



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BILL TO CONTROL PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO

LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AT THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS BILL 1980.

THE BILL SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF CONTROL OVER PERSONS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE, WHICH ARE NOT AT PRESENT COVERED BY CONTROLLING LEGISLATION.

WITH ADVANCE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR THONG SAID, LABORATORY TESTS, RADIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, PHYSIOTHERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ARE UTILISED MORE AND MORE NOWADAYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EITHER DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT OF DISEASES.

+IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT SUCH TESTS AND TREATMENT BE CONDUCTED UNDER PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROFESSIONS COVERED BY THE BILL IN THE INITIAL STAGE WILL BE THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, RADIOGRAPHERS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.

THE BILL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONAL BODIES, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, AND RELEVANT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR THONG SAID.

UNDER THE BILL, A SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL WILL BE ESTABLISHED. IT WILL HAVE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND ALSO IN CO-ORDINATING AND SUPERVISING VARIOUS BOARDS FOR THE PARAMEDICALS.

THE COUNCIL WILL COMPRISE PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, INCLUDING NOMINEES FROM THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS COVERED BY THE BILL, PUBLIC OFFICERS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

A SEPARATE BOARD FOR EACH PARAMEDICAL PROFESSION WILL ALSO BE SET UP. EACH BOARD WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF THAT PROFESSION, THE ISSUE OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATES, INSPECTION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE PRACTICE OF THAT PROFESSION AND MATTERS RELATING TO DISCIPLINE.

EACH BOARD WILL CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN NINE AND NOT MORE THAN 12 MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, INCLUDING PERSONS NOMINATED BY THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PERSONS FROM THE RELEVANT PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND ONE FROM THE FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

THE BILL SETS OUT QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION FOR THE PRACTISING PARAMEDICALS WHO ARE NOT QUALIFIED FOR FULL REGISTRATION.

THE CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN STAGES, COMMENCING WITH MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY RADIOGRAPHERS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.

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HK MAKES REPRESENTATION TO UK OVER TUITION FEE INCREASES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OVER THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INCREASES IN TUITION FEES AT BRITISH UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO HOPED THE REPRESENTATIONS WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION IN LONDON.

MR HO SAID THAT SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST AUTUMN HE AND THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON HAD BEEN MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA BY WHICH CLASSIFICATION AS HOME AND OVERSEAS STUDENTS WAS DETERMINED.

+THE POSITION IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT DECISIONS ON CLASSIFICATION ARE MADE BY INDIVIDUAL UNIVERSITIES OR COLLEGES, BUT FROM THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE IT APPEARS THAT STUDENTS FROM HONG KONG WHO HAVE SPENT THREE YEARS OR MORE IN BRITAIN TAKING 'O' AND 'A' LEVEL COURSES ARE CLASSIFIED AS 'HOME' STUDENTS, AS ARE STUDENTS FROM FAMILIES OF UNITED KINGDOM ORIGIN WORKING TEMPORARILY IN HONG KONG. OTHER STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO PAY THE NEW RATES AS OVERSEAS STUDENTS,+ MR HO SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A DEPENDENT TERRITORY ENTITLES OUR STUDENTS TO NO LESS FAVOURABLE TREATMENT THAN STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE ALSO GRANTED THE SAME STATUS AS 'HOME' STUDENTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN TUITION FEES WILL APPLY WITH EFFECT FROM THE COMING AUTUMN TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS OVERSEAS STUDENTS, AND WHO WILL BE COMMENCING THEIR COURSES OF STUDY THEREAFTER.

STUDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY STUDYING IN THESE INSTITUTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO PAY FEES ON THE CURRENT BASIS.

MR HO SAID THE NEW FEES WERE INTENDED TO REFLECT THE FULL COST OF TUITION AT BRITISH TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

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SECOND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN HIGHWAY TO
BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1982

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THE SECOND THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1982, SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ALLEN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD SAID A SECTION OF THE SECOND CARRIAGEWAY NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND SHAM TSENG WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

+THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FINAL SECTION OF THE ROAD FROM SHAM TSENG TO TUEN MUN HAS RECENTLY BEEN REVISED AND COMPLETION IS NOW PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 1982, THAT IS ABOUT SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR LEE THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID THE NEED TO DRIVE CAREFULLY AND TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC SIGNS ON THIS ROAD HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN THE PRESS AND ON TELEVISION AND RADIO.

MR JONES SAID: +ALTHOUGH I SHARE THE CONCERN WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY EXPRESSED OVER THE NUMBER OF FATAL ACCIDENTS ON THE HIGHWAY I MUST AGAIN POINT OUT THAT, PROPORTIONATE TO TRAFFIC FLOW, THERE ARE FEWER ACCIDENTS ON THIS ROAD THAN ON OTHER ROADS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT MORE OF THE ACCIDENTS WERE SERIOUS OR FATAL BECAUSE OF THE HIGHER SPEEDS INVOLVED.

+THIS IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT MANY DRIVERS NOT ONLY DRIVE TOO FAST ON THIS ROAD BUT THAT THEY FREQUENTLY NEGLECT TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS.

+A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT SO FAR ONLY HALF OF THE ROAD HAS BEEN BUILT AND IT THEREFORE HAS TO CATER FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON A THREE-LANE ROAD OVER MOST OF ITS LENGTH.

+THIS MEANS THAT SPEED LIMITS AND ROAD MARKINGS AND SIGNS MUST BE STRICTLY OBSERVED AND, IN PARTICULAR, THAT DOUBLE WHITE LINES MUST NOT BE CROSSED,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR JONES STRESSED THAT EVEN WHEN THE SECOND HALF OF THE HIGHWAY HAD BEEN BUILT, ALL DRIVERS USING IT WOULD NEED TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PRINCIPLES OF MOTORWAY DRIVING.

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FISH LOSS CAN BE REDUCED

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ABOUT 35 TONNES OF FISH WERE LOST AS A RESULT OF TWO OUTBREAKS OF RED ALGAE WHICH AFFECTED FISH FARMS EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID SUPPRESSION OF THE ALGAE WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BUT CHEMICALS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE USED TO CONTROL PLANKTON WERE BEING INVESTIGATED AND MIGHT PROVE USEFUL. THE USE OF BOOMS TO CONTAIN OUTBREAKS WAS ALSO BEING EVALUATED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE ALGAE ON FISH FARMS COULD BE REDUCED BY TOWING THE FISH RAFTS TO UNCONTAMINATED WATERS AND LOWERING THE FISH CAGES WHERE POSSIBLE.

+FISH FARMERS IN THE AFFECTED AREAS WERE ADVISED TO DO THIS AND AS A RESULT SOME FARMERS MINIMISED THEIR LOSSES,+ HE SAID.

AS LACK OF OXYGEN WAS SUCH A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN FISH MORTALITY DUE TO RED ALGAE, HIS DEPARTMENT ALSO ADVISED FISH FARMERS TO USE ANY MEANS AVAILABLE TO INCREASE AERATION OF THE WATER, SUCH AS PROPELLERS OR SIMPLE PADDLING WHEN AN OUTBREAK OCCURRED.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE DESIGNED A MECHANICAL AERATOR WHICH CAN BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND INTEND TO INTRODUCE IT TO FISH FARMERS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN ADDED.

+AT PRESENT ALL OUTBREAKS ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND MONITORED TO TRY TO GET CLOSER TO THE FACTORS THAT CAUSE THEM WITH A VIEW TO PREDICTING POTENTIAL OUTBREAKS AND GIVING FARMERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID LOSSES,+ HE SAID.

THE FIRST RECENT OUTBREAK OF RED ALGAE OCCURRED BETWEEN APRIL 17 AND 19 IN THE NORTH EASTERN COASTAL WATERS OF THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING DEEP BAY, CHEK KENG AND SHA TAU KOK. THE LOSS WAS ABOUT 10 TONNES VALUED AT ABOUT \$400 000. IT AMOUNTED TO SOME THREE PER CENT OF THE FISH FARMED IN THESE WATERS AND OCCURRED MOSTLY IN THE KAT O AREA.

THE SECOND OUTBREAK WAS ON APRIL 27 AND 28 IN THE YIM TIN TSAI AREA OF TOLO HARBOUR. ABOUT 25 TONNES OF FISH VALUED AT ABOUT \$900 000 WERE LOST.

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ROAD REINSTATEMENT WORK IN CENTRAL DISTRICT
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ROAD REINSTATEMENT WORK IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WHICH ALSO INVOLVES FURTHER UTILITY ALTERATIONS, DIVERSIONS OF TRAMWAY LINES AND REMOVAL OF TEMPORARY DECKS WILL BE COMPLETED IN CHATER ROAD BY THE END OF MAY AND IN DES VOEUX ROAD AND PEDDER STREET BY AUGUST.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER C. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID, +UNDER THE ORIGINAL MTR PROGRAMME THE STATIONS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WERE DUE FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF MARCH WITH THE ROAD REINSTATEMENT WORKS TIED TO THAT PROGRAMME.

+HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF THE DECISION TO ADVANCE THE COMPLETION AND OPENING OF THE CHATER/PEDDER AND ADMIRALTY STATIONS, THE ADMIRALTY TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE AND ROAD SYSTEM TO EARLY FEBRUARY, THE CONTRACTORS' RESOURCES WERE DIVERTED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE AND IN CONSEQUENCE THE REINSTATEMENT WORKS WERE DELAYED.+

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT HE WAS ADVISED THAT A SHORT LENGTH OF PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY CONNECTING THE MTR STATION WITH THE LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER BUT THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF THIS WORK WOULD BE CONFINED MAINLY TO THE SOUTHERN FOOTPATH OF DES VOEUX ROAD.

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MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS TO COME UNDER SELECTIVE CONTROL
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT IN REGULATING THE ACTIVITIES OF MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO DESIGN MORE SELECTIVE CONTROLS WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO THOSE SCHOOLS OPERATED AND USED BY UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS WITHOUT INCONVENIENCING LEGITIMATE SPORTING ASSOCIATIONS.

+I HOPE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WILL BE MADE WITH THIS DURING THE SUMMER,+ HE SAID.

MR DAVIES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON F.K. HU ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE REGULATING LEGISLATION.

IN A STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 8, 1976, MR DAVIES HAD SAID THAT LEGISLATION WAS BEING DRAFTED AND IN PREPARING THE DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS OFFICIALS RECOGNISED THE NEED TO BALANCE THE HEALTHY RECREATIONAL SIDE OF THESE POPULAR AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THWARTING UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS WHO MANAGE AND ORGANISE SUCH SCHOOLS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

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+FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT BILL IN 1977 WHICH AIMED TO CONTROL ALL MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS, DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED WHETHER SUCH FAR-REACHING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WERE APPROPRIATE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

+AS EXPLAINED TO THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AT THAT TIME, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND I DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH THESE PROPOSALS.

+INSTEAD, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH WERE IN FEBRUARY, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO DESIGN MORE SELECTIVE CONTROLS,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$267 MILLION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1979-80.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THAT OF THE SUM, PUBLIC WORKS NON-RECURRENT ITEMS ACCOUNTED FOR \$146 MILLION AS A RESULT OF MORE RAPID PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF APPROVED PROJECTS AND THE UPGRADING OF FIVE PROJECTS TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+ANOTHER \$9 MILLION IS REQUIRED TO MEET THE INCREASE IN SUBVENTIONS ARISING FROM THE CONVERSION OF PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS TO FULLY AIDED SCHOOLS,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT OFFSETTING SAVINGS OF \$209 MILLION HAD BEEN FOUND UNDER VARIOUS OTHER SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY FREEZING FUNDS UNDER HEAD 52 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SUBHEAD 100 ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS.

OF THE REMAINING \$58 MILLION NOT OFFSET BY SAVINGS, HE SAID, \$21 MILLION WAS FOR ACCELERATED INSTALMENT PAYMENTS FOR NINE MARINE POLICE SECTOR LAUNCHES RELATED TO ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ACTIVITIES, \$12 MILLION FOR ADDITIONAL DUTY ALLOWANCES FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS DEPLOYED TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, \$10 MILLION FOR EXPENSES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND \$5 MILLION FOR INITIAL EXPENSES ON THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE GARRISON.

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NEW PRESCRIBED FORM TO PROSECUTE COUNTRY PARK OFFENDERS

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THE MAGISTRATES (FORMS) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1980 WHICH PRESCRIBE A NEW FORM TO PROSECUTE COUNTRY PARK OFFENDERS WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR G.P. NAZARETH EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS REGULATIONS HAD CREATED VARIOUS OFFENCES CONCERNED WITH THE PROTECTION OF COUNTRY PARKS, LIKE LIGHTING FIRES OUTSIDE DESIGNATED BARBECUE SITES.

+THE USUAL WAY PERSONS COMMITTING SUCH OFFENCES ARE DEALT WITH IS FOR OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AUTHORISED FOR THAT PURPOSE BY THE MAGISTRATES COURT ORDINANCE, TO SERVE THE OFFENDERS WITH A STATUTORY NOTICE REQUIRING THEM TO APPEAR BEFORE A MAGISTRATE'S COURT, + HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR NAZARETH POINTED OUT, THE EXISTING FORM OF SUCH NOTICE DID NOT ADEQUATELY PROVIDE FOR SUCH OFFENCES.

THE NEW FORM LISTS THE OFFENCES FOR WHICH IT CAN BE USED AND WILL SIGNIFICANTLY FACILITATE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE OFFENDERS, HE SAID.

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AFTERCARE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

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A BILL DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SUPERVISION OF CERTAIN YOUNG OFFENDERS DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD AFTER THEIR RELEASE WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI POINTED OUT THAT FROM EXPERIENCE, IN THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE, YOUNG OFFENDERS WERE LIKELY TO REVERT TO THEIR FORMER CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHARACTERS, AND INADVERTENTLY RELAPSE INTO A LIFE OF CRIME.

THE SCHEME OF SUPERVISION PROPOSED BY THE BILL HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVED TO BE A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AID IN REHABILITATING OFFENDERS FROM DETENTION CENTRES AND TRAINING CENTRES, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, IN REPLY TO ANOTHER POINT RAISED BY DR HO, STRESSED THAT THE THREE NEW POSTS PROVIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME WOULD NOT BE FILLED BY NEW RECRUITS BUT BY REDEPLOYING EXISTING AFTERCARE OFFICERS, SO THAT WELL QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED OFFICERS WOULD BE PUT IN CHARGE OF THE NEW PROGRAMME.

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CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) BILL WITHDRAWN

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) BILL 1980 WHICH ALLOWS THE SPOUSES OF ACCUSED PERSONS TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN WITHDRAWING THE BILL, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH SAID THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE EXAMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND HE HOPED TO INTRODUCE A FRESH BILL TO THE COUNCIL SOON.

MR NAZARETH EXPLAINED THAT SOME UNOFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSED GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF PERMITTING, ON A GENERAL BASIS, THE SPOUSES OF ACCUSED PERSON TO TESTIFY FOR THE PROSECUTION.

+THEY WOULD PREFER THE EXISTING BASIS OF COMPETENCE TO TESTIFY IN SPECIFIED CASES TO BE RETAINED AND EXTENDED TO SPECIFIC TYPES OF CASES CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, EXCEPT IN A FEW SPECIFIED CASES, SPOUSES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

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FIREMEN EARN COMMENDATION FOR DARING RESCUE

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TWO FIREMEN RECEIVED COMMENDATIONS TODAY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR F.M. WATSON FOR THEIR PART IN RESCUING TWO MEN TRAPPED IN A NO 5 ALARM FIRE IN CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD LAST DECEMBER.

AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD IN THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS, MR WATSON HIGHLY COMMENDED FIREMAN TO KAM-CHAR FOR THE COURAGE, SKILL AND DETERMINATION HE DISPLAYED IN THE INCIDENT. SENIOR FIREMAN CHOW MAN-HING WAS COMMENDED FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND DETERMINATION.

THE FIRE STARTED IN A HUT AT AN MTR CONSTRUCTION SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF KWEILIN STREET AND CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD ON DECEMBER 12, AT ABOUT 10.30 PM.

IT SPREAD QUICKLY TO AN ADJOINING BUILDING, ENGULFING THE FLOORS AND STAIRCASES. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF THE TENANTS WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE OR WERE RESCUED BY FIREMEN ON SNORKEL APPLIANCES.

WHEN SENIOR FIREMAN CHOW MAN-HING WENT UP TO THE ROOF OF THE BURNING BUILDING, HE SAW TWO MEN TRAPPED ON ONE OF THE FLOORS BELOW. ONE PERCHED ON A CLOTHES RACK AND THE OTHER WAS LEANING OVER A WINDOW LEDGE ABOUT 21 METRES ABOVE GROUND DESPERATELY TRYING TO ESCAPE THE SMOKE AND HEAT.

SENIOR FIREMAN CHOW REASSURED THEM THAT THEY WOULD BE RESCUED AND ASKED THEM TO REMAIN CALM. HE THEN WENT DOWN AND BROUGHT UP A RESCUE LINE.

FIREMAN TO KAM-CHAR VOLUNTEERED TO BE LOWERED FROM THE ROOF OF THE BURNING BUILDING TO RESCUE THE TWO MEN.

WITH THE LINE SAFELY SECURED, MR TO WAS LOWERED TO THE SEVENTH FLOOR. HE CLIMBED ALONG THE WINDOW SILLS UNTIL HE WAS DIRECTLY ABOVE THE CLOTHES RACK. HE WAS THEN ABLE TO TIE THE RESCUE LINE TO THE MAN WHO WAS THEN HOISTED TO THE ROOF.

FIREMAN TO RETRACED HIS TRACK ALONG THE WINDOW SILLS AND WAS ABLE TO REACH THE SECOND TRAPPED MAN WHO WAS LIFTED TO THE ROOF BY OTHER FIREMEN. MR TO THEN CHECKED THE ROOMS NEARBY BEFORE HE WAS HIMSELF HOISTED TO SAFETY.

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ELECTIONS OF HEUNG YEE KUK COUNCILLORS TO BE HELD IN MAY

THE ELECTION OF SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY (MAY 15) AT THE KUK'S HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON TONG.

THE ELECTIONS ARE FOR THE 24TH TERM OF THE KUK WHICH BEGINS ON JUNE 1.

A TOTAL OF 12 NAMES HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD FOR THE SEVEN SEATS. THEY ARE MESSRS LEE KENG-CHING, CHAN WING-YAU, WONG TAI-HI, CHAN HING-FAT, YUEN SHU-KWAN, YUEN WAI, NG TAM-HING, LAI CHEONG-YUEN, MO NGAN-FUK, WONG WAI-KWAN, KWONG KWOK-KAM AND CHAN SUEN.

THE SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT COMPRISES TSUEN WAN, ISLANDS AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS.

ELECTIONS WILL NOT NEED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE OTHER TWO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS - YUEN LONG (INCLUDING TUEN MUN) AND TAI PO (INCLUDING SHA TIN AND NORTH) - BECAUSE ONLY THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES - SEVEN - WERE NOMINATED IN EACH DISTRICT. THEY ARE THEREFORE AUTOMATICALLY ELECTED.

THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT ARE MESSRS HO SUN-KUEN, LAM YIN, TANG TIM-KAU, MAN YEUNG-PO, LI SHUI-CHING, LAI KAM-MAN AND CHEUNG CHING-KAT.

MESSRS CHAN YIU-FAI, LUK CHEUNG, YAU FUK-PING, YAP TIN-YEUNG, CHEUNG SAN, KAN CHAU-CHI AND PANG TSO-YIU ARE SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE TAI PO DISTRICT.

THE ELECTORATE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMPRISES THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF RURAL COMMITTEES AND UNOFFICIAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FROM THE DISTRICT.

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD BY SECRET BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK ORDINANCE.

THE RETURNING OFFICER WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHO WILL BE ASSISTED BY STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

BEFORE THE ELECTION, VOTING PROCEDURES WILL BE EXPLAINED BY MR AKERS-JONES, WHO WILL ANNOUNCE RESULTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VOTES HAVE BEEN CHECKED AND COUNTED.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN, TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN AND 15 ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW TERM WILL BE HELD ON MAY 29.

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IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

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THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE SENIOR IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS AND IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS WITH CERTAIN STATUTORY POWER UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE AMENDED LEGISLATION THESE TWO GRADES OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ARE GIVEN THE POWER TO SEIZE, REMOVE AND DETAIN ANYTHING WHICH MAY BE FORFEITED UNDER THE ORDINANCE OR WHICH IS OR CONTAINS EVIDENCE OF THE COMMISSION OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL TO THE UMELCO LEGISLATIVE GROUP FOR DISCUSSING WITH HIM THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPLICATION AND OPERATIONAL DESIRABILITY OF THE BILL.

HE ASSURED THAT THE POWER CONFERRED WOULD BE USED BY A SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICER OR AN IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT ONLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER AND NORMALLY AS PART OF A LARGE SCALE OPERATION UNDER THE CONTROL OF A SENIOR OFFICER.

+IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT A SENIOR IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT OR AN IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT SHOULD GO OUT AND SEIZE OBJECTS ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE,+ HE STRESSED.

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN NT ARE SATISFACTORY

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATING EMERGENCY CASES ARISING FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND MATERNITY COMPLICATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE SATISFACTORY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR THONG SAID BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE MAJOR HOSPITALS IN SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN, STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES WHENEVER NECESSARY IN THE DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT, SUCH EMERGENCY CASES WOULD BE FIRST ATTENDED TO AT THE EMERGENCY UNIT OF THE NEAREST DISTRICT HOSPITALS OR CLINICS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+AFTER APPROPRIATE INITIAL TREATMENT, DEPENDING ON THEIR CONDITIONS AND IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE ATTENDING PHYSICIANS, SOME OF THE CASES MAY THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE NEAREST HOSPITALS FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED TREATMENT,+ HE SAID.

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BLASTING SITES REGULARLY CHECKED

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ABOUT 1 350 INSPECTIONS OF 135 BLASTING SITES WERE CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1980 BY OFFICERS FROM THE MINES DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.C.A. HAMMOND, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE NUMBER REPRESENTED AN AVERAGE FREQUENCY OF 10 INSPECTIONS OF EACH SITE DURING THE YEAR. HOWEVER, MORE FREQUENT INSPECTIONS WERE MADE IN CASES WHERE THIS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, MR HAMMOND SAID THERE WERE 17 OFFICERS OF VARIOUS RANKS EMPLOYED IN THE MINES DIVISION WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ENSURING THAT PROPER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS DURING BLASTING OPERATIONS.

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TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR KENNETH TOPLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE PRESENT ONE YEAR IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED WOULD BE PHASED OUT AND WOULD BE REPLACED BY A TWO-YEAR PART-TIME DAY RELEASE COURSE INCORPORATING AN ELEMENT OF FULL-TIME TRAINING.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, MR TOPLEY SAID A FULL-TIME TRAINING COURSE WAS NOT PROPOSED AT PRESENT.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1980

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FINANCE COMMITTEE THANKED FOR ITS WORK

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MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE THANKED TODAY BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JACK CATER FOR DEVOTING THEIR TIME AND EFFORT IN SCRUTINISING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

THE TRIBUTE WAS MADE BY SIR JACK WHEN THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1980-81 WAS TABLED IN THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID: +ONCE AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD THE GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE VERY CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE DEVOTED TO THE SCRUTINY OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, BOTH AT THE SPECIAL MEETINGS AT WHICH THEY EXAMINED THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE AND AT REGULAR MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WHEN REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT ARE CONSIDERED.+

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BILLS PASSED

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SEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1980, THE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 2) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, DUMBARTON ROAD, INVERNESS ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD AND GRAMPAN ROAD.

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