



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

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MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

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NO 'LAME-DUCK' ADMINISTRATION FOR HK -- GOVERNOR
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HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM PLANS FOR EDUCATION, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT ON MORE REPRESENTATIVE LINES AND IN MANY OTHER FIELDS ARE ALL EVIDENCE OF THE DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

+THERE WILL BE NO 'LAME-DUCK' ADMINISTRATION HERE,+ HE STRESSED.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK TAI PO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL AT TAI YUEN ESTATE, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH COMMENT OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, ON APRIL 20.

+IN THAT CONFERENCE, HE SPOKE OF THE PROSPECT THAT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION COULD NOT CONTINUE AFTER 1997,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THAT IS NOT ALL HE SAID.

+HE EMPHASISED THAT IT REMAINED THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT A FRAMEWORK OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG AS A FLOURISHING AND DYNAMIC SOCIETY AND TO REACH AN AGREEMENT IN WHICH THOSE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE FORMALLY RECORDED.

+HE SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR FIRM ASSURANCES THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, BASED ON EFFECTIVE AUTONOMY, WILL CONTINUE AND OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG'S NEED TO KNOW THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND OF HAVING TIME TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS BEFORE THAT AGREEMENT IS COMMENDED TO PARLIAMENT.

+HE SPOKE, TOO, OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG BEING DEVELOPED ON INCREASINGLY REPRESENTATIVE LINES IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT CHANGE MUST COME IN HONG KONG AND IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THIS SHOULD CAUSE CONCERN AND ANXIETY.

+THIS CHANGE WILL BE A CHALLENGE, BUT NO CHALLENGE WAS EVER OVERCOME BY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID, IT IS TIME FOR REALISM, CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING OF THIS COMMUNITY AND CONSTRUCTIVE THINKING.

+THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE APPROACH OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

+WE MAY FACE A CHALLENGE: BUT IT IS A CHALLENGE WHICH I BELIEVE THAT THIS COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS WEATHERED SO MUCH IN THE PAST, CAN FACE SUCCESSFULLY IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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TURNING TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK TAI PO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL, SIR EDWARD RECALLED THAT THE KUK PROPOSED IN 1963 THAT IT SHOULD SPONSOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ONE IN EACH OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF THE KUK, SO AS TO AVOID THE INCONVENIENCE TO STUDENTS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO SCHOOL.

+THE FIRST OF THESE SCHOOLS WAS OPENED IN YUEN LONG IN 1969, AND THE SECOND WAS OPENED AT MUI WO IN THE ISLANDS TWO YEARS AGO, HE SAID.

+THE OPENING OF THE TAI PO SCHOOL TODAY MARKS THE COMPLETION OF THIS FAR-SIGHTED PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE KUK ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE KUK'S PLANS WERE CONCEIVED BEFORE THE MAIN THRUST OF EXPANSION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HAD REACHED THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+NOW A RING OF NEW MODERN TOWNS SURROUNDS THE OLDER URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, LINKED BY TRANSPORT SYSTEMS TO SERVE THE GROWING NEEDS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND A POPULATION WHICH HAS DOUBLED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS AND WHICH WILL REACH NEARLY THREE MILLION BY 1991, HE SAID.

+IN THIS SAME PERIOD BEFORE 1991, DECISIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO BUILD A FURTHER 36 SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+NOW WE NEED TO EXAMINE THE NEXT PHASE OF URBAN EXPANSION AND TO SET OUT THE STRATEGY FOR THE NEEDS OF AN EXPANDING ECONOMY AND POPULATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

+THIS STRATEGIC PLAN IS NOW BEING ASSEMBLED AND DECISIONS AS TO THE NEXT BROAD AREAS TO DEVELOP ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

EARLIER, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE WERE MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LAU WONG-FAT, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS CHAN.

AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, THEY TOURED THE SCHOOL AND WERE SHOWN VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING THE HOME MANAGEMENT, WOODWORK AND METALWORK ROOMS.

BEFORE OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE ALSO VISITED CHOI YUEN ESTATE IN FANLING NEW TOWN.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR IAN MACPHERSON, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, AND THE HOUSING MANAGER OF THE ESTATE, MR WAN YEUNG-KWAN, THEY HAD A LOOK AT MAJOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE ESTATE.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO CHOI PING HOUSE, WHERE THEY VISITED THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE OFFICE AND MET THE MAC OFFICE BEARERS, AND LATER VISITED A FAMILY.

BEFORE LEAVING THE ESTATE FOR TAI PO, THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING NEW TOWN BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF TAI PO AND FANLING, MR R.B. HANNA, ON THE ROOF TOP OF CHOI PING HOUSE.

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GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO KEEP UP DEVELOPMENT OF HK
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (MONDAY) STRESSED THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE TERRITORY.

+IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REALISE HOW MUCH IS GOING ON IN HONG KONG ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID.

+I HAVE SPOKEN OF IT MANY TIMES, AND I SHALL BE SPEAKING OF IT AGAIN.

+THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO DO : WE SHALL BE GETTING ON WITH DOING IT, AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IN OUR TASK,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK TAI PO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL.

ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY +LAME-DUCK+ -- A PHRASE WHICH HE USED EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH WHEN HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO +LAME-DUCK ADMINISTRATION+ IN HONG KONG -- THE GOVERNOR SAID IT MEANT SOMETHING WHICH WAS INEFFECTIVE.

+WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY THIS MORNING, IN FACT WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS MORNING IS GOING ROUND TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE THINGS WHICH ARE HAPPENING BECAUSE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REALISE HOW MUCH IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHAT SORT OF CHANGES WOULD BE MADE TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT MORE REPRESENTATIVE, SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORKING ON THE PROPOSALS FOR SOME TIME.

+WE HAVE SAID QUITE CLEARLY THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE PROGRESSIVE, AND I THINK YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THE QUESTION WHICH MR STEPHEN CHEONG ASKED THE OTHER DAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN HE SAID WILL IT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED FOR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

+YOU MAY BE QUITE SURE THAT THE PROPOSALS, WHEN WE DO PUT THEM FORWARD, WILL TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

ASKED HOW LONG THESE PROPOSALS WILL TAKE, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS NOT GOING TO SET DOWN TIME SCALES.

+BUT IT WILL BE PROGRESSIVE AND WE HAVE SPOKEN OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMING YEARS. SO I WILL LEAVE YOU TO GUESS THE TIME SCALE,+ HE SAID.

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TOP MANAGEMENT COURSES FOR SENIOR STAFF
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A TOP-LEVEL CENTRE TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES IN MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION IS NOW BEING SET UP.

THE 'SENIOR STAFF COURSE' WILL OFFER TRAINING IN A FORMAT EQUAL TO, AND AS DEMANDING AS, THAT OF TOP MANAGEMENT TRAINING CENTRES IN BRITAIN OR THE UNITED STATES.

THE COURSE IS PITCHED AT A HIGH LEVEL OF CIVIL SERVANT AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ITS CONCEPT AND CONTENT WILL EQUIP THOSE WHO COMPLETE IT WITH THE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TOOLS FOR AN INCREASINGLY-COMPLEX FUTURE. EXECUTIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COURSES.

+ONE OF OUR AIMS IS TO GIVE PEOPLE A BROAD GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE,+ SAID THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE, MR LEN SNEDDON.

+WE WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE MACHINE OF WHICH THEY ARE A PART.+

TO THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: WHY DO SENIOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WHO, BY DEFINITION, ARE SUCCESSFUL NEED SUCH A TRAINING?

MR SNEDDON REPLIES: +THERE ARE MANY SPECIALISATIONS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE TRAVEL UP AND BECOME SENIOR PROFESSIONALS. THEY THEN REACH A LEVEL WHERE THEY BECOME MUCH MORE MANAGERIAL THAN PROFESSIONAL, AT LEAST IN CONCEPT.

+I THINK IT IS PERFECTLY REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT PEOPLE CAN BECOME SENIOR WITHIN THIS HUGE GOVERNMENT MACHINE WITHOUT NECESSARILY HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THIS BROAD PERSPECTIVE.+

MR SNEDDON IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE SUNRIDGE PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE, ONE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING MANAGEMENT TRAINING RESIDENTIAL CENTRES. THE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS OF THE COURSE SHOW EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORDS AND THEY HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY RECRUITED TO RUN THE NEW PROGRAMME.

GIVEN HONG KONG'S OBSESSION WITH PAPER QUALIFICATIONS IT MAY SEEM SURPRISING THAT THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUING OF A CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA TO THOSE WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE HAS NOT REALLY BEEN SETTLED YET. THAT IS BECAUSE IT IS NOT THAT KIND OF COURSE.

MR IAN DEANE, STAFF TUTOR AND MOST RECENTLY DIRECTOR OF TRAINING FOR A SPECIAL PROGRAMMES UNIT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, EXPLAINED: +THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN WHAT WE ARE DOING FROM THE STANDARD UNIVERSITY, OR QUALIFICATION-BASED COURSE. THIS IS AN EXPERIENCE IN ITSELF. IT IS NOT JUST SITTING AT A DESK AND ABSORBING INFORMATION FROM A TALK OR FROM A TEACHER. THE EXERCISE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE EFFORT THAT PEOPLE PUT INTO IT.

/+THEY ARE

+THEY ARE 'LEARNING TO LEARN'. HERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY SUCCESSFUL. THEY HAVE BRAINS, EXPERIENCE, THEY HAVE DONE WELL. THEY ALREADY KNOW WHAT MANAGEMENT IS ABOUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING IT. WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH IS A BROADENING OF THEIR PERSPECTIVE AND GETTING THEM TO GO ON LEARNING FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE.

+THE WORLD IS GETTING MORE COMPLICATED, MORE UNCERTAIN. IT IS VERY MUCH THE CASE THAT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE, SO WE HAVE TO ESTABLISH SOMETHING ON NEW GROUND.

+IN THE SAME WAY, SENIOR OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT ARE GOING TO BE ALREADY DEALING WITH UNCERTAINTY. THE WAY YOU DEAL WITH IT IS TO PREPARE OPTIONS, TAKE ACTION, REVIEW ACTION. IF YOU ARE RIGHT YOU BUILD UP EXPERIENCE - AND THAT IS HOW YOU LEARN AND SURVIVE.+

FULL-TIME COURSES WILL START FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND THE OFFICIALS SELECTED TO ATTEND WILL BE AT THE TOP END OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MASTER PAY SCALE, EARNING \$20 000 A MONTH OR MORE, UP TO THE FIRST TWO POINTS OF THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE.

THEY WILL BE BETWEEN 30 AND 45 YEARS OF AGE AND THERE ARE NO FORMAL ACADEMIC ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF EACH COURSE WILL COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE, SENIORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED.

THE COURSE WILL SEE PARTICIPANTS REMOVED FROM THEIR NORMAL DUTIES FOR ITS THREE MONTHS DURATION. INCLUDED WILL BE SESSIONS IN THE NEW CENTRE TO BE SITUATED IN THE SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE, ONE-WEEK RESIDENTIAL PERIODS AT THE BEGINNING AND END AND AN OVERSEAS VISIT.

CORE STUDIES, INCLUDING TOPICS SUCH AS HISTORY, LAW, GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ACTIVE SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PROJECTS AND READING PROGRAMMES WILL ENSURE THAT THE PRESSURE TO LEARN ON THE 40 PARTICIPANTS IS MAINTAINED.

THE FOUR MAIN COURSE OBJECTIVES ARE DEFINED AS DEVELOPING: THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE, INCREASED COMPETENCE IN KEY AREAS OF MANAGEMENT SPECIALISATION, SKILLS IN HANDLING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH GOVERNMENT OPERATES AND THE ROLE OF A SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR.

ALL THESE AIM AT DEVELOPING A BETTER BUREAUCRACY IN HONG KONG. BUT BUREAUCRACY HAD HAD AN EXTREMELY BAD PRESS OVER THE YEARS SO WHY DEVELOP IT?

LEN SNEDDON: +ONE OF THE REASONS IT EXISTS IS THAT IT WAS DISCOVERED BY HUMAN BEINGS TO WORK. THE PHARAOHS HAD THE EARLIEST KNOWN EXAMPLE OF BUREAUCRACY.+

+BUT OF COURSE IT IS A COMPROMISE AND, LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE, PEOPLE CRITICISE THE BAD THINGS AND FORGET THE GOOD. BUREAUCRACY SEEMS TO BE NECESSARY GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF LARGE ORGANISATIONS.

/+BUT THE

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+BUT THE DANGER IS THAT, BECAUSE ORGANISATIONS BECOME BIG AND BECAUSE THEY ARE STRUCTURED IN THE WAY THEY ARE, THE PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM ARE DIVORCED FROM THE OUTCOME. THEY BEGIN TO FORGET THEY ARE THERE TO SERVE PEOPLE AND BEGIN TO BEHAVE IN INHUMAN WAYS. THEY TREAT PEOPLE AS JUST PIECES OR STATISTICS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THE RULE BOOK MAY BE USED TO DECIDE IN WHICH OF A NUMBER OF WAYS A SITUATION SHOULD BE TREATED AND NO REFERENCE IS MADE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE SITUATION A PERSON IS IN.+

IAN DEANE: + IT IS LIKE STOCK CONTROL IN A COMPANY. THERE ARE A, B AND C ITEMS IN BIG ORGANISATIONS. INDIVIDUALS CAN BE TREATED LIKE CLASS C ITEMS. HOWEVER, WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL SEES AS A PROBLEM HE SEES AS CLASS A. IF THE ORGANISATION PERSISTS IN TREATING IT AS CLASS C THE PERSON LOSES OUT.+

HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS COMPLETING THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO FORGET THAT THE JOB OF GOVERNMENT, THEIR GOVERNMENT, IS ABOUT PEOPLE.

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GOVERNOR TO LEAVE FOR PEKING TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR PEKING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT CA 106, ETD 1.50 PM.

A FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER SIR EDWARD'S DEPARTURE. THOSE ASSIGNED TO COVER THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 12.30 PM.

THE GOVERNOR WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG FROM PEKING ON FLIGHT BA 20, ON THURSDAY (MAY 10), ETA 7.45 PM. HE WILL DEPART FOR LONDON ON LEAVE WITH LADY YOUDE ON SATURDAY (MAY 12).

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR CHANGED
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC TODAY THAT THE DATES OF THIS YEAR'S QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAYS HAD BEEN CHANGED.

THE CHANGE TO HONG KONG'S LIST OF GENERAL HOLIDAYS HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY THE DECISION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THAT THIS YEAR'S QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WILL FALL ON THE THIRD SATURDAY IN JUNE INSTEAD OF, AS NORMALLY, THE SECOND SATURDAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ACTUAL SATURDAY BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY WILL THEREFORE FALL ON JUNE 16 AND THE FOLLOWING MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON JUNE 18 - RATHER THAN ON JUNE 9 AND JUNE 11 RESPECTIVELY.

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BUSINESS OF INSURANCE COMPANY SATISFACTORILY DISPOSED OF
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THE INSURANCE BUSINESS OF THE BANGKOK BRANCH OF CHINA UNDERWRITERS LIFE AND GENERAL COMPANY LIMITED HAD NOW BEEN SATISFACTORILY DISPOSED OF, MR NOEL M. GLEESON, REGISTRAR GENERAL, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE ADDED THAT A WINDING-UP ORDER IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY AND ITS WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY, KEI CHEONG HOME SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED, HAD BEEN MADE IN THE HIGH COURT.

MR GLEESON EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE HIM TO FINALISE SOME MATTERS OF A MINOR NATURE, WHICH WERE STILL OUTSTANDING IN SINGAPORE, AND ALSO TO PROCEED WITH THE LIQUIDATION OF THE COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARY IN HONG KONG.

THE LICENCE OF THE AGENCY BUSINESS IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN CANCELLED, AND THE ACCOUNT OF THE BALANCE DUE TO CHINA UNDERWRITERS WAS BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES CONCERNED, HE SAID.

MR GLEESON ANNOUNCED THAT AN ORDER FOR THE WINDING-UP OF BEDFORD INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED HAD ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE HIGH COURT TODAY ON HIS OWN PETITION AS INSURANCE AUTHORITY, AND HE WOULD NOW PROCEED WITH THE LIQUIDATION OF THIS COMPANY IN HIS CAPACITY AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

HE SAID HE SHARED THE CONCERN OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID AND OTHERS THAT SEVERAL SUBSTANTIAL PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS AGAINST SOME OF THE POLICY HOLDERS OF BEDFORD WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PAID IN FULL.

MR GLEESON POINTED OUT THAT APPROACHES HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TO THE MOTOR INSURERS' BUREAU TO SEE IF THE MIB SCHEME COULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER INSOLVENT INSURANCE COMPANIES.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY WOULD BE CONTINUED THROUGH THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

DISTRICT BOARDS TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETINGS
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FIVE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL HOLD SPECIAL MEETINGS THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED TAXI REVIEW AS WELL AS PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MEETINGS OF :

- (A) THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL;
- (B) THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AT 4 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG;
- (C) THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AT 9.30 AM AND AGAIN AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 9) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S FANLING SUB-OFFICE IN JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING;
- (D) THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 11) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN KWONG FUK ROAD; AND
- (E) THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 11) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF WYLLIE BUILDING, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

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PLAYGROUND FOR KOWLOON CITY
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A PLAYGROUND IS TO BE BUILT AT THE JUNCTION OF CARPENTER ROAD AND SHEK KU LUNG ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY AWARDED A \$2.78 MILLION CONTRACT TO K. WONG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE PLAYGROUND WILL HAVE FOUR TENNIS COURTS, TWO VOLLEY BALL-CUM-BADMINTON COURTS AND TWO MINI-SOCCER PITCHES.

IT WILL INCLUDE A TWO-STOREY SERVICE BUILDING WITH CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS AND A REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

THE WHOLE SITE AREA, COVERING 1.35 HECTARES, WILL BE LANDSCAPED.

WORK STARTED LAST WEEK AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN NINE MONTHS.

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VOLLEYBALL COACH COURSE

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A COURSE TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO BE VOLLEYBALL COACHES WILL START FROM MAY 27 AT THE LAI CHI KOK PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL.

THE 10-SESSION COURSE, TO BE HELD AT WEEKENDS, IS ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.

ONLY 40 PLACES ARE AVAILABLE AND THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IMMEDIATELY.

ENTRY FEE IS \$20 PER PERSON AND APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE HEAD OFFICE IN WING ON CENTRE, CENTRAL.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY DIALLING 5-458511.

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LITTERBUGS IN COUNTRY PARKS FINED

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LITTERBUGS AGAIN CONSTITUTED THE LARGEST GROUP OF PEOPLE FINED FOR OFFENCES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS LAST MONTH.

IN APRIL, 180 PEOPLE WERE FINED FOR LITTERING IN THE COUNTRY PARKS, INCLUDING POLLUTING WATER AND 31 WERE PROSECUTED FOR VARIOUS OTHER OFFENCES, INCLUDING ILLEGAL ENTRY BY VEHICLE AND USING FIRE IN NON-DESIGNATED BARBECUE AREAS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE COUNTRYSIDE CLEAN AND GREEN COULD NOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED.

HE URGED ALL VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY PARKS TO EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE.

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NEW TOILET FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

A SINGLE-STOREY PUBLIC TOILET IS TO BE BUILT AT ALBANY ROAD CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND UNDERNEATH GLENEALY FLYOVER.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY AWARDED A \$130 000 CONTRACT TO UNITED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE TOILET, TO BE BUILT ON A 65-SQUARE-METRE SITE, WILL BE FOR USE BY VISITORS TO THE HONG KONG ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

TWO FEMALE AND TWO MALE TOILETS WILL BE PROVIDED.

WORK COMMENCED EARLIER THIS MONTH AND WILL TAKE FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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LEAKAGE TESTS IN TO KWA WAN

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MAY 10) TO 5 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY SAN SHAN ROAD BETWEEN MA TAU WAI ROAD AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD, AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD BETWEEN MA HANG CHUNG ROAD AND MA TAU KOK ROAD, INCLUDING 30-54 TAM KUNG ROAD, 47-83 PAK TAI STREET, 3-7 AND 47-53 MA TAU KOK ROAD.

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WATER CUT IN MID-LEVELS

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 10) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY MAGAZINE GAP ROAD, MAY ROAD, CLOVELLY PATH, BREWIN PATH AND TREGUNTER PATH.

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WATER FIGURE

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 68.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 400.985 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 435.858 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 74.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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