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GO-AHEAD FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF JUBILEE STREET PIER

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO REDEVELOP THE JUBILEE STREET PIER INTO A MODERN, THREE-STOREY, FOUR-BERTH COMPLEX COMPLETE WITH COMMERCIAL KIOSKS AND SHOPS.

THE COMPANY ESTIMATES THAT THE NEW PIER COULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPANY PLANNED TO DEMOLISH THE EXISTING PIER AND REPLACE IT WITH THE THREE-STOREY STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE WAITING AREAS AND PASSENGER FLOW FACILITIES.

PASSENGERS WOULD BE SEGREGATED FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BY LINKING THE PIER STRUCTURE TO THE ADJACENT FOOTBRIDGE NETWORK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL BERTH WAS ESPECIALLY WELCOME +AS THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT BERTHING FACILITIES IN CENTRAL IS A SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINT ON THE PROVISION OF BOTH NEW AND IMPROVED FERRY SERVICES.+

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO WELCOMES THE IMPROVED WAITING AREAS AND PASSENGER FLOW IN A MODERN, MORE SPACIOUS PIER STRUCTURE AND THE FOOTBRIDGE LINK,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ABOUT 24 KIOSKS AND SHOPS WOULD BE PROVIDED ON THE GROUND AND FIRST FLOORS OF THE COMPLEX, AND THE TOP FLOOR WOULD BE SEPARATED FROM PASSENGER FLOW AND WOULD BE ENTIRELY FOR COMMERCIAL USE.

REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE COMPLEX WOULD BE REGARDED AS REVENUE FROM FERRY SERVICES, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+THIS IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID. +IT SHOULD HELP LIMIT FARE INCREASES AND TO CROSS-SUBSIDISE UNPROFITABLE BUT NECESSARY FERRY SERVICES.

+THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE BETTER FACILITIES AT THE PIER, AND THE IMPROVED FACILITIES HOPEFULLY WILL MAKE TRANSPORT BY FERRY MORE ATTRACTIVE AND HELP TO EASE DEMAND FOR ROAD SPACE.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME FURTHER PROPOSALS OF THIS TYPE.

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ID CARD REMINDER
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED TO CARRY THEIR IDENTITY CARDS OR OTHER ACCEPTABLE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WHEN THEY LEAVE THEIR HOUSE ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 30).

FROM THAT DAY, EVERYONE AGED 15 OR OVER WHO IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, MUST CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY AT ALL TIMES ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG.

OTHER THAN A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, ONLY THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE ACCEPTED:

* A FORM ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE HOLDER HAS APPLIED TO BE REGISTERED, OR TO OBTAIN A REPLACEMENT, FOR AN ID CARD,

* A CURRENT DRIVING LICENCE,

* A SERVICE IDENTITY CARD OF THE BRITISH FORCES,

* A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT,

* A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD.

FAILURE TO CARRY AN IDENTITY CARD, OR ONE OF THE SPECIFIED ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS, IS AN OFFENCE AND MAY INCUR A FINE OF UP TO $1 000.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED TODAY THAT THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES EASILY WOULD BE OF IMMENSE ASSISTANCE TO THE SECURITY FORCES IN DETECTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. +AT THE SAME TIME, THEY CAN AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO THEMSELVES IF THEY ARE STOPPED AND ASKED FOR PROOF OF IDENTITY,+ HE ADDED.

+IT IS HOPED ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL PLAY THEIR PART AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND ASSIST THE POLICE, LABOUR OFFICERS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN THEIR TASK.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED THOSE WHO ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER, SUCH AS VISITORS, TO CARRY THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO THEMSELVES.

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GOVERNMENT HAS MORAL DUTY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE NT VILLAGES

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A NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGE ENJOYS A REAL, DEEP, AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY LIFE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS A MORAL DUTY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, SAID TODAY.

DR HASE WAS SPEAKING ON +INDIGENOUS VILLAGES WITHIN NEW TOWNS+ AT A MEETING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LIONS CLUB.

HE SAID IT HAD BECOME ACCEPTED THAT WHERE A VILLAGE HAD TO BE MOVED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE GREATER GOOD OF THE WHOLE POPULATION OF HONG KONG, THE COMPENSATION OFFERED SHOULD BE SUCH THAT THIS COMMUNITY LIFE WAS NOT EXTINGUISHED BUT RELOCATED TO A NEW SITE TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE.

+IT IS CONCEDED IN OTHER WORDS THAT CLEARANCE OF AN INDIGENOUS VILLAGE INVOLVES MORE THAN MERELY THE BUYING OUT AND REMOVAL OF A GROUP OF LANDOWNERS- IT INVOLVES THE RELOCATION OF A PRE-EXISTING COMMUNITY.+

DR HASE SAID WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT AREA OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN, THERE EXISTED IN 1973 -- WHEN WORKS STARTED -- NO LESS THAN 42 INDIGENOUS VILLAGES, WHERE SUCH A COMMUNITY LIFE EXISTED, TOGETHER WITH A FURTHER THREE ON THE EDGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA.

IT WAS EVENTUALLY DECIDED THAT SEVEN OF THESE VILLAGES, ALL VERY SMALL, WOULD HAVE TO BE RELOCATED, BUT THAT THE REMAINING 38 WOULD REMAIN IN SITU, HOPEFULLY AS CONTINUING VIABLE COMMUNITIES.

NONETHELESS, IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT OF A VILLAGE WAS INFLUENCED VERY STRONGLY BY ITS PHYSICAL SETTING.

WERE THE PHYSICAL SETTING OF THE VILLAGE TO COLLAPSE INTO A SUBSTANDARD COLLECTION OF SEMI-RUINOUS HOUSES, THEN THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT WOULD DISAPPEAR TOO- THE WEALTHIER VILLAGERS WOULD LEAVE AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND WOULD LOSE HEART.

+SINCE THE PRESERVATION OF THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS CLEARLY SOMETHING OF SUBSTANTIAL VALUE, THE PRESERVATION OF A DECENT PHYSICAL SETTING FOR THE VILLAGE IS EQUALLY SO,+ DR HASE SAID.

HE SAID IN RURAL VILLAGES STANDARDS OF DRAINAGE, FOOTPATHS, STREET LIGHTING AND TOWN PLANNING NEED NOT BE TO THE SAME LEVELS AS IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY, ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, THEY SHOULD BE OF A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH STANDARD TO MEET NEEDS OF RESIDENTS.

/HOWEVER .....

HOWEVER, HE SAID, AS SOON AS SUCH VILLAGES WERE BROUGHT WITHIN THE LAYOUT OF A NEW TOWN, THEY SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY AND MUST BE BROUGHT UP TO THE SAME STANDARDS, AS FAR AS THEIR SERVICES AND PHYSICAL SETTING WENT, AS THE REST OF THE CITY.

SUCH A VILLAGE, SUDDENLY PLUNGED INTO AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT, COULD AND MUST REMAIN A VIABLE COMMUNITY, BUT ITS PHYSICAL SETTING MUST CHANGE TO FIT THE NEW URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

IF THIS WAS NOT DONE, THE VILLAGE WOULD ALMOST UNAVOIDABLY SLIP BACK INTO A SLUM= THE FEARFUL CONDITION OF PRESENT DAY HA HOI PA VILLAGE IN TSUEN WAN SHOWED WHAT WAS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF SUCH VILLAGES WERE NOT BROUGHT PHYSICALLY UP TO NORMAL URBAN STANDARDS.

+IF VILLAGES WITHIN THE NEW TOWN ARE NOT BROUGHT UP TO URBAN STANDARDS IN THIS WAY, NOT ONLY WILL THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY COLLAPSE, BUT ALSO ITS SUBSTANDARD STATE WILL AFFECT ALL THE SURROUNDING NON-VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTS, DEPRESSING PROPERTY VALUES AND LOWERING THE OVERALL PLANNING STANDARDS OF THE TOWN,+ HE SAID.

DR HASE SAID IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL SETTING OF A VILLAGE IN THIS WAY WAS A DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE JOB.

IT WAS A TWO FOLD PROBLEM, REQUIRING ATTENTION TO BE PAID TO BOTH THE EXISTING OLD VILLAGE AREA AND ITS PERIPHERY.

IN MANY OLD VILLAGES THERE WERE NO ROADS, AND ACCESS PATHS WERE ONLY TWO OR THREE FEET WIDE -- QUITE LITERALLY.

TO LAY MAINS SEWERS IN OLD VILLAGES, FOR INSTANCE, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING OPEN DRAINS AND COMMUNAL LATRINES -- WHICH WAS SOMETHING WHICH MUST BE DONE IF AN ACCEPTABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE STYLE WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED -- MIGHT REQUIRE ACCESS PATHS TO BE CLOSED COMPLETELY, LET ALONE THE ENGINEERING COMPLEXITIES OF FITTING DRAINS INTO THE INTRICATE MAZE OF ARBITRARILY SITED FOOTPATHS WHICH MADE UP MOST VILLAGE ACCESS NETWORKS.

INSTALLATION OF AN ADEQUATE PIPED DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND FIRE HYDRANTS WAS EQUALLY COMPLEX.

+ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH HAS TO BE FACED IN PLANNING INDIGENOUS VILLAGES INTO THE NEW TOWNS IS THAT, WHEREAS IN THE URBAN AREA ALL ROADS AND FOOTPATHS ARE CROWN LAND, IN MANY VILLAGES THEY ARE PRIVATE LAND AND ARE OWNED, THEORETICALLY BY THE ADJACENT HOUSE OWNERS,+ DR HASE SAID.

OBVIOUSLY, INSTALLATION OF MAINS SEWERS, HOUSE-TO-HOUSE MAINS DRINKING WATER AND IMPROVEMENT OF FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES WOULD IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THESE SAME ADJACENT LOTS.

/MOST LANDOWNERS .....

MOST LANDOWNERS WERE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO ALLOW THE WORKS TO PROCEED ON THE FOOTPATHS IN FRONT OF THEIR DOORS, BUT A FEW TRIED TO MAKE THIS WORK THE EXCUSE FOR HOLDING THE COMMUNITY TO RANSOM BY DEMANDING THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS COMPENSATION FOR THE +DAMAGE+ TO THEIR PROPERTY.

IN SOME CASES, INDEED, IT WAS NOT +AN INCH OF GOLD FOR A FOOT OF LAND+, BUT +A FOOT OF GOLD FOR AN INCH OF LAND+, HE SAID.

THE SAME PROBLEM AROSE WHERE STREET LIGHTING WITHIN THESE VILLAGES WAS CONCERNED. BECAUSE OF THE NARROW STREETS THE LIGHTS HAD TO BE FIXED TO THE HOUSES ; IF THE LANDOWNERS REFUSED TO CO-OPERATE FOR THE COMMON GOOD, THE JOB BECAME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

DR HASE SAID ; +THIS THEN IS OUR FIRST PROBLEM ; THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE NEW TOWN BY ENSURING THAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AT SUCH A LEVEL THAT THE EXISTING PHYSICAL SETTING OF THE OLD VILLAGE DOES NOT DISAPPEAR INTO A SLUM.

+ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IS WHAT IS PROPOSED FOR THE PERIPHERAL AREAS AROUND THE OLD VILLAGES= AND THIS -- THE PROBLEM OF HOW AN INDIGENOUS VILLAGE CAN BE EXPANDED WITHIN A NEW TOWN FRAMEWORK -- CONSTITUTES OUR SECOND MAJOR DIFFICULTY.+

WHEN THE DECISION TO PRESERVE THE VILLAGES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW TOWN HAD BEEN TAKEN AN AREA AROUND EACH VILLAGE WAS DESIGNATED A +VILLAGE ZONE+.

+IT IS THE PLANNING INTO THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW TOWN OF THE WHOLE OF THIS ZONE, AND NOT MERELY THE ORIGINAL VILLAGE, WHICH IS NECESSARY,+ DR HASE SAID.

MOST OLD VILLAGES WERE SERIOUSLY DEFICIENT IN ALMOST ALL PUBLIC FACILITIES, AS WELL AS SERVICES. CARPARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WERE THE FACILITIES MOST OFTEN LACKING.

CLEARLY, THE PROVISION OF SUCH FACILITIES MUST TAKE THE FIRST PRIORITY IN THESE PERIPHERAL VILLAGE AREAS.

AGAIN, MUCH LAND IN THESE PERIPHERAL VILLAGE AREAS WAS WELL-ESTABLISHED FUNG SHUI WOODLAND WHICH COULD NOT BE CUT. THESE WOODLAND AREAS WERE, OF COURSE, OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE GEOMANTIC INHERITANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY, BUT WHICH BECOME OF MAJOR INTEREST, NOT ONLY TO THE VILLAGERS, BUT ALSO TO THE WHOLE NEW TOWN, AS THEY CONSTITUTED A GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURE OF THE HIGHEST SIGNIFICANCE.

DR HASE SAID ; +I NEED HARDLY POINT OUT THAT THE PRESERVATION OF OVER 100 ACRES OF FUNG SHUI WOODLAND WITHIN SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL GIVE THAT NEW TOWN A VERY GREEN AND WELL-WOODED LOOK= AND THESE FUNG SHUI WOODS BECOME, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY PRECIOUS TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

/+WHEN FUNG .....

+WHEN FUNG SHUI LAND AND LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE VILLAGE ZONE, WHAT IS LEFT MAY BE USED FOR BUILDING NEW SMALL HOUSES.

+A PROPER, APPROVED LAYOUT FOR THESE HOUSES IS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL IF THE AREA IS TO FIT WITHOUT PROBLEM INTO THE NEW TOWN.+

THE NORMAL PRACTICE OF BUILDING SMALL HOUSES ACCORDING TO THE VAGARIES OF PRIVATE LANDHOLDING COULD NOT BE PERMITTED : THIS WOULD LEAD TO A FORMLESS SCATTER OF HOUSES WITH TWISTING, NARROW PATHS AROUND THEM AND WOULD MAKE THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A REAL URBAN ENVIRONMENT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

+THE LAYOUT MUST THEREFORE IGNORE THE ACCIDENTS OF LANDHOLDING= EITHER INTER-VILLAGER LAND EXCHANGE MUST TAKE PLACE TO FIT THE LANDOWNERSHIP PATTERN TO THE LAYOUT, OR GOVERNMENT WILL RESUME ALL THE PRIVATE LAND,+ DR HASE SAID.

+VARIOUS POSSIBLE WAYS OF DRAWING UP LAYOUT FOR SUCH PERIPHERAL AREAS AND GETTING IT IMPLEMENTED ARE UNDER DISCUSSION.

+ALL, HOWEVER, INVOLVE SOME TROUBLE AND EXPENSE, AND INVOLVE PLACING PLANNING LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF SMALL HOUSES PERMITTED.

+THIS WAY OF TREATING PERIPHERAL VILLAGE AREAS IS ESSENTIAL IF THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY IS TO SURVIVE -- TO ALLOW THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER OF SMALL HOUSES TO BE CRAMMED IN, IN AN UNPLANNED MISH-MASH, WOULD MERELY GUARANTEE THE DEGENERATION OF THE VILLAGE INTO A SECOND RATE SLUM AND THE EXTINCTION OF ITS COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

+NO, THE VILLAGE CAN ONLY BE ALLOWED TO EXPAND IN AN ORDERLY WAY, AND THE UPPER LIMIT ON SMALL HOUSES MUST BE NOT THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY OF THE LAND BUT THE PLANNING CAPACITY OF THE NEW TOWN.

+VILLAGES MUST BE PLANNED INTO THE NEW TOWN AND EXIST THERE WITHOUT PRODUCING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE REST OF THE TOWN. THEY MUST CONTINUE TO EXIST AS FUNCTIONING VIABLE COMMUNITIES, AS A POSITIVE AND NOT A NEGATIVE SOCIAL FACTOR.+

+IF THESE THINGS ARE DONE,+ DR HASE ADDED, +THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE VILLAGE WITHIN THE NEW TOWN SHOULD NOT SURVIVE AS SOME OF THE PLEASANTEST AREAS THERE -- FULL OF A GOOD COMMUNITY SPIRIT, WELL PLANNED, PROPERLY SERVICED AND WITH ADEQUATE FACILITIES, GREEN AND WELL WOODED, AND WITH BUILDINGS AT A HOMELY AND SATISFYING LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.+

+IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE,+ HE SAID, +I AM SURE THAT I DO NOT NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY, IN SHA TIN, SINCE APRIL 1, 1980, NO APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL HOUSES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED EXCEPT WHERE THEY ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROVED VILLAGE LAYOUT= EVEN THOUGH, IN MOST CASES, THIS WILL INVOLVE DELAY, IN SOME CASES OF UP TO SEVERAL YEARS IN PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS.

/+WHERE VILLAGERS .....

+WHERE VILLAGERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DELAY, THEY ARE AT LIBERTY TO HIRE AN ARCHITECT TO DRAW UP A LAYOUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

+BUT I AM NOT, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, PREPARED TO REDUCE THE DELAY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PLANNING STANDARDS OF THE WHOLE NEW TOWN, NOR TO MAKE THE REST OF THE RESIDENTS PAY, THROUGH REDUCED LIVING STANDARDS, FOR MEETING THE OTHERWISE REASONABLE DESIRE BY THE VILLAGERS FOR SPEEDY PROCESSING,+ HE SAID.

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HEALTH TALKS IN GUANGZHOU

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, AND THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, WILL BE LEAVING FOR GUANGZHOU TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH HEALTH OFFICIALS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

AMONG THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE THE RABIES SITUATION IN BOTH TERRITORIES AND MEASURES TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TALKS WERE MADE DURING THE GOVERNOR'S RECENT VISIT TO GUANGDONG. ALSO IN THE PARTY ARE MR HARRY M.H. WONG, AN AGRICULTURE OFFICER, AND MR CHRIS WONG, PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THEY WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY MORNING.

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APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR GRAHAM C.H. CHENG TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. HE WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN NOVEMBER.

MR CHENG IS DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE AMOY CANNING CORPORATION (HK) LTD, CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS OF THE TACHING PETROLEUM CO. LTD AND DIRECTOR OF DAH YUAN REAL ESTATE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HE IS VERY ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND IS AT PRESENT VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INSTITUTIONS OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS STUDIES OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

/HE IS .....

HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ADVISORY BOARD, AND THE OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

MR CHENG WAS EDUCATED AT DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL AND THE PERSE SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, AND OBTAINED A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN GEOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

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DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IMPORTANT INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS

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DEVELOPMENT INSIDE THE COUNTRY PARKS MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION CONCEPT, IN RESPECT TO LOCATION, LAYOUT, STYLE, DESIGN AND PURPOSE.

MR JOHN WHOLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THIS TODAY IN AN ADDRESS TO THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS.

+DEVELOPMENT CAN BE PERMITTED INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, BUT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT ONLY THE RIGHT TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IS ALLOWED,+ MR WHOLEY SAID.

THE PLANNING PROFESSION HAD MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTRY PARKS IDEA BY GIVING VALUABLE SUPPORT IN THE EARLY DAYS, GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN THE DESIGNATION PHASE, AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE PROPER LOCATION OF RECREATIONAL ACCOMMODATION IN AND ON THE FRINGES OF COUNTRY PARKS, HE SAID.

+PLANNERS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN ITS USE IN THE FUTURE AS A PRIME RECREATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR WHOLEY DISCLOSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECRUITED AND TRAINED ALMOST 800 NEW STAFF AT ALL LEVELS TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION SERVICES IN HONG KONG'S 21 COUNTRY PARKS.

IN ADDITION, 15 NEW MANAGEMENT CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THE COUNTRY PARKS OCCUPY 41 300 HECTARES OF LAND, TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE HECTARES OF THE TOTAL AREA OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY PROVIDES 2 300 BARBECUE PITS, 360 PICNIC PLACES, 24 CAMP SITES, 2 500 UNITS OF PICNIC TABLE/BENCHES, 2 400 BENCH SEATS, 47 RAIN SHELTERS, 52 SETS OF CHILDREN'S PLAY APPARATUS, AND MANY OTHER FACILITIES.

/ATTENDANCE FIGURES .....

ATTENDANCE FIGURES ROSE 14 TIMES FROM HALF A MILLION IN 1970 TO 7 MILLION THIS YEAR.

THERE IS HOWEVER THE THREAT OF HILL FIRES. MR WHOLEY SAID: +OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 500 HILL FIRES EACH DRY SEASON; HOWEVER IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER HAS NOT INCREASED IN PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF VISITORS AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

+THERE IS ROOM FOR HOPE HERE BUT NOT FOR COMPLACENCY FOR HILL FIRE IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST THREAT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE,+ HE SAID.

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, HAS REASSURED THAT IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO CONSULT AND TO INVITE PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION OF INTERESTED GROUPS IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS TO IMPROVE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ENDOSCOPIC UNIT AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL THIS AFTERNOON, HE CALLED ON CRITICS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND REALISTIC.

+IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR SOMEONE TO POINT OUT THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG WITHOUT OFFERING CONSTRUCTIVE AND REALISTIC SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE IT,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG DESCRIBED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENDOSCOPIC UNIT AS +A SHINING EXAMPLE+ OF THE GOODWILL AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE UNIT OFFERS 24-HOUR SERVICE FOR PATIENTS IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL REQUIRING ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION FOR THE LOWER AND UPPER INTESTINAL TRACT.

CASES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION OF THE INTERIOR ORGANS MAY BE REFERRED TO THE UNIT AND THE FINDINGS ARE REPORTED TO THE REFERRING DOCTORS.

THE UNIT ALSO OFFERS SOME TRAINING FOR STAFF WHO MAY BE REQUIRED TO WORK IN SIMILAR UNITS IN OTHER REGIONAL HOSPITALS.

DR THONG SAID THAT IF THE FACILITY IS UTILISED WISELY, PRESSURE ON THE RADIOLOGICAL SERVICE MAY BE REDUCED AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF BARIUM MEALS REQUESTED IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY SINCE 1976 WHEN ENDOSCOPIC INVESTIGATION WAS STARTED.

/THE UNIT .....

THE UNIT, SAID THE DIRECTOR, HAS COME INTO BEING AS A RESULT OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION AT EVERY STAGE BETWEEN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY STAFF.

+IT IS THE POLICY OF MY DEPARTMENT TO CONSULT AND TO INVITE PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION OF RELEVANT HEADS OF THE CLINICAL UNITS, BE THEY GOVERNMENT OR UNIVERSITY, TO PLAN AND TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY TO BRING ABOUT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PROJECTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION IS TAKEN IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT, WE WILL GO VERY FAR IN OUR PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHOULD THEN BE ABLE TO SHARE IN BOTH THE CREDIT AND BOUQUETS FOR SUCCESS AS IN THE PRESENT PROJECT BUT OF COURSE ALSO TO BEAR THE CRITICISM WHICH IS SOMETIMES, FAIRLY OR UNFAIRLY, LAID AT OUR DOOR,+ HE ADDED.

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GREEN BELT ALONG KWUN TONG RD

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KWUN TONG, PREDOMINANTLY AN INDUSTRIAL AREA AND LACKING IN GREENERY, IS SOON TO HAVE A FACE-LIFT.

MR DAVID TSUI, KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER SAID TODAY THAT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT THERE, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WOULD IMPLEMENT A SERIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

+TO START WITH, WE WILL HAVE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED MEDIUM-SIZED TREES PLANTED ALONG THE CENTRAL DIVIDER OF KWUN TONG ROAD. THIS GREEN BELT WILL CERTAINLY BRING AN IMMEDIATE VISUAL IMPROVEMENT TO THIS AREA,+ HE SAID.

+PEOPLE TRAVELLING ALONG THE ROAD, WHETHER BY CAR OR BY MTR, WILL BE ABLE TO SEE A LONG STRETCH OF GREEN FOLIAGE.

+WE BELIEVE ITS PRESENCE WILL DO A LOT OF GOOD TO THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AS IT WILL BREAK THE MONOPOLY OF THE CONCRETE BLOCKS. PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT WILL FEEL THE SERENITY AND BEAUTY AFFORDED BY THESE NICE TREES,+ MR TSUI SAID.

/ON LONG-TERM .....

ON LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT PLANS, MR TSUI SAID A LOT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT OF KWUN TONG. +WE HAVE IDENTIFIED A FEW LOCATIONS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY. THESE MAY TAKE THE FORM OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS, BEAUTIFICATION SCHEMES, OR PROVIDING TEMPORARY AMENITY FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE PLANTING OF TREES ALONG KWUN TONG ROAD CENTRAL DIVIDER WILL BEGIN ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 30). THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR CHEUNG MAN-SANG, TOGETHER WITH THE NGAU TAU KOK FOUR AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WILL JOINTLY PERFORM THE PLANTING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY COVERED. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE JUNCTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD WITH HONG TAK ROAD AND WILL BEGIN AT 9.15 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 30).

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VIOLIN WORKSHOP AT MUSIC OFFICE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE IS ORGANISING A VIOLIN WORKSHOP ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 31) IN ITS OFFICE AT THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, 9TH FLOOR.

THE WORKSHOP WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR BLAISE CALAME, AND WILL BE HELD FROM 5 TO 7 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

BLAISE CALAME WAS BORN IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. HE RECEIVED EDUCATION AT THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL IN ZURICH BEFORE TURNING TO A MUSIC CAREER.

IN 1944 HE BEGAN STUDIES WITH CARL FLESCH AND CONTINUED AT THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC IN BRUSSELS. THERE HE WON THE FIRST PRIZE FOR VIOLIN AND THE FIRST PRIZE FOR CHAMBER MUSIC IN 1950. HE PERFECTED HIS TRAINING WITH GEORGES ENESCO, LEON NAUWINCK AND ZINO FRANCESCATTI.

CALAME WON REPUTATION AS SOLOIST WITH ORCHESTRAS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MOST INTERNATIONALLY CELEBRATED CONDUCTORS AND PARTICIPATED FREQUENTLY IN WORLD-WIDE MUSIC FESTIVALS.

AT THE +BIENNALE OF VENICE+ IN 1956 HE RECEIVED THE +HARRIET COHEN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AWARD+ FOR HIS +OUTSTANDING ARTISTRY IN PERFORMANCE+. HE HAS TOURED AS GUEST SOLOIST NOT ONLY IN EUROPE, BUT EXTENSIVELY IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, IN ASIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE WAS AWARDED THE +YSAYE+ GOLD MEDAL IN 1967.

VIOLINISTS OF THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL PLAY THE FOLLOWING WORKS AT THE WORKSHOP : CONCERTO IN D MINOR FOR TWO VIOLINS AND PIANO (1ST MOVEMENT) BY BACH, VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 1 IN G MINOR, OP. 26 (1ST MOVEMENT) BY BRUCH, AND VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 3 IN D MINOR, OP. 61 (1ST MOVEMENT) BY SAINT SAENS.

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC ON NATHAN ROAD

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN MONG KOK FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 30) FOLLOWING THE RE-OPENING OF NATHAN ROAD AS A THROUGH ROAD.

THE SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN WATERLOO ROAD AND ARGYLE STREET WILL BE OPENED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

HOWEVER MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY.

FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, THE PROHIBITION ENDS AT 12 MIDNIGHT.

ALSO FROM THURSDAY, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG AUSTIN ROAD WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT INTO NATHAN ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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