



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1987

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COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER POST-RETIREMENT JOB APPLICATIONS

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND ADVISE ON ALL APPLICATIONS FROM SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT.

SIR ROGER LOBO HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MR JUSTICE GARCIA AND DR VICTOR FUNG HAVE BEEN APPOINTED MEMBERS. THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE IS ALSO A MEMBER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON THE PRINCIPLES AND THE CRITERIA TO BE ADOPTED IN DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS FROM SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT.

"APPLICATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE OFFICERS, BRANCH SECRETARIES AND ABOVE WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD CONSIDER AND ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT WOULD ALSO CONSIDER AND ADVISE ON OTHER APPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE REFERRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BASIC PRINCIPLE TO BE ADOPTED IN CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO IMPROPRIETY IN THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT.

IN THIS RESPECT, ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN OF:

- * WHETHER THE OFFICER HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN POLICY FORMULATION OR DECISION, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH COULD HAVE BENEFITED THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER;
- * WHETHER THE EMPLOYER MIGHT GAIN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER HIS COMPETITORS BECAUSE OF THE OFFICER'S PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, AND
- * THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE OFFICER TAKING UP THE EMPLOYMENT IN QUESTION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A STANDARD APPLICATION FORM WOULD BE INTRODUCED WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT SO AS TO FACILITATE CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION AGAINST THE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

/AS REGARDS

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AS REGARDS APPLICATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE OFFICERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN FORWARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT OR BRANCH SHOULD PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK OF DISCLOSURE OF COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND WHETHER THE OFFICER WAS IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE UNFAIR INFLUENCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT IN FAVOUR OF THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER.

"DECISIONS BY APPROVING AUTHORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COULD INCLUDE UNQUALIFIED APPROVAL OR THE IMPOSITION OF A WAITING PERIOD.

"NON-COMPLIANCE COULD RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF AN OFFICER'S PENSION UNDER THE PENSION BENEFITS ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

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FIRST BATCH OF YOUBE FUND AWARDS NEXT YEAR

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THE FIRST BATCH OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS OF THE SIR EDWARD YOUBE MEMORIAL FUND WILL BE GRANTED EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THE FUND'S COUNCIL HAS BEGUN VETTING APPLICATIONS, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND, MR PETER POON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE SIR EDWARD YOUBE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A PACKAGE OF SCHOOL PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS TO BE AWARDED IN THE ACADAMIC YEAR 1987-88.

"THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MET SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY TO INTERVIEW NOMINEES FOR THE AWARDS. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT LADY YOUBE HAS KINDLY AGREED TO PRESENT THE AWARDS AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 27," HE SAID.

MR POON WAS SPEAKING AT A CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE ANTE CHAMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, WHERE HE RECEIVED A DONATION OF \$25,000 FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, MR ALASTAIR SCOTT.

MR POON NOTED THAT THE SIR EDWARD YOUBE MEMORIAL FUND NOW HAS AN ACCUMULATED CAPITAL AND INCOME OF ABOUT \$85.7 MILLION.

"THE BOARD STILL LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING MORE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY, AS WELL AS ANY BRANCHES OF THE HONG KONG BANK, THE HANG SENG BANK AND THE HANG LUNG BANK," HE ADDED.

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INVESTORS' RIGHTS ASSURED

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FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS, THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION GIVES REASSURANCE THAT THEIR RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED, AND THAT THEIR PROFITS CAN BE FREELY CONVERTED INTO OTHER CURRENCIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR IN ADELAIDE AS PART OF HIS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, MR EASON TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL KEEP ITS OWN FINANCIAL AND FISCAL SYSTEM, ITS FREE PORT AND BE A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAD ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL IN AREAS OF VITAL CONCERN TO HONG KONG SINCE IT STARTED ITS WORK TWO YEARS AGO TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"IT HAS AGREED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BECOME A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND THAT IT SHOULD REMAIN SO AFTER 1997.

"HONG KONG DULY BECAME A CONTRACTING PARTY IN ITS OWN RIGHT IN APRIL 1986, THEREBY ENDING UNCERTAINTY OVER HONG KONG'S FUTURE TRADING POSITION."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, MR EASON SAID MANUFACTURING WILL CLEARLY REMAIN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

HE STRESSED THAT MANUFACTURERS NEED TO CONTINUE TO MOVE UPMARKET AND INTO MORE SOPHISTICATED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO MEET THE PRESSURES OF INCREASING COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, RISES IN PRODUCTION AND LABOUR COSTS IN HONG KONG AND PROTECTIONISM IN OVERSEAS MARKETS.

"IT IS REASONABLE TO PREDICT THAT TEXTILES AND GARMENTS WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY FOR US FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE," HE SAID.

"AMONG OTHER INDUSTRIES, DESPITE SOME CURRENT PROBLEMS, ELECTRONICS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AMONG THE FASTER GROWING. THERE WILL BE CONTINUING DIVERSIFICATION AND UPGRADING OF PRODUCT RANGE AND INCREASING USE OF AUTOMATIC AND OTHER ADVANCED EQUIPMENT."

AUSTRALIA RANKS 10TH IN THE LEAGUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG. THERE ARE 23 INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS INVOLVING AUSTRALIAN INTEREST WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF U.S. \$24 MILLION.

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JLG SUB-GROUP MEETING

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AT THIS MEETING OF THE STANDING SUB-GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS (IRO) OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON HOW AFTER 1997 HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997. IDENTICAL VIEWS WERE REACHED.

EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AFTER 1997 IN ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE UNFAO IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION. ON THIS, IDENTICAL VIEWS WERE ALSO REACHED.

INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS HELD ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION.

EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE AT THIS MEETING AND WILL REPORT THE RESULTS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP WILL BE HELD IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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BILINGUAL STATUS TO CONTINUE

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR CANICE MAK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE BILINGUAL STATUS IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE ALTERED WITH THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN FUTURE.

"BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES WOULD STILL BE USED EXTENSIVELY AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE," MR MAK TOLD 49 NEWLY RECRUITED CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING COURSES.

HE ADVISED THE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS TO KEEP THEMSELVES ABREAST OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO COPE WITH HONG KONG'S EVER-CHANGING SOCIETY.

THE COURSES COVER TRAINING IN TRANSLATION, INTERPRETATION TECHNIQUES, PRACTICAL CHINESE AND TRANSLATION OF SPECIFIED SUBJECTS, INCLUDING LEGAL AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE LATEST BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY GRADES FOR ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME. THE E.COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTH PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR EPD SAID THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS. NEVERTHELESS THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACHES AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF THE BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOW:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E.COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E.COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E.COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

HE SAID THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE. NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY. SIMILARLY A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

/THE GRADES

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THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- AS AT SEPT. 24	PRESENT GRADING ----- AS AT OCT. 7
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	A	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	B	B
DEEP WATER BAY	A	A
HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	B	B
REPULSE BAY	B	B
SHEK O	A	B
SOUTH BAY	A	A
ST. STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	B	B
STANLEY MAIN	B	B
ROCKY BAY, SHEK O	B	C
TO TEI WAN*	A	A
ISLANDS DISTRICT -----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	A
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A

/KWUN YAM WAN

KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	B	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	B	A
SILVERMINE BAY	C	C
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	A
TUNG O*	A	A

* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	B	B
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	A	A
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	B	B
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	C	C
APPROACH	C	C
CASAM	B	B
GEMINI	A	A

HOI MEI WAN	B	B
LIDO	B	B
TING KAU	B	B
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	C	C
NEW CAFETERIA	C	B
CASTLE PEAK	C	C
KADOORIE BEACH	B	B
BUTTERFLY	B	B

COMMENTING ON THE CHANGED GRADING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID CHEUNG SHA LOWER, TONG FUK, PUI O, CHANGED FROM "B" TO "A". THE WATER QUALITY OF THESE THREE BEACHES ON LANTAU ISLAND IS BORDERLINE BETWEEN "A" AND "B" GRADES. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO VERY SLIGHT POLLUTION FROM LOCAL SOURCES. OCCASIONAL FLUCTUATION BETWEEN THESE TWO GRADES WILL THEREFORE OCCUR.

NEW CAFETERIA CHANGED FROM "C" TO "B". THE PREVIOUS "C" GRADE WAS DUE TO THE INCREASED INFLUENCE OF THE DISCHARGE FROM TUEN MUN NULLAH UNDER THE TIDAL AND WIND CONDITIONS PREVAILING DURING THE MEASUREMENT PERIOD. THE NORMAL GRADING FOR THIS BEACH HAS BEEN "B" IN THIS BATHING SEASON.

SHEK O CHANGED FROM "A" TO "B". THIS BEACH IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO A SLIGHT POLLUTION FROM THE NEARBY CONTAMINATED STORMWATER DRAINS. THE WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACH IS ON THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN "A" AND "B", AND OCCASIONAL FLUCTUATION BETWEEN THESE TWO GRADES IS NORMAL.

ROCKY BAY CHANGED FROM "B" TO "C". THIS BEACH IS POLLUTED BY A DRAIN AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE BEACH WHICH RECEIVES DOMESTIC SEWAGE FROM THE NEARBY SHEK O VILLAGE. THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACH HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DETERIORATED IN RECENT YEARS. THE CHANGE FROM "B" TO "C" IS CONSIDERED TO BE WITHIN NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACH.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL HOLMES, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, AT 3-7211044.

AIDS VIDEOS TO BE SCREENED

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AN OPEN-AIR VIDEO RELAY ON A RECENTLY PRODUCED TV PROGRAMME ON AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) WILL BE HELD JOINTLY BY INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9) EVENING AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE.

A CAPACIOUS VIDEO WALL WILL BE ASSEMBLED ON BOARD THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT MOBILE STREET THEATRE, TELECASTING THREE EPISODES OF FIVE-MINUTE FILM CLIPS ON AIDS ALMOST NON-STOP FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS.

PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE THREE EPISODES COVER MAJOR AREAS OF PUBLIC CONCERN FOR AIDS, INCLUDING AIDS - THE VIRUS; MODES OF TRANSMISSION; AND PREVENTION.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, MR WILFRED TSUI; SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR PATRICK LI; MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER OF MHD, DR NGAN CHUNG MING; HEAD OF THE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION SECTION OF RTHK, MRS LINA LO; AND CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF ISD, MR GEORGE YUEN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 6.30 PM AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE OUTSIDE THE NEW WORLD CENTRE. ISD OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PARADE

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MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE WERE TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT INVITATION LETTERS HAD BEEN SENT TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS, SEEKING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PARADE IN MID-NOVEMBER AND THE INITIAL RESPONSE WAS ENCOURAGING.

THE AIM OF THE PARADE IS TO OFFICIALLY KICK OFF THIS YEAR'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AT DISTRICT LEVEL. THE EVENT WILL ALSO HELP TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS TO PARTICIPATE AS SUPPORT TO THE CAMPAIGN.

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IT IS EXPECTED THAT ABOUT 30 TO 35 VEHICLES WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE WHICH WILL RUN FROM TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND TO THE EDINBURGH PLACE. ALL THE VEHICLES WILL BE DECORATED WITH CLEAN HONG KONG MESSAGES TOGETHER WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT/CORPORATE IDENTITIES.

CEREMONIES, HIGHLIGHTED BY MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES, SALUTE-TAKING, FLAG-RAISING CEREMONIES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION TO THE BEST-DECORATED VEHICLES WILL BE HELD AT BOTH THE MEETING AND THE ENDING POINTS OF THE PARADE ROUTE.

PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THE PARADE CAN RING UP THE PARADE WORKING GROUP AT 5-8428842 OR 5-8428843 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES.

MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO HEARD THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AUXILIARY LITTER WARDENS THIS SUMMER HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, A TOTAL OF 640 STUDENTS FROM 32 SECONDARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S AUXILIARY LITTER WARDEN SCHEME. UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF USD STAFF, THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO WORK FOR A TOTAL OF 19 WORKING DAYS AT FIVE BEACHES.

APART FROM LITTER-PICKING, THEY ALSO ADVISED BEACH-GOERS TO REFRAIN FROM LITTERING AND TO MAKE USE OF LITTER BINS FOR DISPOSING OF REFUSE.

ACCORDING TO USD STAFF, THE WARDENS WERE ZEALOUS AND HARD WORKING. THEY POSED NO PROBLEM IN CO-OPERATION, AND MOST OF THEM COULD FULFIL WORK ASSIGNMENTS SUCCESSFULLY.

IT WAS DECIDED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT THE AUXILIARY LITTER WARDEN SCHEME WOULD CONTINUE IN THE SAME FORMAT NEXT YEAR.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TSUEN WAN OPEN STORAGE SITE

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF AN OPEN STORAGE SITE AT TSUEN WAN.

MEASURING ABOUT 5,560 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS LOCATED NEAR TSUEN WAN TRANSPORT COMPLEX.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS AND RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

/THE SITE

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THE SITE IS SPECIFIED FOR OPEN STORAGE USE, BUT CONTAINERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE STORED ON THE LAND.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 23.

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LANTERN CARIVAL FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS

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A LANTERN CARNIVAL FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS TO CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE NIGHT INCLUDE LION DANCE, SINGING AND DANCING PERFORMANCE, ACROBATIC AND MAGIC SHOWS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE GAMESTALLS FOR LANTERN RIDDLES, FORTUNE-TELLING AND CHINESE CHESS.

THE CARNIVAL IS AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, AND IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATION, THE MONG KOK CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, AND THE DISTRICT CLASMEN AND COUNTRYMEN ASSOCIATION.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TOMORROW WILL BE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR CHAN KWOK-MING AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR WONG YUEN-WEI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LANTERN CARNIVAL AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND AT SAI YEE STREET.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETS ON FRIDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9) TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENTS IN FOUR RESUMED PRIVATE STREETS IN TO KWA WAN.

THE FOUR STREETS -- MING LUN STREET, CHUN SHUN STREET, HING YIN STREET AND HING YAN STREET -- WERE RESUMED UNDER THE 1986/87 PROGRAMME.

THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE THE PROVISIONS OF BENCHES, TABLES WITH CHESS BOARDS AND OTHER PLAY FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROVISIONS OF CHANGING ROOMS AND SHOWER FACILITIES AT THE HO MAN TIN SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND, REPAIRING OR REPLACEMENT OF A FOOTBRIDGE AT YAN FUNG STREET IN VALLEY ROAD ESTATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 2.15 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND

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THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (PLB) RESTRICTED ZONE ON POK FU LAM ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED TO A 40-METRE STRETCH ALONG THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SASSOON ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POK FU LAM ROAD FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 10).

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS THERE.

MEANWHILE, THE EXISTING PLB RESTRICTED ZONE ON JAVA ROAD IN NORTH POINT BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HEALTHY STREET EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE LIFTED.

AT THE SAME TIME, TO FACILITATE ROAD WORK IN UPPER STATION STREET IN SHEUNG WAN, THE EXISTING BAN THAT ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 4.6 METRES IN LENGTH ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SECTION OF TAI PING SHAN STREET BETWEEN TUNG STREET AND UPPER STATION STREET WILL BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER SIX WEEKS, WHILE SQUARE STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY.

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

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SUPPLEMENT

POLICY ADDRESS BY

THE GOVERNOR TO

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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GOVERNOR OUTLINES PLANS IN FIRST POLICY ADDRESS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE WITH AN APPROACH GEARED TO MAKING HONG KONG'S SOCIETY EVEN MORE COHESIVE AND ECONOMICALLY EFFECTIVE.

IN HIS FIRST POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE COMMITTED HIMSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOPING HONG KONG "AS A SOCIETY WHICH COMBINES A STRONG, EXPANDING AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY WITH CONCERN FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL ITS INHABITANTS".

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG NEEDED TO CONSOLIDATE THE GAINS OF THE PAST AND TO BUILD ON THEM TO ACHIEVE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO SEE.

"THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IS CONSTANTLY TO LOOK AHEAD, AND FACE UP TO, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE AND TO MAKE SENSIBLE PLANS TO DEAL WITH THEM," HE ADDED.

IN HIS 83-PAGE SPEECH, THE GOVERNOR BEGAN BY REVIEWING HONG KONG'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA, WHICH HE SAID WERE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP IN EVERY FIELD.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP WAS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE DETERMINATION OF BOTH SIDE TO IMPLEMENT THIS FULLY. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY EFFECTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLES IN THIS.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA CONTINUED TO GROW. CHINA REMAINED HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, AND WE WERE NOW THE BIGGEST SINGLE MARKET FOR CHINESE EXPORTS.

THE GOVERNOR THEN REVIEWED LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE HEALTHY ECONOMY, ON PRESENT FORECASTS, WOULD HAVE GROWN BY ALMOST 25 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1986 AND 1987.

AVERAGE WAGES HAD RISEN BY MORE THAN 12 PER CENT IN THE PAST YEAR, AND UNEMPLOYMENT WAS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID IT ALSO MEANT THAT THE PUBLIC FINANCES HAD BEEN DOING WELL. THE BUDGET SURPLUS WOULD BE BIGGER THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE SPENDING MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES.

HONG KONG MUST ALSO MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ITS OWN EXPORTS AND GUARD AGAINST INFLATION AND PROTECTIONISM. SIR DAVID SAID THAT DURING HIS COMING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, HE WOULD STRESS AGAIN THE DAMAGE THAT PROTECTIONISM COULD DO TO THE WORLD ECONOMY.

PROSPERITY BROUGHT WITH IT AN UNDERSTANDABLE DEMAND FOR A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING. MUCH HAD BEEN DONE IN TERMS OF QUANTITY, AND NOW IT WAS TIME TO LOOK TO QUALITY, SAID SIR DAVID.

THUS THERE WERE DEMANDS FOR BETTER HOUSING, BETTER EDUCATION, BETTER HEALTH CARE, BETTER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND A BETTER ENVIRONMENT.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THE NEED FOR PRUDENCE EVEN THOUGH HONG KONG WAS NOW BETTER OFF THAN AT ANY TIME IN ITS HISTORY.

IN TIMES LIKE THE PRESENT, WHEN THE ECONOMY IS BOOMING, MONEY MUST BE SET ASIDE TO HELP MAINTAIN SERVICES IN TIMES WHICH WERE NOT SO GOOD, HE POINTED OUT.

IT WAS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT HONG KONG'S RESERVES HAD TO BE USED TO KEEP UP PREVIOUS LEVELS OF SPENDING DURING THE DEFICIT YEARS OF 1982 TO 1985.

WITHIN THIS PRUDENT FRAMEWORK, THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS WERE AMBITIOUS ACROSS THE WHOLE FIELD OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

SIR DAVID THEN DESCRIBED THE SPENDING THAT THE HEALTHY STATE OF PUBLIC FINANCE WOULD ALLOW.

IN EDUCATION, MORE PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED IN SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS AND IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

/THE NUMBER

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THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING HIGHER EDUCATION WOULD INCREASE BY THREE-QUARTERS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS. A NEW UNIVERSITY WOULD BE BUILT, OPENING IN 1991. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A NEW OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WITH HOSPITALS TO BE PLACED UNDER A NEW HOSPITAL AUTHORITY. BESIDES PROVIDING A BETTER SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT, THE AUTHORITY WOULD ALSO LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

OVER THE NEXT DECADE, THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS WOULD INCREASE BY 50 PER CENT.

A HIGH LEVEL OF BUILDING WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME, SAID SIR DAVID, BUT MORE EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON HOME OWNERSHIP. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHAIRMAN TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WHO WOULD NOT BE AN OFFICIAL.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS AND STABLE SOCIETY COULD ALSO BE A MORE CARING SOCIETY. HELP HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE POOR AND THE NEEDY, AND PROVISION MADE FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED.

STARTING NEXT YEAR, THERE WOULD BE INCREASED ALLOWANCES FOR THOSE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THOSE RECEIVING THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE.

THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE OVER 70 WOULD BE INCREASED AND THE ALLOWANCE WOULD BE EXTENDED IN STAGES TO THOSE OVER 65.

FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED WHO REQUIRE CONSTANT ATTENTION, ALLOWANCES WOULD BE DOUBLED.

THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME, PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS, WOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE WORKERS RETIRING BECAUSE OF OLD AGE OR ILL HEALTH.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO SET UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND OR TO MAKE PRIVATE FUNDS COMPULSORY. THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF A COMPULSORY SCHEME WOULD BE FAR REACHING AND IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT A CPF WOULD PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT LEVEL OF SECURITY TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEME AND PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD SAFEGUARD PARTICIPANTS IN THEM.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT THE FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROSPERITY MUST CONTINUE TO BE LAID. LARGE SUMS HAD ALREADY BEEN SPENT ON ROADS, RAILWAYS, WATER SUPPLIES, PORT AND THE AIRPORT, AND THIS PROGRAMME WOULD CONTINUE.

FIVE BILLION DOLLARS WOULD BE SPENT ON ROADS ALONE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

POLLUTION WOULD BE TACKLED WITH DETERMINATION, AND OVER THE NEXT DECADE AS MUCH AS \$10 BILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN THE HARBOUR AND AROUND THE COAST.

TURNING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE SURVEY OFFICE HAD RECEIVED OVER 130,000 SUBMISSIONS.

HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO PRE-JUDGE THE CONTENTS OF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT BUT CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL THE VIEWS RECORDED IN IT AS WELL AS OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ANY CHANGES WHICH MIGHT BE INTRODUCED DID NOT DISRUPT THE STEADY PROGRESS HONG KONG HAD BEEN MAKING NOR THE STABILITY WHICH WAS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO ANNOUNCED THE SETTING UP OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SIR ROGER LOBO, TO VET APPLICATIONS FROM RETIRING DIRECTORATE LEVEL OFFICERS WISHING TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE ALSO SAID AN INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS WAS BEING ENGAGED TO HELP REVIEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN BRANCH SECRETARIES AND TO EXAMINE THE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATIVE ROLES OF SECRETARIES AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS. HE ADDED THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT WAS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID FURTHER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY - THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS - TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF MALADMINISTRATION. THE DETAILS OF THE COMMISSIONER'S TERMS OF APPOINTMENT, HIS JURISDICTION, ACCESS TO HIM BY COMPLAINANTS AND HIS INVESTIGATORY POWERS WOULD BE PUBLISHED AS A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

TO BETTER CO-ORDINATE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SIR DAVID ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SEEK OUT AND DEVELOP NEW SCIENTIFIC IDEAS OF RELEVANCE TO HONG KONG AND TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON HOW THEY MIGHT BE BEST APPLIED.

HE SAID A SCHEME WAS BEING WORKED OUT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RENOUNCE TRIAD MEMBERSHIP. HE ADDED THAT A NEW COMPUTERISED CRIMINAL INFORMATION SYSTEM WOULD BE IN OPERATION NEXT YEAR TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY TO COMBAT TRIAD ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES.

ON MEASURES AGAINST TRAVEL AGENTS WHICH SUDDENLY CEASED BUSINESS OR DEFAULTED ON THEIR OBLIGATIONS, SIR DAVID SAID THERE NOW SEEMED TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THE BEST WAY FORWARD WAS FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO REGULATE ITSELF, AND THAT IT SHOULD ADOPT SOUND AND PRUDENT PRACTICES IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTEGRITY AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF ITS CUSTOMERS.

ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE LEGISLATION DURING THE CURRENT SESSION TO IMPOSE ON BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES A GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK; TO INTRODUCE CUSTODIAL SENTENCES FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES; AND TO CONTROL DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES USED IN INDUSTRY.

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MAKING HK A BETTER, MORE PROSPEROUS HOME FOR ALL
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THE FIRM RESOLVE OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR IS TO PRESS ON WITH THE TASK OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS HOME FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION, SIR DAVID SAID TO ACHIEVE THIS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SEEKING THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND OF ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC AFFAIRS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

/ "I HOPE

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"I HOPE THAT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT WE HAVE PRACTICAL AND FORWARD LOOKING PLANS AND THAT, WITH YOUR HELP, THEY ARE WITHIN OUR POWERS TO ACCOMPLISH," HE NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID SINCE HE FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, THE TERRITORY HAD DEVELOPED ENORMOUSLY, BOTH MATERIALLY AND IN THE COHESIVENESS AND STABILITY OF ITS SOCIETY.

"THE SENSE OF BELONGING TO HONG KONG IS MUCH STRONGER THAN WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE. THERE ARE FEW OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE MADE SUCH RAPID AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

"THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED IS A TRIBUTE TO THE FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY OF OUR ECONOMY AND TO THE ENERGY AND RESOURCEFULNESS OF OUR PEOPLE."

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE. "WE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE THE GAINS OF THE PAST AND TO BUILD ON THEM TO ACHIEVE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO SEE.

"THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IS CONSTANTLY TO LOOK AHEAD, AND FACE UP TO, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE AND TO MAKE SENSIBLE PLANS TO DEAL WITH THEM. THIS WE INTEND TO DO."

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, "TO HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN GUIDING HONG KONG THROUGH AN ANXIOUS PERIOD IN ITS HISTORY".

"THE BEST TRIBUTE - AND WHAT HE HIMSELF WOULD HAVE WISHED - IS TO PRESS ON WITH THE TASK OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS HOME FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE."

TURNING TO THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS, SIR DAVID SAID THE PAST YEAR WAS THE BUSIEST SESSION EVER.

"THE COMING YEAR PROMISES, IF ANYTHING, TO BE EVEN BUSIER," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE THINGS ABOUT HONG KONG WAS THE TIME AND ENERGY THAT PEOPLE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ELSEWHERE, DEVOTED TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

"SO, DESPITE A HEAVY WORK LOAD, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ALL THE MEASURES BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL WILL BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY, CRITICALLY AND FAIRLY.

"NO DOUBT WE WILL HAVE VIGOROUS DEBATES ON MANY ISSUES; THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE IF WE ARE TO GET THINGS RIGHT," HE SAID.

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DETERMINED EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT TERMS OF JOINT DECLARATION

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HONG KONG AND CHINA ARE DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

HE SAID THIS WAS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND THIS WAS CONTINUING TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS.

SIR DAVID SAID LINKS WITH CHINA HAD CONTINUED TO GROW AND DEVELOP IN EVERY FIELD. "THEY HAVE BECOME AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES."

SUCH LINKS, HE ADDED, WERE IMPORTANT BOTH FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

"IN ADDITION TO THE MANY PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND PEOPLE IN THE MAINLAND, WE HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANNELS FOR EXCHANGES OF IDEAS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

"THESE CHANNELS HAVE FUNCTIONED WELL. THEY HAVE HELPED IN DEVELOPING THE SORT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT IN SOLVING PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HIS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING HAD BEEN USEFUL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN "SOME OF OUR CONCERNS TO SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS DEALING WITH HONG KONG AFFAIRS AND TO LEARN ABOUT THEIRS".

"I AM SURE THAT THIS SORT OF DIALOGUE HELPS TO PROMOTE A RELATIONSHIP OF CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL BENEFIT BOTH SIDES," HE ADDED.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS DIALOGUE, AND HOPE TO MAKE A FURTHER VISIT TO PEKING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD CONTINUED TO RECORD SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

FOLLOWING CONSULTATION IN THE GROUP, THE GOVERNMENT WERE ABLE TO START TO ISSUE PERMANENT HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS AND A NEW TYPE OF CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY; TO ISSUE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS; TO SIGN HONG KONG'S FIRST AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT; TO GET ADMITTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL; AND TO IMPLEMENT A NEW PENSION SCHEME FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

HE SAID THE STANDING SUB-GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, SET UP BY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, ALSO CONTINUED TO MAKE STEADY PROGRESS.

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"AS A RESULT OF WORK IN THE GROUP AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION, THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE LAND COMMISSION HAD CONTINUED TO PRODUCE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. IT REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON LEGISLATIVE MEANS TO EXTEND THE VAST MAJORITY OF LAND LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO THE YEAR 2047 WITHOUT REQUIRING PAYMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL PREMIUM.

SIR DAVID SAID THE EXISTING CONTACTS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE TEAMS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO GIVE FURTHER IMPETUS TO THEIR WORK WHEN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ESTABLISHED ITS PRINCIPAL BASE IN HONG KONG FROM JULY 1 NEXT YEAR AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT BOTH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE LAND COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION." HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND ITS VARIOUS SUB-GROUPS HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

"NATURALLY, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN WATCHING WITH GREAT INTEREST THE DRAFTING PROCESS OF THE DOCUMENT WHICH WILL FORM THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND WHICH WILL ALSO INFLUENCE THE EVOLUTION OF OUR OWN SYSTEMS BEFORE THEN.

"MANY HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS.

"THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, DUE TO BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR, WILL BE ANOTHER KEY BUILDING BLOCK IN THE CREATION OF A CLEAR STRUCTURE FOR OUR FUTURE," HE ADDED.

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GATEWAY ROLE REMAINS IMPORTANT

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HONG KONG PLAYS A VITAL ROLE AS A GATEWAY BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN REVIEWING HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

HE SAID CHINA HAD REMAINED "OUR LARGEST TRADING PARTNER".

"IN TURN, WE ARE NOW THE BIGGEST SINGLE MARKET FOR CHINESE EXPORTS, QUITE APART FROM THE LARGE AMOUNT OF CHINESE GOODS WHICH ARE TRANSSHIPPED TO OTHER MARKETS THROUGH HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID TOTAL VISIBLE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 52 PER CENT OVER THE FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR.

"THIS IS REMARKABLE BY ANY STANDARDS," HE SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR A VERY HIGH PROPORTION OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN CHINA. SIR DAVID NOTED THAT BETWEEN 1979 AND 1985, SOME TWO-THIRDS OF ALL PLEDGED EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN CHINA CAME FROM HONG KONG.

"THE PROCESS IS TWO WAY, CHINESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG CONTINUES TO GROW, AS DO THE FINANCIAL LINKS BETWEEN US," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE INCREASING AMOUNT OF MANUFACTURING PROCESSING NOW BEING SUB-CONTRACTED BY HONG KONG BUSINESSES TO CHINA, PARTICULARLY TO THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION.

"IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT UP TO ONE MILLION CHINESE WORKERS ARE NOW EMPLOYED IN THIS WAY. ALL THESE TRENDS WORK TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR ECONOMIES," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID TRAVEL BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA ALSO CONTINUED TO GROW. HONG KONG PEOPLE MADE ALMOST 12 MILLION VISITS TO CHINA IN 1986; AND 280,000 CHINESE VISITORS CAME TO HONG KONG FOR BUSINESS, PLEASURE AND FAMILY REASONS.

IN ADDITION, HONG KONG PLAYED A VITAL ROLE AS A GATEWAY BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WITH 670,000 OVERSEAS VISITORS TO CHINA TRAVELLING THROUGH HONG KONG LAST YEAR, SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ALSO SAID TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES HAD RECENTLY BEEN MADE EASIER BY BETTER FACILITIES AT THE BORDER AND SIMPLIFIED IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES. "FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING PLANNED," HE ADDED.

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SOUND ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUT DANGER SIGNS AHEAD

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THE GROWTH RATE OF HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1987 IS EXPECTED TO REACH 12 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS WOULD BE EVEN BETTER THAN THE HIGH FIGURE OF 11 PER CENT ACHIEVED LAST YEAR AND WOULD BE A VERY ENCOURAGING RESULT," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME DANGER SIGNS TO WHICH HONG KONG MUST BE ALERT, AND ONE OF THESE WAS INFLATION.

HE DESCRIBED A SOUND AND HEALTHY ECONOMY AS THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION ON WHICH ALL OUR OTHER ENDEAVOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS MUST BE BASED.

SO FAR THIS YEAR THE ECONOMY HAD DONE BETTER THAN EXPECTED: IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD RISEN BY 27 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY 49 PER CENT. DOMESTIC DEMAND WAS STRONG IN TERMS BOTH OF CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT, AND THE PROPERTY MARKET HAD BEEN ACTIVE.

"PARTICULARLY WELCOME HAS BEEN THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY -- AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR EXPANDING OUR INDUSTRY AND INCREASING ITS EFFICIENCY," HE SAID.

INTERNALLY, THE BUOYANCY OF THE ECONOMY HAD LED TO A SHARP TIGHTENING OF THE LABOUR MARKET; UNEMPLOYMENT HAD FALLEN TO A RECORD LOW OF 1.8 PER CENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT TO 1 PER CENT.

"IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1987, EARNINGS OF WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY AN AVERAGE OF 12 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS (OR 7 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS). THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE HAS ACCELERATED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS. OUR WORKERS ARE THUS SHARING IN THE GENERAL PROSPERITY."

REFERRING TO DANGER SIGNS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS NOW BEING FELT IN HIGHER IMPORT PRICES, ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY WEAK WORLD COMMODITY PRICES, AND THE HIGH PROPORTION OF OUR IMPORTS WHICH CAME FROM COUNTRIES WHOSE CURRENCIES HAD ALSO BEEN DEPRECIATING, HAD SO FAR CUSHIONED THIS EFFECT.

"IN ADDITION, RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND THE RELATIVE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR WHICH NATURALLY FOLLOWS FROM IT, WILL TEND TO PUSH UP PRICES AND DAMPEN OUR CURRENTLY STRONG EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS," HE SAID.

"AS OF NOW, THE SITUATION IS NOT SERIOUS; BUT IT WILL NEED TO BE WATCHED."

/LOOKING AHEAD,

LOOKING AHEAD, SIR DAVID SAID HE REMAINED CONFIDENT THAT THE LONGER TERM OUTLOOK FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS GOOD.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE TO REALISE THAT ITS PERFORMANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY EXTERNAL FORCES OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL. WE REMAIN VULNERABLE, NOT ONLY TO THREATS OF PROTECTION IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS, BUT ALSO TO SWINGS IN DEMAND AND IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THOSE MARKETS."

HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS VERY FLEXIBLE, AND THE TERRITORY COULD RIDE OUT STORMS BETTER THAN MOST. "BUT IF THE STORMS DO COME WE MUST BE PREPARED TO REACT TO THEM QUICKLY," HE ADDED.

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PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN U.S. A DANGER

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IN LOOKING AT RECENT EXCELLENT TRADING RESULTS HONG KONG MUST ALSO BE AWARE OF THE DANGER POSED BY PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS HAD PRODUCED VERSIONS OF A TRADE BILL WHICH CONTAINED A NUMBER OF PROTECTIONIST PROVISIONS, AND AN EVEN MORE DIRECT THREAT WAS POSED BY PENDING TEXTILES LEGISLATION.

SIR DAVID EMPHASISED THAT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, AND ON CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS; THE DANGERS INHERENT IN PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION, WHICH IN THE LONG RUN WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS WOULD BE HIGH ON HIS AGENDA WHEN HE WENT TO WASHINGTON HIMSELF IN TWO WEEKS' TIME, THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE CONCERNS THAT LAY BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT THINKING ON TRADE ISSUES AND ITS STRATEGY FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG HAD TO FOLLOW CAREFULLY DEVELOPMENTS IN ITS OVERSEAS MARKETS AND ALSO TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE LONG-TERM COMPETITIVENESS OF MAJOR EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN ROLE IN TRADE WAS TO DO ITS UTMOST TO FOSTER A FREE AND OPEN TRADING SYSTEM, AND TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ACCESS FOR MANUFACTURERS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS.

/"THESE OBJECTIVES

"THESE OBJECTIVES THE GOVERNMENT PURSUES, BOTH THROUGH BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS, AND MULTILATERALLY TAKING PART IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANISATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE GATT. MUCH VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN SELLING HONG KONG PRODUCTS IS GIVEN BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR EFFORTS."

AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE GATT, HONG KONG WAS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN GENEVA, AND SOME PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED.

"THERE IS A GROWING IDENTITY OF VIEWS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEED FOR IMPROVED PROCEDURES TO SETTLE TRADE DISPUTES."

TURNING TO INDUSTRY, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE NEED HOW BEST TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES TO BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE.

HE NOTED THAT THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ALL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS EFFORT.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOR MANY YEARS PUT A HIGH PRIORITY ON PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR IN ENSURING THAT SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF ENERGY, WATER AND INDUSTRIAL LAND WERE MADE AVAILABLE.

"MORE RECENTLY WE HAVE BEGUN TO PLACE INCREASING EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES SPECIFICALLY TO ASSIST INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY," HE SAID.

RECENT EXAMPLES WERE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, THE LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME, AND THE DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES WERE BEING TAKEN TO ASSIST INDUSTRY AS A RESULT OF THE VALUABLE WORK OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, SIR DAVID SAID.

"THESE RESULT FROM CAREFUL AND DETAILED STUDIES OF THE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT BE FILLED BY THE INDUSTRY ITSELF. PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING WORKED OUT FOR A PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE BASED IN THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC; AND A SCHEME HAS BEGUN TO HELP ENGINEERS TO OBTAIN TRAINING OVERSEAS IN NEW ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES.

"THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC HAVE BEEN GIVEN FUNDS TO RESEARCH POSSIBLE INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE LATEST ELECTRONIC AND COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES.

"A PILOT INDUSTRIAL EXTENSION SERVICE HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP TO ENCOURAGE SMALL MANUFACTURERS TO USE THE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL."

THE GOVERNOR SAID A KEY ROLE IN ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY HAD BEEN PLAYED BY THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, AND PLANS WERE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE TO CENTRALISE THE COUNCIL'S SERVICES IN A NEW BUILDING IN KOWLOON TONG IN 1990, AND TO EXPAND SUBSTANTIALLY ITS SERVICES FOR THE METAL WORKING AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES.

THE COUNCIL WOULD ALSO BE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING NEW PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, AND WAS CURRENTLY ASSESSING WHAT MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY.

ALL THIS SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT A GREAT DEAL WAS BEING DONE TO HELP INDUSTRY MEET THE GROWING CHALLENGE OF COMPETITION IN OVERSEAS MARKETS.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID AS OUR INDUSTRY, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY BECAME MORE COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED, MORE ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO THE PART THE MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COULD PLAY IN FURTHERING DEVELOPMENT.

"TO ENSURE THAT WE GET THE BEST ADVICE IN THIS AREA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. ITS TASK WILL BE TO SEEK OUT AND DEVELOP NEW SCIENTIFIC IDEAS OF RELEVANCE TO HONG KONG AND TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW BEST THEY MIGHT BE APPLIED," HE SAID.

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NEED TO REMAIN PRUDENT ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

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EVEN THOUGH PUBLIC FINANCES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE, GIVEN THE TERRITORY'S EXCELLENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, THE GOVERNMENT MUST REMAIN PRUDENT.

"IF WE ALLOW PUBLIC SPENDING TO GROW TOO FAST NOW WHEN THE ECONOMY IS DOING WELL, IT WILL BE HARD TO REIN IT BACK IN LESS BUOYANT TIMES," THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT THEREFORE REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO MANAGE THE PUBLIC FINANCES WITH CARE AND WITH CLOSE ATTENTION TO LONGER TERM TRENDS IN THE ECONOMY," HE SAID.

/NEVERTHELESS, THERE

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS SOME SCOPE FOR EXPANDING PUBLIC SERVICES AND RESPONDING TO NEW NEEDS. "THESE WILL BE WITHIN THE CONSTRAINT THAT WE SHALL TRY TO LIMIT THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE TO NOT MORE THAN 2.5 PER CENT IN ANY ONE YEAR."

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT THE LOW TAX PHILOSOPHY WOULD CONTINUE, AND COMMENTED THAT IN MANAGING THE PUBLIC FINANCES THE GOVERNMENT TRIED ESSENTIALLY TO ACT LIKE A PRUDENT HOUSEKEEPER.

"IT IS QUITE RIGHTLY AN ARTICLE OF FAITH THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO RAISE REVENUE IN WAYS THAT ARE EFFICIENT AND WHICH DO NOT ACT AS A BRAKE ON THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY BY BLUNTING THE INCENTIVES TO EFFORT, ENTERPRISE, INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION ON WHICH ECONOMIC GROWTH ESSENTIALLY DEPENDS.

"HONG KONG HAS LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT RELATIVELY MODEST LEVELS OF TAXATION, WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF BEING COLLECTED, PRODUCE MORE REVENUE IN THE LONG RUN THAN HIGHER AND MORE ONEROUS RATES SINCE THEY GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ECONOMIC EXPANSION."

ON THE SPENDING SIDE, THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SPENDING DID NOT EXCEED A REASONABLE AND PRUDENT SHARE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND THAT ITS GROWTH SHOULD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, NOT EXCEED THE GROWTH OF THE GDP.

"THIS MEANS THAT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP OUR PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES IN DIFFICULT YEARS, IT IS NECESSARY IN THE GOOD YEARS OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH TO RUN SURPLUSES AND TO PUT MONEY ASIDE.

"THIS LESSON WAS BROUGHT HOME SHARPLY DURING THE DEFICIT YEARS FROM 1982 TO 1985, WHEN WE HAD TO CALL ON OUR RESERVES TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICES."

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT A "RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM" WAS BEING INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING.

"OUR PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS SUFFER FROM NOT BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A MEANS OF MONITORING PERFORMANCE AGAINST DEMAND AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, NOT ENABLING US TO RESPOND MORE FLEXIBLY TO CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS," HE SAID.

"THE NEW SYSTEM WILL IMPROVE FORECASTING METHODS SO THAT WE CAN PREDICT MORE ACCURATELY THE SIZE OF OUR FINANCIAL CAKE IN FUTURE YEARS AND THEN HAVE THE ABILITY TO PLAN RATIONALLY HOW IT SHOULD BE SHARED OUT BETWEEN COMPETING GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

"WHEN IT IS OPERATING FULLY, THIS NEW SYSTEM SHOULD ENABLE US TO PLAN AND MONITOR MORE EFFICIENTLY THE USE OF RESOURCES ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES; TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES IN A MORE FLEXIBLE WAY; TO ASSESS HOW EFFECTIVELY THEY ARE BEING USED; AND THEN TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS ON THE DIFFICULT CHOICES BETWEEN COMPETING PRIORITIES."

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THIS LAY IN STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES OPERATED.

"IT MUST BE OUR TASK TO ENSURE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE MARKETPLACE IS FLOURISHING, THAT IT WARRANTS THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN IT," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IN JUNE THE GOVERNMENT HAD PUBLISHED A DRAFT BILL ON DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS. THE BILL'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL SHARE HOLDINGS IN LISTED COMPANIES, AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE CONTROL OF COMPANIES TO BE OBTAINED BY STEALTH.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT LEGISLATION AGAINST INSIDER DEALING.

"THE OBJECTIVE IN ALL THESE MATTERS IS TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAS THE BENEFITS OF BOTH A FREE MARKET AND A FAIR MARKET," HE SAID.

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INCREASING PRIORITY FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS

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REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OLDER URBAN AREAS AND THE EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD RECEIVE INCREASING PRIORITY FROM NOW ON, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT MORE "PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT" MIGHT BE NEEDED IN DEVELOPING PARTS OF THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN VIEW OF THE VERY LARGE RESOURCES REQUIRED.

REVIEWING THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, SIR DAVID SAID THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME HAD MADE "IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT" OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS.

"A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE WAS PASSED THIS YEAR WHEN THE TOTAL POPULATION OF ALL THE NEW TOWNS REACHED TWO MILLION. AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS TREBLED SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN 1972," HE ADDED.

/IT WOULD

IT WOULD CONTINUE INTO THE NINETIES, WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE EXISTING NEW TOWNS AND WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT MA ON SHAN, JUNK BAY AND TIN SHUI WAI.

"FROM NOW, HOWEVER, REDEVELOPMENT IN THE URBAN AREAS WILL BECOME AN INCREASING PRIORITY. THE NEW LAND REQUIRED FOR THIS WILL HAVE TO COME FROM HARBOUR RECLAMATIONS," HE ADDED.

HE SAID A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE RESOURCES FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT SHOULD GO TOWARDS EXPANDING THE ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY.

HE SAID THE PORT HANDLED A RECORD 14,000 OCEAN-GOING VESSELS AND 82,000 RIVER TRADE VESSELS LAST YEAR AND THE NUMBERS OF BOTH HAD BEEN STEADILY GROWING IN RECENT YEARS.

SIR DAVID SAID THE NUMBER OF CONTAINERS HANDLED HAD ALSO INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT IN THREE YEARS AND EXPANSION WAS EXPECTED TO GROW IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BY AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST NINE PER CENT A YEAR.

"WE NOW POSSESS THE SECOND LARGEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF THROUGHPUT AND MAY SOON BECOME THE LARGEST.

"PORT EXPANSION MUST THEREFORE BE OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN MAINTAINING THE GROWTH OF OUR TRADE AND ECONOMY," HE STRESSED.

WHEN TERMINALS 6 AND 7 AT KWAI CHUNG HAD BEEN COMPLETED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE IN THE GENERAL HARBOUR AREA FURTHER DEVELOPMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE.

TURNING TO THE AIRPORT, SIR DAVID SAID KAI TAK HAD LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION AND MUST EVENTUALLY REACH ITS ULTIMATE CAPACITY.

"EVEN BEFORE THAT POINT IS REACHED WE MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON KOWLOON OF AN AIRPORT AT KAI TAK DEVELOPED TO FULL CAPACITY," HE SAID.

IN LOOKING AT POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITES, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE BEST SITES FOR A NEW AIRPORT WERE IN THE WEST OF THE TERRITORY, WHERE NEW ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE COULD BE BUILT TO SERVE BOTH PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE A NEW WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

"WE ARE NOW COMMISSIONING A JOINT PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY TO ADVISE ON THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMIC SOLUTION TO THESE TWO CRITICAL PROBLEMS," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID THE STUDY WOULD DRAW ON AND PUT TOGETHER ALL THE WORK WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE ON HARBOUR, AIRPORT AND ROAD DEVELOPMENT.

WHEN THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED BY THE LATE SUMMER OR 1989, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE SOME FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

SIR DAVID SAID CLEARLY THE RESOURCES FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE VERY LARGE.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE SHALL HAVE TO MEET CONTINUING DEMANDS ON PUBLIC FUNDS FOR HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL AND FOR OTHER SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS NEW HOSPITALS.

"IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SEEK MORE PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT THAN PREVIOUSLY IN DEVELOPING SUITABLE PARTS OF OUR ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE," HE ADDED.

HE SAID ALL OF THIS MEANT THAT THE CONTROL AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

"WE ARE LOOKING URGENTLY AT THE FORM OF GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THIS TASK," HE ADDED.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SPEND \$5 BILLION ON HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN RECENT DECADES, HE SAID, A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT, PLANNING AND INVESTMENT HAD BEEN PUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT NETWORK.

"WE NOW HAVE A PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM WHICH, IN TERMS OF VARIETY AND FLEXIBILITY, MIGHT WELL BE THE ENVY OF MANY OTHER LARGE CITIES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GROWTH IN THE DEMAND FOR TRANSPORT NEVER CEASED.

"FOR INSTANCE, BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986, THE TOTAL DAILY DISTANCE TRAVELLED BY ALL VEHICLES IN THE TERRITORY INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT FROM JUST OVER 14.5 MILLION KILOMETRES TO JUST UNDER 16.5 MILLION KILOMETRES.

/"THIS HAPPENED

"THIS HAPPENED DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES WAS CONSTANT OVER THE PERIOD AND THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE CARS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY. THE REASON WAS THAT THE NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES INCREASED BY OVER 30 PER CENT AND THE DISTANCE THEY TRAVELLED BY ALMOST 60 PER CENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986, HE ADDED, THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROSE BY 16 PER CENT TO 9.5 MILLION.

SIR DAVID SAID CONTINUED LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR NEW TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO BUILD THEM WAS ESSENTIAL.

"FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONED A SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. IT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR AND WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2001," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK PUBLIC VIEWS ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE MAJOR DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.

TURNING TO MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS THAT WERE IN HAND OR BEING PLANNED, SIR DAVID SAID THESE INCLUDED THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, THE TUNNEL TO JUNK BAY AND THE NEW ROUTE 5 FROM SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN.

HE SAID WHEN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION WAS LINKED WITH THE FUTURE KWUN TONG BYPASS AND THE PROPOSED TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BETWEEN SHA TIN AND DIAMOND HILL, IT WOULD PROVIDE A NEW TRUNK ROUTE BETWEEN THE NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

PLANS WERE ALSO BEING DRAWN UP FOR ROUTE X, WHICH WOULD LINK THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH THE URBAN AREA.

"WITHOUT COUNTING ROUTE X WE ARE PLANNING TO SPEND \$5 BILLION ON HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM WHICH WOULD OPEN IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER EXTENSIONS TO PROVIDE THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH A MODERN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM SUFFICIENT TO MEET DEMAND UNTIL WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY TEAM WAS NOW LOOKING AT THE VIABILITY OF PROVIDING A FIXED RAIL LINK BETWEEN THE MAIN URBAN AREA AND THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN INCLUDED WHETHER TO START IT IN YUEN LONG OR TUEN MUN AND WHERE ITS DESTINATION SHOULD BE IN THE URBAN AREA. SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS BEFORE THE END OF 1988.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR ALSO OUTLINED IMPROVEMENTS BEING MADE TO EASE THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS TO AND FROM CHINA.

HE SAID ROAD CROSSING FACILITIES WOULD SOON BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED BY THE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING AND THIS WOULD LINK DIRECTLY INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

WHEN THE SECOND SPAN OF THE BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED IN 1989, HE SAID THERE WOULD THEN BE A TOTAL CAPACITY AT ALL BORDER CROSSINGS OF ABOUT 50,000 VEHICLES PER DAY, COMPARED WITH SOME 9,000 AT PRESENT.

FOR SEA PASSENGERS, HE ADDED, THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN CANTON ROAD IN MID-1988 WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO MEET DEMAND INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID CONDITIONS FOR CROSS BORDER RAIL PASSENGERS WERE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN THE NEW TERMINAL BUILDING AT LO WU WAS OPENED EARLY THIS YEAR.

"A FURTHER EXTENSION IS NOW BEING PLANNED TO COPE WITH ANTICIPATED FUTURE GROWTH IN TRAFFIC. IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT FOUR YEARS' TIME," SIR DAVID SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE KCRC FREIGHT YARD IN HUNG HOM BAY WOULD MUCH IMPROVE THE INCREASING VOLUME OF FREIGHT COMING FROM CHINA BY RAIL.

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POPULATION ADEQUATELY HOUSED BY 2001

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THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO BE ADEQUATELY HOUSED BY 2001, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HOUSING WAS ANOTHER KEY PART OF THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE TARGET SET IN 1972 OF HOUSING 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE HAD NOW BEEN EXCEEDED.

"BUT WE STILL HAVE SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE WE ACHIEVE OUR AIM OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

/"WE MUST

"WE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE PATTERN OF DEMAND FOR HOUSING IS CHANGING. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WANT TO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES OR LOOK FOR BETTER QUALITY HOUSING," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THESE ASPIRATIONS WERE RECOGNISED IN THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THE STRATEGY AIMED TO PROVIDE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOME PURCHASE, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL RENTAL ACCOMMODATION AND A COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE OLDER RENTAL ESTATES.

"IT SETS THE TARGET OF PROVIDING HOMES FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE MILLION FAMILIES FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COMBINED BY 2001. ON PRESENT ESTIMATES THAT WOULD ENABLE THE WHOLE OF OUR POPULATION TO BE ADEQUATELY HOUSED BY THAT DATE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THE AMOUNT OF HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE RATHER THAN RENTAL WOULD INCREASE FROM 18 PER CENT TO 27 PER CENT IN TWO YEARS' TIME.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TAKING A DETAILED LOOK AT THE ORGANISATION OF THE HOUSING PROGRAMME TO MEET NEW AND FUTURE NEEDS, HE SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD BE EXPANDED TO ENABLE IT TO MONITOR AND DIRECT AN OVERALL HOUSING PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE ALSO SAID FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AUTHORITY WOULD ALSO BE REVISED TO GIVE IT MORE FLEXIBILITY AND THAT A NEW CHAIRMAN WOULD BE APPOINTED WHO WOULD NOT BE AN OFFICIAL.

"THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION WILL BE PUT TO THIS COUNCIL IN TIME FOR THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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SPECIAL TEAM TO PRODUCE 'METROPLAN'
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A SPECIAL TEAM IS BEING SET UP UNDER THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE WHOLE METROPOLITAN AREA, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS METROPLAN, HE SAID, WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR MORE DETAILED DISTRICT PLANNING AND FOR "INDIVIDUAL URBAN RENEWAL AND REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

/EMPHASISING THE

EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR URBAN RENEWAL, SIR DAVID SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS SINCE THE MID-SEVENTIES HAD TENDED TO SHOW UP THE RELATIVELY POOR ENVIRONMENT OF SOME OF THE OLDER PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA.

"WE NOW NEED TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS AROUND THE HARBOUR, WHERE SOME 3.5 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE AND WHICH ALSO PROVIDE MANY OF THE CENTRES OF EMPLOYMENT."

HE SAID THE RECLAMATION NOW BEING PLANNED AT HUNG HOM, WESTERN KOWLOON, CENTRAL DISTRICT AND KENNEDY TOWN WOULD PROVIDE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN A RESTRUCTURING OF THE HARBOUR AREA SO AS TO REDUCE SOME OF THE PRESENT EXCESSIVE BUILDING DENSITY.

HE SAID A KEY ROLE IN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT WOULD BE PLAYED BY THE PROPOSED LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

HE SAID HE HOPED THE CORPORATION WOULD MAKE A REAL AND POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

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DETERMINED EFFORT TO FIGHT POLLUTION ON ALL FRONTS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO WORK OUT A SENSIBLE AND CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMME TO DEAL WITH POLLUTION IN ALL ITS VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"PANIC MEASURES ARE NOT NEEDED. BUT WE NEED TO TAKE SOME CLEAR DECISIONS EVEN IF, AT FIRST SIGHT, SOME OF THEM APPEAR TO BE RELATIVELY COSTLY," HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE PROGRESS MADE IN COMBATTING POLLUTION, SIR DAVID SAID THE STAFFING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INCREASED BY MORE THAN FOUR TIMES IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND ITS EXPENDITURE HAD GROWN FROM JUST OVER \$20 MILLION IN 1985-86 TO ALMOST \$83 MILLION THIS YEAR.

DURING THIS TIME, HE SAID IT HAD CONCENTRATED PARTICULARLY ON DEALING WITH WATER AND AIR POLLUTION AND WITH THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS NOW BEING GIVEN TO CONTROLLING THE DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED, SOMETIMES TOXIC, WASTES FROM FACTORIES AND TO CHECKING THE UNCONTROLLED DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE.

FOR MANY YEARS, HE ADDED, LIVESTOCK WASTE HAD BEEN A CAUSE OF SERIOUS WATER POLLUTION AND THE BILL SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT A 10-YEAR LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL PROGRAMME WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON MANY OF THE WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR DEALING WITH SOLID WASTE INVOLVED THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE CAPACITY LANDFILL SITES IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH WERE LINKED TO TRANSFER STATIONS IN THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TOWNS.

"ONCE THEY ARE FULLY OPERATING, WE WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO CLOSE DOWN THE MUNICIPAL INCINERATORS, WHICH CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF AIR POLLUTION AND WHICH HAVE PROVOKED MUCH PUBLIC COMPLAINT," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH NEEDED TO BE TACKLED WITH GREATER URGENCY WAS SEWAGE DISPOSAL. HE SAID SCHEMES WERE BEING PREPARED FOR AREAS WHERE SEWAGE PROBLEMS WERE MOST ACUTE. THESE INCLUDED EAST KOWLOON, THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE TOLO HARBOUR CATCHMENT AREA.

"THIS PROGRAMME WILL CALL FOR SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT OF AS MUCH AS \$10 BILLION OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

"THIS INVESTMENT IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO HAVE THE FACILITIES WE NEED FOR THE EFFICIENT DISPERSAL AND TREATMENT OF SEWAGE, BOTH TO SAFEGUARD THE QUALITY OF OUR COASTAL WATERS AND TO PROVIDE INDUSTRY WITH MEANS FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF LIQUID WASTE," HE ADDED.

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MORE SCHOOLS PLANNED TO TACKLE TRAVEL PROBLEM

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TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF CHILDREN HAVING TO TRAVEL CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES TO ATTEND SECONDARY SCHOOLS MORE SCHOOLS WILL BE BUILT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE ATTRIBUTED THE PROBLEM TO THE CHANGING DISTRIBUTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS.

/ "THIS HAS,

"THIS HAS, AT TIMES, CREATED IMBALANCES BETWEEN THE NUMBERS OF PUPILS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN DIFFERENT AREAS," HE SAID.

SOME 10 NEW SECONDARY AND PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE START OF THE SEPTEMBER 1988 TERM AND AN ADDITIONAL 70 BY 1993, HE SAID.

"MOST OF THEM WILL BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY IN TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN.

"IN ADDITION, SOME EXISTING SCHOOLS WILL BE MOVED FROM SUBSTANDARD PREMISES IN THE URBAN AREAS TO NEW BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE ADDED.

ON EDUCATION IN GENERAL, SIR DAVID SAID THE COST OF EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC PURSE WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW AND EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON FURTHER IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

WITH EDUCATION TAKING UP 18 PER CENT OF THE BUDGET, HE SAID, "WE HAVE 100 PER CENT PROVISION OF FREE PLACES UP TO FORM 3 (THAT IS TO THE AGE OF 15) AND PLAN TO PROVIDE ENOUGH PLACES IN SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS TO MEET THE EXPECTED DEMAND."

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR GROWTH IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR, SIR DAVID SAID SUCH RAPID GROWTH HAD MEANT THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE EMPHASIS HAD BEEN ON PROVIDING AS MANY PLACES AS POSSIBLE.

"EVEN SO, THE STANDARDS ACHIEVED IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED. INCREASINGLY IN THE FUTURE WE SHOULD PLACE THE EMPHASIS ON FURTHER IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE LANGUAGE ISSUE, SIR DAVID SAID ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, THE GOVERNMENT WAS INTRODUCING A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE GREATER USE OF CHINESE IN THE CLASSROOM.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF ENGLISH HAD TO BE MAINTAINED AS HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY DEPENDED ON ITS REMAINING AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE.

"FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE STARTED A PILOT SCHEME TO PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKING TEACHERS FROM OVERSEAS AND HAVE ORGANISED LANGUAGE COURSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ENGLISH."

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, SIR DAVID SAID WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEWEST AND LARGEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN CHAI WAN LAST MONTH, THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME PLACES FOR CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN COURSES HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM UNDER 4,000 IN 1982 TO OVER 10,500 NOW.

"PART-TIME PLACES HAVE ALSO INCREASED OVER THE SAME PERIOD BY ABOUT 50 PER CENT TO A TOTAL OF OVER 46,500.

"BY 1989 THE ANNUAL NUMBER GRADUATING FROM THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL REACH 22,000. THIS IS IMPRESSIVE BY ANY STANDARDS," HE NOTED.

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LENGTH OF DEGREE COURSES BEING STUDIED

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS BEGUN A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE STRUCTURE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN MARCH THIS YEAR AND AMONG OTHER THINGS IT WILL LOOK INTO THE LENGTH OF DEGREE COURSES AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN LOOKED AT A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST BUT HAD STILL TO BE RESOLVED, SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE THIS HISTORICAL PROBLEM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION WAS CONSIDERING A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS AND WOULD CONSULT WIDELY BEFORE IT MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

"THERE WILL BE A FURTHER PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN ON WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, ARE NEEDED," HE SAID.

TURNING TO RESEARCH IN TERTIARY INSTITUTES, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT GOOD RESEARCH CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTELLECTUAL LIVELINESS OF THE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES AND THAT IT ALSO PROVIDED THE SKILLS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION ON WHICH THE ECONOMY WOULD INCREASINGLY DEPEND.

"WE SHALL BE INCREASING THE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR RESEARCH OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS BY ALMOST THREE TIMES TO A TOTAL OF \$120 MILLION," HE SAID.

ON THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SIR DAVID SAID THE PROJECT HAD BEEN GIVEN A MAJOR BOOST BY A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$1.5 BILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THIS SUM WOULD MEET MOST OF THE CAPITAL COST OF BUILDING THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN SAI KUNG.

/FOLLOWING A

FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL PLENARY SESSION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE LAST MONTH, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS NOW HOPED TO APPOINT THE VICE CHANCELLOR BY THE END OF THIS YEAR; TO ESTABLISH THE NEW UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL IN APRIL NEXT YEAR; AND TO ACCEPT THE FIRST STUDENTS IN 1991, WHICH WOULD BE WELL AHEAD OF THE ORIGINAL PLANNED DATE OF 1994.

ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN GENERAL, SIR DAVID SAID OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS NOW PROVIDED MORE THAN 34,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES, WITH OVER 18,000 STUDENTS ON DEGREE COURSES.

"BY THE MID-1990'S WE SHOULD BE PROVIDING A TOTAL OF ABOUT 55,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES IN HIGHER EDUCATION. THIS WILL MEAN THAT OVER 10 PER CENT OF THE 17 TO 20 AGE GROUP WILL BE STARTING ON FIRST DEGREE COURSES IN HONG KONG COMPARED WITH ONLY FIVE PER CENT PER CENT NOW.

"AND WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT MORE THAN 25,000 HONG KONG STUDENTS ARE NOW ESTIMATED TO BE STUDYING AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OVERSEAS."

IN ADDITION TO A WIDE RANGE OF DEGREE COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITIES, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WERE BUILDING ON THE SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTION OF VOCATIONALLY-ORIENTED DEGREE COURSES AT THE POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE TO HELP MEET HONG KONG'S NEEDS FOR SPECIALIST MANPOWER.

"OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, A LAW DEPARTMENT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND SPEECH THERAPISTS WILL BE TRAINED AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY.

"PROPOSALS ARE ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SETTING UP AN ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY," HE ADDED.

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PLANS TO SET UP OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SET UP A PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID THE INSTITUTE WOULD OFFER DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE COURSES AND SHOULD ADMIT ITS FIRST STUDENTS IN 1989.

HE SAID THE PROVISION OF THE INSTITUTE, WHICH WOULD BE HONG KONG'S SIXTH DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTION, WOULD CONSIDERABLY INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION.

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"IN OUR PLANS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BENEFITED FROM HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONE SO, BUT WHO NEED TO UPDATE AND RENEW THEIR SKILLS," HE SAID.

TAKING THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE TOGETHER, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION OVER THE NEXT DECADE HAD AMOUNTED TO A DOUBLING OF DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE PROPORTION OF YOUNGSTERS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION WOULD STILL REMAIN COMPARATIVELY SMALL BY WORLD STANDARDS.

"IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE HIGHLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE FOR ALL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY, WE SHOULD LOOK AHEAD NOW TO FURTHER EXPANSION IN THIS AREA," HE SAID.

TURNING TO ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AWARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION.

"THE NEW COUNCIL WILL ASSESS AND VALIDATE DEGREE COURSE PROPOSALS FROM THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, REPLACING THE OVERSEAS BODY WHICH PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED THIS TASK," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE NECESSARY ENABLING LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED DURING 1988.

"THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES WILL BE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT DEGREES AWARDED BY THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENT HIGH STANDARD AND TO ENJOY INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION," HE ADDED.

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NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE TO OVERSEE MEDICAL SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO SET UP A STATUTORY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, WITH REGIONAL COMMITTEES, TO OVERSEE THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE NEW AUTHORITY WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS ITS EXECUTIVE ARM.

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IN ADDITION, A DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE CREATED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CARE.

"THIS MEANS A COMPLETELY NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR OUR HOSPITALS. IT WILL PROVIDE A CLEARER LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY; ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS, AND MORE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND EVALUATION," HE SAID.

"A PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE FORMED IN APRIL 1988 TO OVERSEE THE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS NECESSARY FOR ITS FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT."

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ITS DECISION AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN HOSPITALS, AND THE PUBLIC REACTION TO IT.

"THIS IMPORTANT NEW INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES," HE SAID.

"WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUBSIDISED MEDICAL SERVICES TO ONE AND ALL. TO DO THIS WE NEED TO HAVE AN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE WHICH WILL BE MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE."

AN EARLY TASK FOR THE NEW AUTHORITY WOULD BE TO LOOK INTO WAYS IN WHICH A SET OF COMMON TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR ALL STAFF WORKING UNDER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SAID SIR DAVID. IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THESE MATTERS WOULD BE HELD WITH STAFF AND WITH THE SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS AFFECTED.

SIR DAVID ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GREAT STRIDES HAD BEEN MADE IN DEVELOPING HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO USE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MOST EFFECTIVELY THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

GREAT EMPHASIS HAD BEEN PLACED ON PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CARE, AND MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE PROVISION OF CURATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

MORE HOSPITALS WERE BEING BUILT, FOR EXAMPLE THE 1,600 BED HOSPITAL IN TUEN MUN AND THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL IN EASTERN DISTRICT, WHICH WOULD HAVE 2,000 BEDS.

NEVERTHELESS, SAID SIR DAVID, MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE, AND HE HAD SEEN FOR HIMSELF HOW SOME HOSPITALS SUFFER FROM OVERCROWDING. PLANS WERE IN HAND TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, AND THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS WOULD INCREASE BY 50 PER CENT IN THE COMING DECADE.

HIGHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE,
SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT THE BASIC RATES OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE, STARTING FROM APRIL 1, 1988, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOLLOWING AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO DECIDED TO MAKE, FROM JANUARY 1, A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, SIR DAVID SAID.

"THESE WILL INCLUDE INCREASING THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO LARGER FAMILIES; THE PROVISION OF A HIGH LEVEL OF ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT FOR SUCH FAMILIES; AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A MEAL ALLOWANCE FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOL," HE SAID.

"A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WILL BENEFIT ABLE-BODIED RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WHO ARE IN REGULAR EMPLOYMENT BUT WHOSE WAGES ARE LOW.

"AS FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR ONLY A PART OF THEIR WAGES WILL BE OFFSET AGAINST THEIR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE, RATHER THAN ALL THEIR WAGES AS AT PRESENT. THIS IS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REMAIN IN WORK."

SIR DAVID SAID WELL-DESIGNED SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES CONTRIBUTED TO A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY.

"OUR SAFETY NET, THOUGH RELATIVELY MODEST BY THE STANDARDS OF MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES, IS BETTER THAN IN MOST COMPARABLE COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION. BUT IT NEEDS TO BE KEPT CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECURITY OF RETIRED PERSONS AND THE WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY GENERALLY WAS A MATTER ON WHICH COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SETTING UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, SIR DAVID WENT ON.

HE NOTED THAT THE PROPORTION OF OLD PEOPLE IN THE POPULATION WOULD INCREASE, AND MANY PEOPLE WERE CONCERNED THAT TRADITIONAL FAMILY TIES, ON WHICH THE ELDERLY UNTIL NOW LARGELY DEPENDED FOR SUPPORT, WERE BEING ERODED.

"IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT COMPULSORY PROVIDENT FUNDS WOULD GO SOME WAY TOWARDS MEETING THESE CONCERNS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED THESE ARGUMENTS CAREFULLY. WE HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED THE CONTRARY ARGUMENT: THAT COMPULSORY FUNDS, PARTICULARLY A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, WOULD BENEFIT LEAST THOSE WHOSE NEED IS GREATEST, THAT IS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HELD STEADY JOBS OR WHOSE PAY HAS BEEN LOW.

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"THERE IS A FURTHER ARGUMENT THAT COMPULSORY FUNDS COULD ALSO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT, POSSIBLY A SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT, ON OUR ECONOMY.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT TO SET UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND OR TO MAKE PRIVATE FUNDS COMPULSORY. WE HAVE INSTEAD GIVEN CAREFUL THOUGHT TO OTHER WAYS IN WHICH RETIRED PEOPLE, AND ELDERLY PEOPLE GENERALLY, CAN BE HELPED.

"IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE LOOKED AT WAYS OF INTRODUCING SUPERVISION OF PRIVATE PROVIDENT FUNDS; IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY; AND EXTENDING AND CHANGING THE CHARACTER OF THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME."

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE ALREADY A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PROVIDENT FUNDS AND OTHER RETIREMENT SCHEMES, ALL WITHOUT OFFICIAL SUPERVISION OR REGULATION.

THE RECENT INSOLVENCY OF SEVERAL OF THESE FUNDS HAD PROMPTED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THEY OPERATED IN RELATION TO PRACTICE ELSEWHERE, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS SUFFERED FROM SOME POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT A PROPER REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH FUNDS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT ASSETS WHICH ARE HELD FOR THE FUTURE BENEFIT OF EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN SAVINGS, ARE GIVEN AN ADEQUATE MEASURE OF PROTECTION."

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT SETTING OUT THE PROPOSED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ON SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISION FOR THE ELDERLY, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE IN STAGES SO THAT, INSTEAD OF ONLY APPLYING TO THOSE OVER 70, IT WOULD, BY 1991, APPLY TO ALL THOSE OVER 65.

IN ADDITION, IT WAS INTENDED TO INTRODUCE FROM APRIL 1, 1988, A HIGHER RATE OF ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE OVER 70.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED TO DOUBLE THE NORMAL RATE OF DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS WHO DID NOT LIVE IN A GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED INSTITUTION, BUT NEVERTHELESS REQUIRED CONSTANT ATTENDANCE FROM ANOTHER PERSON.

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LIKELY INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN THE RATES OF PAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN APRIL 1988, THE NEW RATES OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCES WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$280 PER MONTH FOR THOSE AGED 65-69, \$320 FOR THOSE OVER 70, AND \$1,120 FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED WHO REQUIRE CONSTANT ATTENDANCE," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID IT WAS PLANNED TO EXTEND AND CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME, AND IT WOULD NOW BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE WORKERS RETIRING BECAUSE OF OLD AGE OR ILL HEALTH.

ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES GENERALLY, THE GOVERNOR SPOKE OF PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE FRAIL AND THE INFIRM, QUITE APART FROM FINANCIAL NEEDS.

THE SHORTAGE OF PLACES IN CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED WELFARE AGENCIES HAD LED TO THE MUSHROOMING OF PRIVATE NURSING HOMES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE IN THESE COULD VARY GREATLY.

"THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS NOW ASSESSING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE ISSUED LAST YEAR, AND WILL THEN DECIDE WHETHER LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED TO BRING THESE HOMES UNDER CLOSER CONTROL.

"MEANWHILE, WE ARE CONTINUING WITH OUR PROGRAMME TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES. THERE ARE NOW 12 SUCH HOMES PROVIDING JUST UNDER 1,500 PLACES. BY 1991-92 WE EXPECT THESE FIGURES TO RISE TO 28 HOMES WITH NEARLY 5,000 PLACES."

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ROYAL FOUNDATION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ANNOUNCED

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A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FOUNDATION WOULD BE SET UP WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE QUEEN, SAID SIR DAVID WHEN DESCRIBING THE PARTICULAR ATTENTION THAT WOULD BE PAID TO SERVICES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE FOUNDATION WOULD BE FUNDED JOINTLY FROM THE SALE OF ROYAL VISIT GOLD COINS, FROM GENERAL REVENUE AND FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTHER DONORS.

"THE FOUNDATION WILL COMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME IN THIS AREA. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE CARE, ATTENTION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE FACILITIES FOR CHILD ASSESSMENT AND FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF DISABLED AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

"MORE WILL BE DONE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL PLACES AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE DISABLED."

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REASONS WHY IMPORT OF LABOUR HAS TO BE RESISTED
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SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESISTED CALLS FOR A RELAXATION OF IMMIGRATION RULES TO PERMIT THE LARGE-SCALE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR WERE STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LABOUR SHORTAGES IN BOOM CONDITIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDE PUBLIC DISCUSSION, AND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE.

"WE HAVE LONG FOLLOWED THE POLICY OF ALLOWING WAGES AND OTHER INCOMES TO BE DECIDED GENERALLY BY THE FORCES OF THE MARKETPLACE. THIS HAS, OVER THE YEARS, ENABLED US TO ENSURE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE EXPORT INDUSTRIES ON WHICH OUR ECONOMY, AS WELL AS THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF OUR WORKFORCE, DEPENDS SO HEAVILY.

"IT HAS ALSO GIVEN US THE LOW LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH MUST BE WIDELY ENVIED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

"THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS COIN IS THAT, WHEN OUR ECONOMY IS BOOMING AND EXPORTS ARE DOING WELL, THERE IS A TIGHT LABOUR MARKET, WITH DEMAND FOR LABOUR EXCEEDING SUPPLY. IN THESE CONDITIONS THE LOGIC OF OUR SYSTEM MEANS THAT COMPETITION FOR LABOUR BIDS UP WAGES.

"IN THIS WAY, IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY, OUR WORKERS GET THEIR FAIR AND DESERVED SHARE OF THE BIGGER OVERALL CAKE.

"ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE IS THAT INDUSTRIALISTS INVEST IN NEW LABOUR SAVING MACHINERY. THIS TENDS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND HELPS UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCTS."

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET IN DEALING WITH CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT HAD BEEN TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS BROADLY EQUIVALENT TO THE BEST PREVAILING IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WHOSE STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND WAS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

"IN PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENACTED 142 ITEMS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS. BUT WE ARE NOT COMPLACENT. RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH QUITE RIGHTLY GIVES RISE TO INCREASING SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS. SO WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR STANDARDS."

THE GOVERNOR OBSERVED THAT A HIGH LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAD UNFORTUNATELY ALSO BROUGHT WITH IT AN INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, IN SPITE OF ALL THE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE BY EMPLOYERS, WORKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION THIS SESSION TO IMPOSE ON BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES A GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK; TO INTRODUCE CUSTODIAL SENTENCES FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES; AND TO CONTROL DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES USED IN INDUSTRY," HE ADDED.

TENDERS FOR CABLE TV TO BE CALLED NEXT YEAR

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INVITE TENDERS FOR A CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID A CABLE TELEVISION NETWORK COULD BE USED FOR A WIDE RANGE OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN ADDITION TO THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

"THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS INTRODUCTION HAS THEREFORE RAISED THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF WHETHER HONG KONG'S COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS CAN ADEQUATELY BE MET IN THE NEXT DECADES BY THE EXISTING SINGLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, OR WHETHER A SECOND NETWORK SHOULD BE ALLOWED," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS A HIGHLY COMPLEX AND TECHNICAL ISSUE. "FOR THE SAKE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE AS A CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WE MUST GET THE ANSWER RIGHT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD THEREFORE DECIDED TO COMMISSION OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCING A SECOND DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

"THE CONSULTANTS ARE DUE TO REPORT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THEREAFTER, WE EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO INVITE TENDERS FOR A CABLE TELEVISION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED DECISIONS ON A NUMBER OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD LAST YEAR AND SINCE THEN, CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THEM.

HE SAID A BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR WIRELESS TELEVISION, WAS ESTABLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 1.

ITS MEMBERS HAD BEEN DRAWN FROM DIVERSE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SHOULD BE GENUINELY REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS INTERESTS.

"BY DRAWING UP CODES OF PRACTICE THE AUTHORITY WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT TELEVISION PROGRAMMES PROVIDED IN FUTURE WILL REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE TASTES AND STANDARDS OF THEIR AUDIENCES," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THE AUTHORITY'S REGULATORY FUNCTIONS WOULD LATER BE EXTENDED TO COVER RADIO BROADCASTING AND CABLE TELEVISION.

ON RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO BRING LEGISLATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

"IN THE MEANTIME THE NEW FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED BY THE CHANGED STATUS OF RTHK ARE BEING EXAMINED AND DEVELOPED," HE ADDED.

STRONGER EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS

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HONG KONG IS NOW TAKING ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL CENTRE IN THE REGION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN THIS AREA, HE SAID, WAS TO PROMOTE APPRECIATION, AND PARTICIPATION IN, OF CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

"THIS POLICY EMPHASISES THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL TALENT AND LOCAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING COMPANIES AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF SUITABLE FACILITIES IN WHICH THEY CAN PERFORM," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IN SUCH FACILITIES. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE CULTURAL CENTRE AT TSIM SHA TSUI IN MID-1989, HONG KONG WOULD HAVE AS MANY AS 21,000 THEATRE AND CONCERT HALL SEATS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, WITHOUT COUNTING THE HONG KONG COLISEUM AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WHICH WERE SOMETIMES USED FOR SUCH PERFORMANCES.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO DEVELOP LOCAL TALENT TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE FACILITIES AND TO ATTRACT WIDER AUDIENCES.

HE SAID THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WOULD SOON BE PRODUCING MORE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS AND TEACHERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS.

"WHILE DEVELOPING OUR OWN TALENT WE MUST NOT FORGET THE NEED TO ATTRACT TO HONG KONG THE HIGHEST QUALITY PERFORMERS FROM OVERSEAS," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN HAPPENING ON AN INCREASING SCALE IN RECENT YEARS, ADDING THAT THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL HAD BECOME FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CALENDAR.

TURNING TO SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND VOLUNTARY SPORTS BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS HAD ALL PLAYED ACTIVE AND IMPORTANT ROLES IN PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING SUCH ACTIVITIES, BOTH FOR MASS PARTICIPATION AND FOR THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS PLANNED TO PROVIDE OVER \$37 MILLION THIS YEAR TO FUND A VARIETY OF SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID HONG KONG NOW HAD A "REMARKABLE" RANGE OF SPORTS FACILITIES, INCLUDING 19 FULL-SIZE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES WITH AN ADDITIONAL FOUR UNDER CONSTRUCTION; 27 MULTI-PURPOSE GAMES HALLS WITH AS MANY AS 26 MORE UNDER CONSTRUCTION; AND THE COLISEUM AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM FOR LARGE-SCALE INDOOR SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE 21 COUNTRY PARKS IN THE TERRITORY, COVERING AS MUCH AS 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S LAND MASS, RECEIVED NEARLY 10 MILLION VISITORS IN 1986-87.

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BN(O) PASSPORT A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE SAW EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE USING THE NEW BN(O) PASSPORT WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AS WIDELY AND EASILY AS THEY DID NOW ON BDTC PASSPORTS.

SIR DAVID TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE FACT THAT NOT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE BN(O) PASSPORT WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT.

ONE WOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO DO SO, HE SAID, NOTING THAT THE BN(O) PASSPORT WAS A BRITISH PASSPORT ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

"AS WITH ANY PASSPORT IT IS ASSUMED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL ACCEPT IT AS A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT.

"IN THE RARE EVENT THAT THEY DO NOT DO SO, IT IS FOR THEM TO MAKE THIS CLEAR," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT NO GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT FOR ENTRY TO ITS TERRITORY TRAVELLERS HOLDING THE BN(O) PASSPORT.

"THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE TRAVEL MOST OFTEN HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT THEY WILL TREAT THE BN(O) PASSPORT IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY DO BDTC PASSPORTS; AND THIS INCLUDES THE CONTINUATION OF VISA FREE ARRANGEMENTS WHERE THESE EXIST," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT THE BN(O) STATUS AND THE PASSPORT THAT WENT WITH IT WERE INTRODUCED ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

"THOSE WHO ARE ENTITLED TO USE THIS FORM OF PASSPORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO USE IT AFTER 1997, WHEREAS THE HONG KONG BDTC PASSPORT WILL NOT BE VALID AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

"PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE NEW PASSPORT IN THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA ASSOCIATED WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT ITS INTRODUCTION FOLLOWED SOME NINE MONTHS OF INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BY THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS TO EXPLAIN THE NEW STATUS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

"DESPITE ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID ON THE SUBJECT TO THE CONTRARY, THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING," HE SAID.

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FULL COMPUTERISATION OF IMMIGRATION POINTS BY 1989

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TRAVELLERS WITH HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WILL BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH ALL OF HONG KONG'S IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS WITHOUT HAVING TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CARDS BY MID-1989, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AT THE IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS THE FIRST OF WHICH WERE INSTALLED AT THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL AND THE SHAM SHUI PO PIER IN MAY THIS YEAR.

"THE SYSTEM HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER THE LO WU AND HUNG HOM CONTROL POINTS; AND IT WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED ALSO AT THE MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK CROSSINGS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN CANTON ROAD WOULD BE COVERED IN MID-1988; AND, FINALLY, LOK MA CHAU IN MID-1989.

TURNING TO MEASURES AGAINST TRAVEL AGENTS WHICH SUDDENLY CEASED BUSINESS OR DEFAULTED ON THEIR OBLIGATIONS, SIR DAVID SAID THE PROBLEM WAS NOT UNIQUE TO HONG KONG.

"ALTHOUGH WE DO HAVE LEGISLATION COVERING TRAVEL AGENTS IT IS BECOMING CLEAR THAT, WITHOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF DISPROPORTIONATE RESOURCES, THIS ALONE CANNOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SAFEGUARD AGAINST INEFFICIENT AND FRAUDULENT OPERATORS."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THE BEST WAY FORWARD WAS FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO REGULATE ITSELF AND THAT IT SHOULD ADOPT SOUND AND PRUDENT PRACTICES IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTEGRITY AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF ITS CUSTOMERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT ARE LIAISING CLOSELY WITH THE INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE NOTED.

ON TOURISM, SIR DAVID SAID THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS VISITING HONG KONG WOULD SOON REACH FOUR MILLION A YEAR, COMPARED WITH ONE MILLION IN THE MID-1970'S.

HE NOTED THAT OVER THE YEARS, THE TOURIST INDUSTRY HAD MADE A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY, RELYING MOSTLY ON ITS OWN RESOURCES AND WITHOUT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

"EVEN THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION IS LARGELY FINANCED FROM THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION," HE SAID.

HEARTENING EVIDENCE THAT CRIME IS DECLINING

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CRIME IS BEING CONTAINED AND THERE IS HEARTENING EVIDENCE THAT IT IS EVEN DECLINING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF SUCCESS AND I WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION OF OUR POLICE FORCE WHICH DOES MUCH TO ENSURE THAT ORDINARY CITIZENS CAN GO ABOUT THEIR AFFAIRS IN SOCIETY," HE SAID.

COPING WITH CRIME WAS A NEVER-ENDING TASK IN ANY LARGE AND CROWDED METROPOLIS, SAID SIR DAVID, AND IN HONG KONG VERY CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE OVER THE YEARS TO COMBAT IT.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS AN AREA OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE, AND COMMENTED THAT IN CONTAINING CRIME "HONG KONG APPEARS TO BE DOING BETTER THAN MANY OTHER LARGE CITIES, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT".

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE TRIAD PROBLEM WAS AN AREA OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, AND POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD CONTINUED TO GIVE THIS A HIGH PRIORITY. A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAD BEEN ADOPTED TO COUNTER IT.

"ONE IMPORTANT MOVE HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR TRIAL WITNESSES THROUGH THE USE OF ONE-WAY VIEWERS.

"IN ADDITION, STRICTER PENALTIES HAVE ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED FOR THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF BELONGING TO ILLEGAL SOCIETIES, AND LEGISLATION IS BEING PREPARED TO TIGHTEN THE LAWS GOVERNING ILLEGAL GAMBLING, DRUG ABUSE AND THE NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH PROSTITUTION.

"A SCHEME IS ALSO BEING WORKED OUT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RENOUNCE TRIAD MEMBERSHIP. NEXT YEAR A NEW COMPUTERISED CRIMINAL INFORMATION SYSTEM WILL BE IN OPERATION TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO COMBAT TRIAD ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES."

SIR DAVID SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION NEEDED TO BE PAID TO THE RISING TREND OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY YOUNG OFFENDERS. STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE AND REFINE SENTENCING POLICY FOR SUCH OFFENDERS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF REHABILITATION.

"METHODS ARE BEING WORKED OUT TO INVOLVE SCHOOLS MORE CLOSELY IN THIS PROBLEM, FOR INSTANCE THROUGH THE USE OF SPECIALLY COMPILED TEACHING MATERIALS. DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES ARE ALSO PAYING GREATER ATTENTION TO JUVENILE CRIME ON A LOCAL BASIS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO COMMERCIAL CRIME, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE RECENT CONCLUSION OF THE LONGEST AND MOST COMPLEX COURT CASE IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY HAD FOCUSSED RENEWED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THIS PROBLEM, WHICH WAS ONE ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME.

"A DRAFT BILL HAS NOW BEEN PREPARED WHICH WILL IMPLEMENT, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME WHICH AIM TO IMPROVE THE PREPARATORY STAGE AND THE SUBSEQUENT CONDUCT OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL TRIALS," HE SAID.

"THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE SOUGHT ON THESE PROPOSALS."

DEALING WITH CORRUPTION, SIR DAVID SAID THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS HAD CONTINUED WITH SOME SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES. "REPORTS OF CORRUPTION RECEIVED BY THE ICAC NOW APPEAR TO BE DECLINING, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE," HE SAID. "ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN PROSECUTIONS FOR CORRUPTION AND RELATED OFFENCES AND IN THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS RECORDED."

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NEW LAW BEING DRAFTED TO CONFISCATE DRUGS MONEY

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NEW LEGISLATION IS BEING DRAFTED TO GIVE POWER TO THE COURTS TO CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION, HE ADDED WHILE SPEAKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING WAS BEING PURSUED VIGOROUSLY, BOTH IN RELATION TO PROSECUTIONS AND TO THE SEIZURE OF DRUGS, HE SAID.

"WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO STRIKE MORE EFFECTIVELY AT THE FINANCIAL ROOTS OF THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE," HE POINTED OUT.

SIR DAVID DESCRIBED DRUG ABUSE AS A PROBLEM WHICH HAD CAUSED MUCH TROUBLE OVER THE YEARS, AND THE LINKED MENACES OF DRUG ADDICTION AND OF DRUG TRAFFICKING HAD NOW REACHED GLOBAL PROPORTIONS.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS TACKLING THESE LINKED MENACES VIGOROUSLY, AND ITS METHODS AND SUCCESS HAD RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.

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"HONG KONG IS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE WITHIN THE REGION IN HELPING TO CO-ORDINATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT IS PARTICULARLY PLEASING TO NOTE THAT OUR CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN THIS FIELD HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE ILLEGAL IMPORT OF MANDRAX."

SIR DAVID SAID THE LOCAL PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE WAS BEING CONTAINED, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS HEROIN. "WE ARE ALSO DEALING WITH THE RISING PROBLEM OF THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES," HE ADDED.

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V INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION NEEDED TO SOLVE VR PROBLEM

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A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT SUCH A LONG-TERM SOLUTION WOULD DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AT ITS SOURCE, SIR DAVID SAID: "I AM AFRAID THAT IT WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND PATIENT DIPLOMACY BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT TO ACHIEVE RESULTS."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM BORE A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUING EXODUS OF PEOPLE WHICH AFFECTED NOT JUST HONG KONG BUT ALSO ALL THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE PROBLEM CERTAINLY COULD NOT BE SOLVED BY HONG KONG ALONE, AND IT ALSO REQUIRED THE CO-OPERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

"SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM HAS SAID NO MORE THAN IT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER REPATRIATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THIS IS A VERY RESTRICTIVE DEFINITION," SIR DAVID SAID.

BUT HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENT FOR FAR TOO LONG.

SIR DAVID SAID COPING WITH THE REFUGEE INFLOW WAS UNDERSTANDABLY A MATTER OF GREAT PUBLIC CONCERN.

/ "THE NUMBER

"THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ARRIVING FROM VIETNAM SO FAR THIS YEAR HAS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986. THE NUMBER LEAVING FOR RESETTLEMENT HAS DECLINED BY 47 PER CENT. THOSE STATISTICS TELL THEIR OWN STORIES. IT IS A MOST UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG, WITH THE CONTINUING HELP OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES TO TAKE MORE REFUGEES FROM THE TERRITORY. BOTH THE UK AND THE UNHCR HAD BEEN SEEKING MORE PLACES ON HONG KONG'S BEHALF, HE NOTED.

"BUT RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME VERY SELECTIVE IN CHOOSING WHOM THEY WILL ACCEPT," SIR DAVID SAID, "MOST NOW INSIST THAT THOSE THEY TAKE SHOULD HAVE CLOSE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITH VIETNAMESE ALREADY SETTLED IN THEIR COUNTRIES. THIS MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO RESETTLE MANY OF OUR REFUGEES."

"WE HAVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF THE ARRIVALS ARE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE FROM NORTH VIETNAM WHO HAVE NO CONNECTIONS IN COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT. MANY PEOPLE IN OUR CAMPS HAVE WAITED FOR YEARS IN THE HOPE OF BEING RESETTLED: 3,500 REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS."

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRED CONSTANT ATTENTION, THE GOVERNOR SAID, AND HE NOTED A SUDDEN INCREASE WAS SPARKED IN JUNE BY BASELESS RUMOURS OF AN AMNESTY.

"OUR SECURITY FORCES ONCE AGAIN ENSURED THAT NEARLY ALL OF THE ARRIVALS WERE CAUGHT ON ENTRY AND RETURNED FORTHWITH. THEY DESERVE OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND UNREMITTING EFFORTS."

"WE BENEFITTED TOO FROM GOOD CO-OPERATION WITH THE GUANGDONG AND SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES WHO PLAYED A LARGE PART IN STOPPING THE FLOW."

SIR DAVID EMPHASISED ANEW THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"TO THE FAMILIAR PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HAS, IN RECENT MONTHS, BEEN ADDED THAT OF FORMER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SETTLED IN CHINA WHO HAVE TRIED TO ENTER HONG KONG ILLEGALLY," HE SAID.

"WHILE THEY ARE WITH US THESE PEOPLE ARE A STRAIN ON OUR RESOURCES IN THE SAME WAY AS REFUGEES. BUT THEY ARE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, NOT REFUGEES, AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH."

WITH THE EFFECTIVE AND WELCOME CO-OPERATION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CONTAIN THE FLOW, AND THE EXERCISE OF RETURNING THESE PEOPLE TO CHINA WAS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.

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GOVERNMENT CHANGES EVOLUTIONARY, NOT REVOLUTIONARY

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THE PROCESS OF CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN EVOLUTIONARY, NOT REVOLUTIONARY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE HAVE TAKEN CARE AT EACH STEP TO REFLECT AND CONSULT BEFORE DECIDING ON THE NEXT ONE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTANT CONCERN WAS TO ACT IN THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. "THIS MEANS, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, MAINTAINING A FRAMEWORK OF SOUND ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS STABLE AND RELIABLE AND YET REMAINS RESPONSIVE TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF SOCIETY," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID ANOTHER ROUND OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPING VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND IMPORTANT DECISIONS WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN OVER THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS ON WHAT CHANGES IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO MAKE IN 1988.

"IN REACHING THOSE DECISIONS, THE GOVERNMENT ARE COMMITTED TO TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL THE VIEWS RECORDED IN THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT.

"WE WILL, NATURALLY, ALSO GIVE FULL REGARD TO OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ANY CHANGES WHICH MIGHT BE INTRODUCED DO NOT DISRUPT THE STEADY PROGRESS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING, NOR THE STABILITY WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE MORE THAN 130,000 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE SURVEY OFFICE WAS EVIDENCE OF THE INTEREST WHICH THE ISSUES IN THE GREEN PAPER, AND IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SOME ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THIS COUNCIL, HAD AROUSED AMONGST MANY IN THE COMMUNITY.

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CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGING AN INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BRANCH SECRETARIES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, SIR DAVID ANNOUNCED THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SIR ROGER LOBO WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO VET APPLICATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE LEVEL OFFICERS WHO WISHED TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR UPON RETIREMENT.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE REVIEW, SIR DAVID SAID THE PRESENT TOP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED IN 1973. "SINCE THEN HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY; AND THE DEMANDS MADE ON THAT STRUCTURE HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY," HE ADDED.

"THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT OUR TOP MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION TO ENSURE THAT IT IS FULLY EQUIPPED TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY, NOT ONLY TO THE DEMANDS OF HONG KONG TODAY, BUT ALSO TO THE FURTHER CHANGES THAT WILL INEVITABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONSULTANTS WOULD HELP REVIEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN BRANCH SECRETARIES, AND EXAMINE THE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATIVE ROLES OF SECRETARIES AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENT.

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT WAS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

NOTING RECENT PUBLIC CONCERN THAT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST MIGHT ARISE WHEN SOME SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS TOOK UP EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR UPON RETIREMENT, SIR DAVID DISCLOSED THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO VET APPLICATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE LEVEL OFFICERS WHO WISHED TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AFTER RETIREMENT.

SIR DAVID SAID SIR ROGER LOBO WOULD CHAIR THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MEMBERS WOULD INCLUDE A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, A HIGH COURT JUDGE AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONTINUANCE OF SOUND ADMINISTRATION WOULD DEPEND GREATLY ON THE MAINTENANCE OF A DEDICATED AND EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE.

HE SAID HE HAD SEEN THE VERY HIGH QUALITIES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS FULLY CAPABLE OF MEETING WHATEVER CHALLENGES THAT MIGHT LIE AHEAD.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC POLICY ON THE LOCALISATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE REMAINED UNCHANGED AND OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT OCCURRED ONLY WHEN SUITABLE LOCAL CANDIDATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

"THE FACT THAT LOCAL OFFICERS NOW FILL 70 PER CENT OF SENIOR PROFESSIONAL POSTS, AND 53 PER CENT OF DIRECTORATE POSTS, IS A RESULT OF THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT POLICY OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES," HE ADDED.

BUT SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS HOLDING SENIOR PROFESSIONAL AND DIRECTORATE POSITIONS HAD REMAINED MORE OR LESS CONSTANT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AT AROUND THE THOUSAND MARK, OWING TO THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"ALSO WORTH NOTING IS THE STATISTIC THAT SOME 90 PER CENT OF APPLICATIONS FROM OVERSEAS OFFICERS FOR RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS ARE APPROVED.

"ALL THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THAT OVERSEAS OFFICERS CONTINUE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SOCIETY.

"IN A MODERN AND COSMOPOLITAN SOCIETY SUCH AS HONG KONG, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ROOM IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR SUITABLE TALENT FROM OVERSEAS," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ALSO SAID INCREASED ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID TO MAKING SURE THAT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED OFFICERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN FUTURE YEARS TO FILL SENIOR MANAGERIAL AND DIRECTORATE POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE.

"OFFICERS WITH POTENTIAL TO FILL POSTS IN THE HIGHER RANKS ARE BEING IDENTIFIED AND THEIR TALENTS ARE BEING DEVELOPED THROUGH EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ATTACHMENTS, BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS FOR VACANCIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, ADDING THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN 3,000 HIGH QUALITY APPLICATIONS FOR 35 POSTS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

"THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE IN PURSUING A CAREER OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

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INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY TO PROBE GRIEVANCES PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF MALADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE AUTHORITY WILL BE CALLED THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS. SIR DAVID SAID DETAILED PROPOSALS WERE NOW BEING DRAWN UP FOR SETTING IT UP.

HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE POWERS TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS ALLEGING MALADMINISTRATION ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY POWERS TO CALL FOR GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS.

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME NECESSARY EXCLUSIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S JURISDICTION, "FOR EXAMPLE IN THE FIELDS OF DEFENCE AND OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS, AS WELL AS MATTERS OF A JUDICIAL NATURE."

HE ADDED THAT DETAILS OF THE COMMISSIONER'S TERMS OF APPOINTMENT, HIS JURISDICTION, ACCESS TO HIM BY COMPLAINANTS AND HIS INVESTIGATORY POWERS WOULD BE PUBLISHED AS A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BEFORE ITS INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THIS WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE DETAILS, WHICH WERE ONLY OUTLINED IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ISSUED IN 1986," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO STUDYING EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH STATUTORY APPEALS TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO IMPROVE YET FURTHER THE SYSTEM FOR THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

"THE AIM IS TO TRY TO STREAMLINE AND RATIONALISE THESE PROCEDURES, SO THAT APPEALS CAN BE HANDLED MORE THOROUGHLY AND SWIFTLY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO BRING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE COMING SESSION.

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OBJECTIVE IS 'QUALITY OF LIFE' FOR ALL
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WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A SOCIETY WHICH COMBINES A STRONG, EXPANDING AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY WITH CONCERN FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL ITS INHABITANTS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE SUMMED UP HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THIS IS THE OBJECTIVE TO WHICH I COMMIT MYSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT. WITH YOUR HELP I AM SURE THAT WE CAN, AND WILL, MAKE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED HIS ADDRESS WOULD COMMEND ITSELF TO COUNCILLORS AS A PROGRAMME WHICH WAS BOTH AMBITIOUS AND CAPABLE OF ACHIEVEMENT.

"THE AIM IS TO BE FORWARD LOOKING: TO BUILD ON THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE," HE NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE ANTICIPATED LIVELY DEBATE ON MANY TOPICS DURING THE COMING SESSION AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT WHERE THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, THEY WOULD BE ARGUED WITH CARE AND IN THE REALISATION THAT WE ALL HAD A COMMON OBJECTIVE: TO FURTHER THE WELL BEING OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG.

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HO TAKES UP LEGCO SEAT
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A NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EDWARD HO SING-TIN, TOOK THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OATH AT THE START OF THE 1987-88 SESSION THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR HO REPLACES MR S. L. CHEN WHO RETIRED FROM THE COUNCIL AT THE END OF THE LAST SESSION.

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