTENDED IN DUE COURSE TO APPOINT TWO ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL MEMBERS TO THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ONE OF WHOM WOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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TWO-STAGE REORGANISATION OF LANDS AND WORKS
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THE REORGANISATION OF THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP WILL INVOLVE THE FORMATION OF THREE NEW DEPARTMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CHANGES WOULD TAKE PLACE IN TWO STAGES, MR CHAN SAID IN MOVING A MOTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE REORGANISATION.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE FIRST STAGE WOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 11). THIS STAGE COVERED THE FORMATION OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. AS A RESULT OF THIS, THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD CEASE TO EXIST.

MR CHAN CONTINUED: +THE SECOND STAGE, WHICH IT IS PROPOSED SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, INVOLVES THE FORMATION OF A HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INTO A CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+TO ENABLE THE NEW DIRECTORS OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AND THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ASSUME THEIR ROLES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 11, CERTAIN STATUTORY POWERS NEED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THEM.+

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FLEXIBILITY SOUGHT FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENT
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A BILL SEEKING TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE DEPENDANTS OF A PNEUMOCONIOSIS VICTIM WHO DIED FROM A CAUSE OTHER THAN PNEUMOCONIOSIS, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID REQUIREMENT UNDER THE PRESENT ORDINANCE WAS +UNNECESSARILY STRICT+.

WHILE THE EXISTING ORDINANCE REQUIRED THAT A MEDICAL BOARD CERTIFICATE BE ISSUED BEFORE COMPENSATION COULD BE PAID, WHAT WAS REALLY NEEDED WAS SIMPLE PROOF THAT THE DEPENDANTS WERE CLAIMING COMPENSATION ON BEHALF OF A PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERER WHOSE MEDICAL CONDITION PRIOR TO DEATH WOULD HAVE JUSTIFIED ISSUE BY THE MEDICAL BOARD OF A CERTIFICATE.

+ACCORDINGLY, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE DEPENDANTS OF A PNEUMOCONIOSIS VICTIM WHO DIES FROM A CAUSE OTHER THAN PNEUMOCONIOSIS TO CLAIM COMPENSATION ON HIS BEHALF, WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO THE MEDICAL BOARD FOR EXAMINATION BEFORE HIS DEATH, AND WHETHER OR NOT A CERTIFICATE HAD BEEN ISSUED BY THE BOARD BEFORE HIS DEATH,+ HE SAID.

/COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION WOULD BE PAID PROVIDED THAT SUFFICIENT MEDICAL EVIDENCE WAS AVAILABLE BEFORE DEATH TO ENABLE THE BOARD TO DETERMINE THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY THAT HAD RESULTED FROM THE DISEASE.

+FORTUNATELY, THERE HAD BEEN NO CASES SO FAR WHERE THE DEPENDANTS HAD FAILED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A RESULT OF THE RIGIDITY OF THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE BILL HAS BEEN DRAFTED SO AS TO PERMIT CLAIMS WHERE THE DEATH OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS VICTIM OCCURRED BEFORE ITS ENACTMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE DEATH OCCURRED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1981, THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE.+

MR HENDERSON SAID THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$750.6 MILLION

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A SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$750.6 MILLION WAS APPROVED FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE 1985-86 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OF THIS SUM, \$518.8 MILLION WAS INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTARY WARRANTS, SIR JOHN SAID IN TABLING A SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

HE SAID: +NET SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$423 MILLION WAS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT TO THE MASS TRANSIT FUND TO ENABLE THE PROCEEDS OF A DEBT REPAYMENT BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION TO BE SET ASIDE TOWARDS AN EQUITY INJECTION OF \$1 000 MILLION FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IN 1987-88.

+OTHER SUMS OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED HAVE BEEN OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES AND THESE INCLUDED \$210 MILLION FOR PAYMENT OF OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT AS ADVISED BY THE COUNSEL FOR THE CROWN AND \$40.7 MILLION FOR ADJUSTMENTS OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES FOR JUDICIARY AND ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE+.

/SIR JOHN

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SIR JOHN SAID APPROVED COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$213.6 MILLION DURING THE PERIOD AND NEW COMMITMENTS OF \$1 044.7 MILLION WERE ALSO APPROVED.

HE NOTED THAT ITEMS IN THIS SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

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EAST KOWLOON TRAFFIC GROWTH NEEDS BEING STUDIED
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE NECESSARY HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH-EAST AND EAST KOWLOON WHERE THE SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING AND A TUNNEL LINKING DIAMOND HILL AND SHA TIN WOULD ATTRACT ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON DANIEL TSE, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE PRECISE DETAILS OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING ASSESSED BY THE EAST KOWLOON TRAFFIC STUDY BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CONSULTANTS PROVIDED BY THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING CONSORTIUM.

+THIS STUDY, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, HAS A DESIGN YEAR OF 1996,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY, HE ADDED, WAS TO CONSIDER A GRADE-SEPARATED ROAD CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO TUNNELS, AND ALSO THE MORE PRESSING NEED TO MAKE LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ROADS IN THE AREA BETWEEN DIAMOND HILL AND KWUN TONG SO AS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO BOTH TUNNELS.

+THE WONG TAI SIN AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM IT,+ HE ADDED.

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DISCUSSION PAPER SOON ON BILINGUAL LAW DRAFTING
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A DISCUSSION PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS MONTH WILL IDENTIFY SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND CANVASS A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE APPROACHES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN IN BILINGUAL LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND TRANSLATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM, MR THOMAS SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE THREE CHINESE LAWYERS AND NINE SENIOR CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS IN THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION OF THE CHAMBERS WHO WERE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT.

/+FOUR MORE

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+FOUR MORE CHINESE LAWYERS ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE DIVISION IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO. A FURTHER NINE SENIOR CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS ARE LIKELY TO BE RECRUITED DURING THIS SUMMER,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THESE NUMBERS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE THE DIVISION TO BEGIN THE WORK OF BILINGUAL LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND TRANSLATION IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WHETHER THEY WOULD PROVE SUFFICIENT FOR THE FUTURE, MR THOMAS SAID, IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY. HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT NEW GROUND WAS BEING BROKEN AND THERE WERE MANY ISSUES THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED.

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GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ELDERLY TO GET DENTAL TREATMENT
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SPECIAL GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO MEET THE COST OF DENTURES AND FILLINGS AND THAT WAS THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY OF ASSISTING ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GET DENTAL TREATMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE DENTAL THERAPISTS SCHEME TO ELDERLY PERSONS, MR CHAMBERS SAID: +THE ELDERLY FREQUENTLY NEED CURATIVE DENTAL TREATMENT OF A KIND WHICH DENTAL THERAPISTS ARE NOT TRAINED TO PROVIDE.+

THE DENTAL THERAPISTS SCHEME WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING A PREVENTIVE DENTAL CONSERVATION SERVICE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO WERE AT AN AGE WHEN MAXIMUM BENEFIT COULD BE DERIVED FROM SUCH A SERVICE.

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BENCH SEEKS MORE CANTONESE SPEAKERS

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BOTH THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR MORE CANTONESE SPEAKERS ON THE BENCH AND VARIOUS STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ATTRACT THEM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, SIR DAVID SAID: +IN THE CASE OF MAGISTRATES, SINCE 1981 IT HAS BEEN STIPULATED IN ADVERTISEMENTS THAT CANTONESE-SPEAKING CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT FULLY MEET THE NORMAL APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENTS OF BEING AT LEAST 40 YEARS OLD AND HAVING AT LEAST 10 YEARS' PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SINCE ADMISSION MIGHT ALSO APPLY.

+THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE CANDIDATES WERE FURTHER RELAXED TO 30 YEARS OF AGE AND FIVE YEARS' PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN 1984.+

SIR DAVID SAID THESE MEASURES HAD HELPED. TWO CANTONESE-SPEAKING CANDIDATES WERE APPOINTED AS MAGISTRATES BETWEEN 1981 AND 1984 AND, FOLLOWING FURTHER RELAXATION OF THE AGE AND EXPERIENCE CRITERIA, ANOTHER SIX SUCH APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE IN 1985.

AS FOR JUDGES, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD BEEN THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TO FILL VACANCIES WITH CANTONESE-SPEAKING CANDIDATES WHERE POSSIBLE.

+IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, SIX CANTONESE-SPEAKING DISTRICT JUDGES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED, FIVE OF WHOM WERE PROMOTED FROM WITHIN THE JUDICIARY.

+IN ADDITION, A CANTONESE-SPEAKING DISTRICT JUDGE WAS APPOINTED A JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT,+ HE NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT DIRECT APPROACHES HAD ALSO BEEN MADE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

ELABORATING ON THIS, SIR DAVID SAID: + THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT, HAS ADVISED THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE LAW SOCIETY THAT THE JUDICIARY IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER, AT ANY TIME, LOCAL BARRISTERS OR SOLICITORS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN BECOMING MAGISTRATES OR JUDGES.

+SIMILARLY, THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT, HAVE ALSO WRITTEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION TO SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEING APPOINTED TO THE BENCH.+

/HE SAID

HE SAID A FEW REPLIES WERE RECEIVED FROM PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE MAGISTRATES OR HONG KONG DISTRICT COURTS.

+SOME OF THEM WILL BE GIVEN APPOINTMENTS IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS FOR A TRIAL PERIOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR WISHES. A FEW OTHERS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT COURTS ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT,+ HE SAID.

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GAS ALERT SYSTEM LEGISLATION NOT NECESSARY
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AS HONG KONG ALREADY FOLLOWED THE INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE OF ALERTING THE PUBLIC OR GAS CONSUMERS TO THE EXISTENCE OF A GAS LEAK, IT IS NOT THE INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE FOR THE USE OF GAS DETECTOR WARNING SYSTEMS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW WONG, MR CHAN SAID TO BE EFFECTIVE SUCH SYSTEMS HAD TO BE RELIABLE AND BECAUSE OF THE HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY REQUIRED THEY NEEDED MORE EXPERT REGULAR MAINTENANCE THAN THE AVERAGE GAS CONSUMER COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE.

+THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED METHOD OF ALERTING THE PUBLIC OR GAS CONSUMERS TO THE EXISTENCE OF A GAS LEAK IS TO ADD A DISTINCTIVE ODOUR TO THE GAS, BE IT TOWN GAS, LPG OR SUBSTITUTE NATURAL GAS, SO THAT IT CAN BE EASILY DETECTED BY A PERSON WITH A NORMAL SENSE OF SMELL AT A CONCENTRATION WELL BELOW THAT AT WHICH IT CAN IGNITE AND BURN OR EXPLODE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THIS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE WAS FOLLOWED IN HONG KONG.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SYSTEM WORKING WELL
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THE PAYMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE COULD BE DELIVERED TO A RECIPIENT'S HOME OR IT COULD BE COLLECTED BY AN AUTHORISED AGENT ON BEHALF OF THE RECIPIENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF PAYING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES THROUGH CASH ORDER BOOKS AT POST OFFICES WORKED WELL.

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+PAYMENT COULD BE MADE FROM 82 POST OFFICES, SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND FOUR TREASURY OFFICES, HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT CAUSED NO PROBLEMS TO RECIPIENTS AND ENABLED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO VARY OR STOP PAYMENTS WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MRS NG ON WHY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES COULD NOT LIKE OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES, BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO RECIPIENTS' BANK ACCOUNTS, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TWO WERE FLAT RATE ALLOWANCES GENERALLY PAID ON A FAIRLY LONG-TERM BASIS.

+THEREFORE PAYMENT CAN CONVENIENTLY BE MADE DIRECTLY INTO RECIPIENTS' BANK ACCOUNTS EVERY MONTH,+ HE SAID.

+PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A PAYMENT TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HOUSEHOLD'S RESOURCES AND THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL APPROPRIATE TO THE HOUSEHOLD'S CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE ADDED.

THE AMOUNT PAYABLE WAS QUITE LIKELY TO VARY FROM MONTH TO MONTH IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN THE HOUSEHOLD'S INCOME OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR CHAMBERS SAID 77 PER CENT OF THE 62 000 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES ON HAND WERE CONSIDERED LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT TO PAYMENT VARIATIONS, WHILE AN AVERAGE OF 1 500 CASES PER MONTH WOULD HAVE PAYMENTS STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.

+NOT ALL BANKS MAY BE ABLE TO RESPOND WITH SUFFICIENT SPEED TO INSTRUCTIONS TO STOP OR VARY PAYMENTS TO ENSURE THAT RECIPIENTS ARE PAID THE AMOUNTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED,+ HE SAID.

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NO CHANGE IN POLICY FOR PHILIPPINE ARRIVALS
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THE IMMIGRATION POLICY IN RESPECT OF PERSONS ARRIVING FROM THE PHILIPPINES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG, HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED AND NORMALLY INVOLVED ROUTINE CHECKS AND QUESTIONING BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THERE WERE INSTANCES WHEN SUCH ARRIVALS WERE QUESTIONED MORE THOROUGHLY THAN USUAL, AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE CONFUSED SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY.

/REPLYING TO

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DAVID LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR THOMAS SAID IT CONTINUED TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT CONTROL POINTS TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT PASSENGERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES MET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

+WHERE AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER COULD NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND WHETHER A PASSENGER ARRIVING FROM THE PHILIPPINES MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT OVERSTAY, QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSENGER'S POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS WOULD HELP TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE WAS LIKELY TO RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES.+

HE SAID THE POLICY WAS, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THAT ARRIVALS MUST HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR THEIR VISITS, AND HAD AN ONWARD BOOKING OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE.

+THEY CAN THEN BE ALLOWED TO LAND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH INVARIABLY MEAN THAT THEY MUST LEAVE BEFORE THE END OF A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

+VISITORS COMING FROM THE PHILIPPINES FOR LONGER THAN SEVEN DAYS' STAY IN HONG KONG ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE VISAS. THOSE COMING HERE TO WORK WILL NEED EMPLOYMENT VISAS.+

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+INTERIM PAYMENTS NOT CHECKED+

NO MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CHECK INTERIM PAYMENT SIGNED BY CONSULTANTS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, MR CHAN SAID THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE CHECKED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE.

HE SAID CONSULTANTS WERE APPOINTED BY SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS TO DESIGN, PREPARE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND TO SUPERVISE CONTRACTS.

CERTIFYING INTERIM PAYMENTS DURING CONSTRUCTION WAS PART OF THE CONSULTANTS' PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE CONTRACT WAS MADE BETWEEN THE SUBVENTED ORGANISATION AND THE CONTRACTOR. THE CONSULTANT WAS APPOINTED BY THE SUBVENTED ORGANISATION TO ACT AS THE +ARCHITECT+ OR +ENGINEER+ UNDER THE CONTRACT.

+IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR GOVERNMENT AS A THIRD PARTY OUTSIDE THE CONTRACT TO INTERFERE WITH CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS THE CERTIFICATION OF INTERIM PAYMENTS BY THE ARCHITECT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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POSITIVE RESULTS IN DEALING WITH STREET SLEEPING
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GOVERNMENT ACTION TO DEAL WITH STREET SLEEPING HAS PRODUCED SOME POSITIVE RESULTS, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU ON GOVERNMENT POLICY IN MINIMISING THE NUISANCES CAUSED BY STREET SLEEPERS, MR LIAO SAID THE POLICY WAS FORMULATED AT THE STREET MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS SOCIAL WELFARE LEVELS.

+ON THE ONE HAND, GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS REGULAR CLEARANCE OPERATIONS INVOLVING RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS TO DETER STREET SLEEPING AND CURB NUISANCES.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, COUNSELLING AND REHOUSING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO ARE GENUINELY HOMELESS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID STREET SLEEPERS WERE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES: THE ABLE-BODIED WHO ALREADY HAD PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION, THE +DOWN-AND-OUTS+ WITHOUT A PLACE TO LIVE, AND THOSE WHO APPEARED TO BE MENTALLY ILL.

MR LIAO SAID SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SLEEP ON THE STREET BECAUSE THEY HAD A JOB NEARBY OR WERE LOOKING FOR WORK IN THAT NEIGHBOURHOOD AND MIGHT FIND IT INCONVENIENT TO TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE TO THEIR NORMAL PLACE OF ABODE.

+SUCH STREET SLEEPERS MAY NOT BE IN NEED OF WELFARE SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

+THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE ARE APPROACHED BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF TO SEEK TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION IN SHELTERS RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT AND BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

+THERE ARE MORE THAN 1 450 SUCH PLACES TO WHICH STREET SLEEPERS MAY BE REFERRED,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO NOTED THAT PEOPLE, INCLUDING SINGLE PERSONS, SEEKING PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION COULD BE HELPED UNDER THE COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING PROGRAMME, UNDER WHICH SOME 900 UNITS WERE RESERVED EACH YEAR BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

STREET SLEEPERS WITH MENTAL PROBLEMS WERE ASSISTED BY WELFARE PERSONNEL TO SEEK TREATMENT WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

+OTHERS MAY BE MENTALLY SUB-NORMAL OR POSSESS AN INADEQUATE PERSONALITY BUT THEY ARE NOT MENTALLY ILL,+ HE SAID.

/+WHILE GOVERNMENT

+WHILE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY TOLERANT TOWARDS STREET SLEEPERS WHO DO NOT POSE A DANGER EITHER TO THEMSELVES OR TO THE PUBLIC, THERE ARE EXISTING PROVISIONS IN THE LAW WHICH COULD BE USED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY THE STREET SLEEPERS WHENEVER NECESSARY.

+FOR EXAMPLE, STREET SLEEPERS WHO APPEAR TO BE IN A STATE OF MENTAL DISORDER, MAY BE BROUGHT TO A DISTRICT JUDGE, A MAGISTRATE OR A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND AN ORDER MAY BE MADE TO DETAIN A PERSON IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL FOR NOT MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCE OPERATIONS, MANY OF WHICH WERE CO-ORDINATED BY DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, MR LIAO SAID THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS IN CLEARING MAJOR BLACK SPOTS HAD YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, MORE THAN 60 STREET SLEEPERS AT FERRY POINT IN YAU MA TEI DISTRICT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CLEARED,+ HE SAID.

+THEY HAVE BEEN OFFERED TEMPORARY HOUSING SPACES, PENDING FURTHER PROCESSING FOR OTHER FORMS OF HOUSING, AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM HAVE TAKEN UP THE OFFER AND HAVE NOT SQUATTED AGAIN,+ SAID MR LIAO.

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MAC OFFICE SPACE ADEQUATE
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THE PRESENT STANDARD OF SPACE ALLOCATION OF RENT FREE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON FRED PANG YUK-LING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL REGULARLY REVIEW THE SITUATION.

MR PANG SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG.

MR PANG SAID THE CURRENT STANDARD OF SPACE ALLOCATION FOR MACS WAS 15 SQUARE METRES WHICH WAS SET IN 1981 AFTER A REVIEW BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE THEN HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

+THIS STANDARD WAS CONFIRMED AGAIN AFTER A FURTHER REVIEW IN 1984,+ MR PANG ADDED.

/+MAC OFFICES

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+MAC OFFICES HAVE BECOME A STANDARD PROVISION FOR ALL NEW PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME BLOCKS,+ HE SAID.

SOME MAC OFFICES IN OLDER ESTATES, MR PANG EXPLAINED, MAY NOT REACH THE CURRENT SPACE STANDARD BECAUSE IT WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO FIND SUITABLE PREMISES OF THAT SIZE IN THESE ESTATES.

HOWEVER, MR PANG ADDED, IF LARGER ROOMS WERE REQUIRED FOR MEETINGS, ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE WITH THE ESTATE OFFICES TO USE COMMUNITY HALLS OR ESTATE OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOMS.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE MAN MO TEMPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WAS READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO APRIL 16.

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA BEGINS SIX-DAY VISIT
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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, ACCOMPANIED BY HER HUSBAND THE HON ANGUS OGILVY, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) FOR A SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

THE ROYAL COUPLE FLEW IN FROM THAILAND AND WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE.

ALSO IN THE WELCOMING PARTY WERE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR ALAN HUGGINS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY BOAM, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN, THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF THAILAND, MR LIKASIT PANSOMCHIT AND MRS PANSOMCHIT, AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR R.H. ANNING.

FROM THE AIRPORT THE ROYAL COUPLE DROVE WITH THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHERE THEY WILL BE STAYING.

THE PRINCESS IS MAKING THE VISIT IN HER CAPACITY OF HONORARY COMMANDANT-GENERAL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND WILL BE TAKING PART IN A NUMBER OF POLICE FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING THE COMMISSIONING OF THREE LAUNCHES AT JOSS HOUSE BAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

HER SCHEDULE ALSO INCLUDES A LUNCH WITH UMELCO MEMBERS ON FRIDAY AND VISITS TO THE RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION BRADBURY CENTRE AT KING'S PARK AND THE JOHN F. KENNEDY RED CROSS CENTRE AT SANDY BAY ON SATURDAY.

BEFORE LEAVING ON MONDAY EVENING, THE PRINCESS WILL PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO THE CREW OF HMS PEACOCK, A PATROL CRAFT WHICH SHE HAD NAMED IN 1984.

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YUEN LONG BOARD TO DISCUSS BILLIARDS ISSUE
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SUGGESTED MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD AT ITS FIRST MEETING FOR THE 1986-87 SESSION TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HEADQUARTERS DIVISION) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR GEOFFREY ORR, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON A CONSULTATION PAPER WHICH CONTAINS THE CONTROL MEASURES. THE PAPER WAS DRAWN UP FOLLOWING A RAPID GROWTH IN BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE NAME OF PRIVATE CLUBS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THIS RESULTED IN AN INEQUITABLE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS.

/AT PRESENT,

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AT PRESENT, PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS PAY A SUBSTANTIAL LICENCE FEE AND ARE SUBJECT TO STRINGENT LICENSING CONDITIONS WHEREAS PRIVATE CLUBS DO NOT PAY SUCH FEES AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CONTROL EVEN THOUGH THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT EFFECTIVELY BARRED FROM USING THEIR FACILITIES.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THERE ARE AT PRESENT SIX BILLIARD CLUBS IN YUEN LONG PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 58 BILLIARD TABLES. ONE OF THEM IS LOCATED IN A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.

ALSO ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA ARE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD FROM NGAU HOM SHA BORROW AREA TO DEEP BAY ROAD, THE GRADE SEPARATION OF THE EASTERN JUNCTION OF THE YUEN LONG NORTHERN BYPASS, AND THE PLB TERMINUS AT FOOK HONG STREET. MEMBERS WILL ALSO ELECT THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S NINE COMMITTEES.

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PRIZE-WINNING POSTERS GO ON TOUR
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PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES IN THE RECENT +EVERYBODY LOVES A CLEAN HONG KONG+ POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT VARIOUS PUBLIC LIBRARIES DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

FROM APRIL 11 TO APRIL 25 THE BEST OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL POSTERS WILL APPEAR AT THE URBAN COUNCIL WAN CHAI PUBLIC LIBRARY.

AT THE SAME TIME WINNING POSTERS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION WILL BE EXHIBITED AT THE COUNCIL'S KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY.

FROM MAY 5 TO 20 BOTH COLLECTIONS WILL BE ON THE MOVE - THE PRIMARY GROUP TO THE YAU MA TEI PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE SECONDARY GROUP TO THE ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FROM MAY 28 TO JUNE 10 THE PRIMARY GROUP WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE MEI FOO SUN CHUEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE SECONDARY GROUP AT THE TO KWA WAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

AN URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION WAS TO GIVE AS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE A CHANCE TO SEE THE +EXCELLENT WORK+ OF STUDENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

+I HOPE STUDENTS WILL TAKE NOTE OF WHEN THE EXHIBITION WILL BE IN A LIBRARY NEAR THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO SEE IT.+

HE SAID THAT WINNING POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED AFTER JUNE AT OTHER AS YET UNCONFIRMED VENUES.

THE POSTER COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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TEA RECEPTION FOR CHEST CONTRIBUTORS
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL HOST A TEA RECEPTION FOR ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION SCHEME OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST AT 5 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT HIS RESIDENCE IN BARKER ROAD.

HE WILL ALSO PRESENT AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME.

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1986 TAXI NUMBER ON AGENDA
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MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE 1986 TAXI NUMBER REVIEW.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT TAXI (LIMITED NUMBER) NOTICE WHICH CONTAINS A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUE OF NEW LICENCES FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS AND A RESTRICTION ON THE ISSUE OF NEW LICENCES FOR URBAN AREA TAXIS TO 200 ANNUALLY.

THE NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED ON JULY 17, 1984 AND WILL EXPIRE IN JULY THIS YEAR.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM, A PROPOSAL FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN HUNG HOM AND ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING IN SUNG CHI STREET.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CIVIC EDUCATION
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SEVERAL ITEMS ON CIVIC EDUCATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY INCLUDE A PROPOSED PROJECT +TALKS ON CIVIC EDUCATION+ WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN JULY; A REPORT ON THE +CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION MOVEMENT+ HELD LATE LAST YEAR; AND A PROPOSAL ON +CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES+ SUBMITTED BY THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A PAPER ON THE +CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEME+ AND THE COMMITTEE'S PLANS FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1985 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1986.

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TENANCIES OFFERED FOR FOUR NT SITES
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF FOUR SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THREE ARE AT YAM O WAN IN NORTHEAST LANTAU.

MEASURING A TOTAL OF ABOUT 19 510 SQUARE METRES, THEY ARE TO BE USED ONLY FOR STORING FLOATING LOGS.

THE OTHER LOT OF ABOUT 900 SQUARE METRES, AT AREA 10B, KWAI CHUNG, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 25.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG ;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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INAUGURATION CEREMONY

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THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 1986-87 SHAM SHUI PO AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE LAI KOK COMMUNITY HALL, LAI KOK ESTATE.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (COMMUNITY INFORMATION), MR ALLAN CHOW, AND SHAM SHUI PO POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR PAANG KUI-SAN WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN KOWLOON BAY
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KAI SHING STREET BETWEEN KAI CHEUNG ROAD AND THE UNNAMED ROAD LINKING WANG KWONG ROAD AND KAI SHING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND STARTING 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 11) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC IN THE KOWLOON BAY AREA.

MOTORISTS ON CARGO CIRCUIT HEADING FOR KAI CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO KAI SHING STREET, THE UNNAMED ROAD LINKING KAI SHING STREET AND WANG KWONG ROAD, AND WANG KWONG ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

WITH EFFECT FROM THE SAME TIME, THE LEFT-TURN MOVEMENT FROM KAI FUK ROAD EASTBOUND ONTO SHEUNG YEE ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE BANNED.

VEHICLES ON KAI FUK ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR THE KAI FUK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WILL BE DIVERTED TO WANG KWONG ROAD, SHEUNG YUET ROAD AND SHEUNG YEE ROAD.

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