



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1978

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LO WARNS -- MTR MAY NOT BE VIABLE
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THE HON. T.S. LO HAS ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORESTALL THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY MAY NOT BE VIABLE, AT LEAST IN ITS EARLY YEARS.

MR. LO SAID IN THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TODAY HE KNEW THIS PESSIMISM IS SHARED BY A CONSIDERABLE BODY OF OPINION BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT. +IT IS NOW TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND TO SEE WHETHER WE OUGHT NOT TO MAKE SOME CONTINGENCY PLANS.+

HE REFERRED TO THE +ILLUSORY+ FISCAL RESERVES OF \$4,890 MILLION HONG KONG WILL HAVE BY THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, AGAINST A CONTINGENT LIABILITY OF \$6,400 MILLION, RISING TO \$9,500 MILLION BY 1982.

TO HAVE ONE THIRD OF HONG KONG'S LIABILITIES COVERED BY FISCAL RESERVES, WITHIN THE GUIDELINES SET BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, WOULD SEEM PERFECTLY SOUND IF THEY HAVE A BETTER THAN 3 TO 1 CHANCE OF NEVER BEING CALLED.

IN HIS VIEW HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEM WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY BECOME ACTUAL LIABILITIES BECAUSE MUCH MORE THAN HALF OF THEM RESULT FROM GUARANTEES COVERING M.T.R. LOANS.

MR. LO STATED THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT USING ARTIFICIAL METHODS TO IMPROVE THE M.T.R.'S VIABILITY IN THE EARLY YEARS BY IMPROVING ITS COMPETITION FOR PASSENGERS SUCH AS BY REROUTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR BY BUS COMPANIES INCREASING THEIR FARES BY 5 TO 6 TIMES. +..... TO INCREASE FARES DRASTICALLY AT A TIME WHEN THEY ARE MAKING BUMPER PROFITS WOULD SEEM NOT ONLY GROSSLY UNFAIR BUT ALSO UNLIKELY,+ HE SAID.

THE SOLUTION HE SUGGESTED IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY IN FURTHER CAPITAL SUMS OUT OF ITS RESERVES TO THE M.T.R. TO REDUCE ITS DEBT SERVICING CHARGES.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE M.T.R. TO PAY OFF AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF ITS LIABILITIES OR TO DELAY FURTHER BORROWINGS, AND WILL HAVE THE ANCILLARY ADVANTAGE OF CORRECTING A FALSE IMPRESSION OF OUR WEALTH CREATED BY THE RESERVES AND REDUCE UNWARRANTED JEALOUSY OR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US OVERSEAS.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF BILLS

MR. LO STRESSED THE +UNDERPINNING FACT+ THAT HONG KONG CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT BEING ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, AND URGED THAT WHEN NEW BILLS ARE PRESENTED FOR DEBATE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLAIN BOTH THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED.

/HE KNEW

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HE KNEW THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL USUALLY CONSIDERS THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE LAW BEFORE AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED TO APPROVE ANY PROPOSED EXPENDITURE AFTER THE BILL PASSES THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BUT THEY MEET IN CAMERA.

THE PUBLIC ARE THUS IGNORANT OF THE VITAL INFORMATION AT THE TIME WHEN THEY ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO WEIGH THE SOCIAL BENEFITS PROPOSED AGAINST THE COSTS INVOLVED. WHEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ULTIMATELY DOES LOOK AT THE COST ITS MEMBERS WOULD ALREADY HAVE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE BILL.

HE SAW NO REASON WHY A FINANCIAL PARAGRAPH CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM SECTION OF PUBLISHED BILLS.

MR. LO THOUGHT IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF A BILL ARE DISCLOSED AND HE FEARED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT SYSTEMATICALLY ANALYSE THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF EACH PROPOSED MEASURE.

HE SAID THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE IGNORANT OF THE PRICE THAT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR ANYTHING. +HOWEVER COMPLICATED THE EFFECTS OR COUNTER EFFECTS MAY BE OR AGAINST ANY MEASURE WE HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH IT. WE CAN NO LONGER BLITHELY LEAVE IT TO THE RESILIENCE OF OUR PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED THAT IN FUTURE, THE MEMBER INTRODUCING A BILL WOULD MAKE AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF IT, APPROPRIATELY DURING ITS SECOND READING.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE SEA

ANOTHER POINT MR. LO RAISED REFERS TO THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF OUR SEA, ONE OF OUR FEW NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH, HE THOUGHT, WE ARE NOT USING WELL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR DRY LAND IS EASILY CARVED OUT FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR MULTIFARIOUS USES BUT THERE IS NO SIMILARITY IN THE CASE OF LAND COVERED BY SEA WATER HOWEVER SHALLOW, BECAUSE OF ARCHAIC LAWS.

HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD ALLOW OUR SEA TO BE DEVELOPED WITH THE SAME FLEXIBILITY SO THAT WITHOUT AFFECTING SHIPPING IT CAN BE PROPERLY DEVELOPED FOR RECREATION AND MARINE CULTURE.

THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL IS UNKNOWN BUT MAY BE QUITE SUBSTANTIAL EVEN IN EXPORT TERMS. HE URGED THAT THE LAWS BE ADAPTED QUICKLY, +FOR ANY WORTHWHILE DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING HEAVY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THAT IS DONE.+

/MAKING THE BEST

MAKING THE BEST USE OF OUR LAND

MR. LO FULLY AGREED WITH THE HON. Q.W. LEE WHO HAD EARLIER IN THE BUDGET DEBATE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW OUR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS TO SEE WHETHER WE ARE USING OUR SCARCE LAND RESOURCE TO ITS BEST WHILE PRESERVING A REASONABLE ENVIRONMENT.

HE REJECTED THE ARGUMENT, WHICH HE SAID HE HEARS FROM TIME TO TIME, THAT WE SHOULD SUBSIDISE CERTAIN LAND INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES. EVEN IN THE CASE OF LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, SUBSIDISATION IN LAND COST IS A +SLIPPERY DOWNHILL PATH+ BECAUSE THE MORE LAND IS TAKEN AWAY IN THIS WAY THE LESS WOULD THERE BE LEFT AND THE MORE EXPENSIVE.

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DIVERSIFICATION — DO NOT LEAVE
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY OUT IN THE COLD
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HONG KONG MUST NOT IGNORE THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY WHILE TRYING TO BROADEN ITS INDUSTRIAL BASE THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE BUDGET DEBATE, MR. TIEN SAID +THERE IS EVERY EVIDENCE TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF OUR GARMENT INDUSTRY AND, ON PAST FORM, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THIS SECTOR OF THE INDUSTRY FURTHER TO TRADE UP AND INCREASE ITS SHARE IN OUR TOTAL EXPORTS.+

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE INDUSTRY ACHIEVED A 200 PER CENT GROWTH RATE OVER THE LAST FIVE TO SIX YEARS.

+EVEN IN 1977 WHAT WAS REGARDED BY MOST TRADERS AS A FORMIDABLY BAD YEAR, THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD GROUND,+ MR. TIEN ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BODIES SHARING RESPONSIBILITY IN FORMULATING FUTURE POLICY ON FURTHER INDUSTRIALISATION AND DIVERSIFICATION WOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE FACT THAT +WE HAVE DIVERSIFIED WITHIN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, TO THE GENERAL GOOD OF HONG KONG= AND THAT THIS INDUSTRY IS CAPABLE OF FURTHER DIVERSIFICATION, UPWARDS INTO INCREASINGLY HIGHER BRACKETS OF OUR OVERSEAS MARKET.+

MR. TIEN SAID AN ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT FIGURES WOULD SHOW THAT +WHEN WE BECAME LESS COMPETITIVE IN YARNS, WE MOVED INTO FABRICS= THEN HIGHER GRADE FABRICS AND THEN GARMENTS AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT TO HONG KONG IS THE NATURAL PROGRESSION, THE HIGHER GRADE GARMENTS.

+INDEED CURRENT TRADE FIGURES SHOW THAT GARMENT EXPORTS IN 1977 ACCOUNTED FOR 84 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL TEXTILE EXPORTS AS COMPARED WITH 77 PER CENT IN 1970. GARMENT EXPORTS REPRESENTED 39 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1977, AS COMPARED WITH 35 PER CENT IN 1970,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE QUESTION OF LABOUR, MR. TIEN SAID HONG KONG WAS EXPERIENCING AN +ACUTE SHORTAGE+ OF SKILLED LABOUR DUE TO THE RAPID EXPANSION OF OUR INDUSTRIES OVER THE PAST DECADE.

THIS WOULD BE FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION OF PROVIDING FREE AND SUBSIDISED EDUCATION AS ENVISAGED IN THE GREEN PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, MR. TIEN SAID.

+THERE IS A DANGER THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE WILL CHOOSE TO CONTINUE FULL-TIME EDUCATION RATHER THAN EMPLOYMENT IF THEY HAD THE CHOICE,+ HE ADDED.

+A SITUATION MAY THEREFORE ARISE WHERE FEW FORM III LEAVERS WILL CHOOSE TO ENTER EMPLOYMENT AS CRAFT APPRENTICES OR SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS TO THE DETRIMENT OF INDUSTRY GENERALLY.+

MR. TIEN SAID ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH WOULD AGGRAVATE THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR IN THE MID-1980S WAS THE SLOWDOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE POPULATION OF WORKING AGE FROM THE PRESENT THREE PER CENT PER ANNUM TO JUST OVER ONE PER CENT AS MENTIONED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH.

TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR WHICH EMPLOYS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WORKERS, MR. TIEN ASKED IF ANY ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RELAX THE IMMIGRATION LAWS TO ALLOW ENTRY INTO HONG KONG OF PERSONS FROM NEIGHBOURING TERRITORIES TO ALLEVIATE THIS SHORTAGE.

COMMENTING ON THE WORK OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR. TIEN PRAISED ITS EFFORTS IN KEEPING HONG KONG'S NAME IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MINDS OF OUR OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID WHILE THE COUNCIL WAS PURSUING THESE COMMENDABLE EFFORTS, IT SEEMED TO LACK REAL EXPERTISE ON THE GARMENT INDUSTRY.

MR. TIEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE GARMENT MANUFACTURER ON THE COUNCIL WHICH HAD A BUDGET OF \$38.33 MILLION FOR 1976/77, 40 PER CENT OF WHICH CAME FROM GARMENT EXPORTS.

+THIS IS A MOST UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.+

MR. TIEN ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT BY STATUTE IN 1966 WHILE ITS BUDGET HAD INCREASED NEARLY THREEFOLD FROM \$18.14 MILLION IN 1970/71 TO \$49.72 MILLION IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

HE URGED STRONGLY THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A NUMBER OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONS FROM THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TO SERVE ON THE TDC BE CONSIDERED +IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A PROPER BALANCE TO REFLECT MORE CLOSELY THE POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY THE INDUSTRY AND TO ENABLE THE PROMOTERS OF HONG KONG'S GARMENTS ABROAD TO BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE LOCAL SCENE AND THE SENSIBILITIES OF OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS.+

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INADEQUATE STANDARD OF NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS
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THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE INADEQUATE STANDARD OF NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEW URBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SPEAKING TODAY AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS BENNETT SAID SHE WAS MOST ALARMED TO DISCOVER THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM WERE NOT TO BE FULLY-AIDED SCHOOLS. +INSTEAD THEY ARE TO BE PER CAPUT SCHOOLS, WHERE TEACHERS WILL NOT BE PAID AS MUCH AS IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND WHERE THE SCHOOLS WILL NOT THEREFORE ENGAGE A HIGH PROPORTION OF TEACHERS TRAINED IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.+

IF THEY DO ENGAGE GOOD, TRAINED GRADUATES, THEY WILL BE CONTINUALLY IN DANGER OF LOSING THEM TO OTHER SCHOOLS WHERE THE PAY IS BETTER, SHE ADDED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THERE ARE NOW SEVEN SUCH SCHOOLS, IN 1978-79 THERE WILL BE 21 AND IN 1979-80 THERE WILL BE 33.

THE RATIO OF THESE SCHOOLS TO GOVERNMENT AND FULLY AIDED SCHOOLS IN 1978-79 ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE 19 TO 51, IN KOWLOON 21 TO 77 BUT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES 21 TO 37. IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR 1979-80, THE RATIO IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE 33 TO 41.

IN THE NEW TOWNS OR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THERE WILL BE A COMPARATIVELY SMALL CHANCE OF GOING TO A GOVERNMENT OR FULLY AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL.

SHE THOUGHT IT SHORT-SIGHTED AND FALSE ECONOMY TO BUILD SUCH PER CAPUT SCHOOLS WITH GOVERNMENT MONEY. +THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRECT IN RECOGNISING THE NEED TO HELP BUILD SCHOOLS TO BE RUN BY SPONSORS. BUT IT MUST SEE THAT THESE SPONSORS CAN RECEIVE ENOUGH IN FEES AND/OR SUBSIDY TO RUN THEIR SCHOOLS WITH PROPERLY TRAINED AND PROPERLY PAID TEACHERS,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT SAID THE ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE CLEARLY STATES THAT AIDED SCHOOLS ARE SUBSIDISED ACCORDING TO THE CODE OF AID FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ARE REQUIRED TO PAY TEACHERS THE SAME LEVEL OF SALARY TO WHICH THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED IN A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL. AT THE SAME TIME IT ALSO DESCRIBES THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAT ARE ASSISTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND REFERS TO 41 SUCH SCHOOLS AT PRESENT, 36 OF WHICH ARE TO BE BROUGHT ON TO FULL AID FROM THIS SEPTEMBER.

THESE PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR MANY YEARS TRIED TO RUN EFFICIENTLY AND GIVE FAIR TREATMENT TO THEIR STAFF AS REGARDS SALARY AND TERMS OF SERVICE BUT ARE CONTINUALLY LOSING THEM TO THE AIDED AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS.

THIS HAS TO BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PER CAPUT SCHOOLS, SHE SAID. THE TEACHERS IN PER CAPUT PRIVATE NON-PROFIT MAKING SCHOOLS CANNOT BE PAID A SALARY CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT SATISFACTORY.

AS TO TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR THE NEW JUNIOR SECONDARY CLASSES, MISS BENNETT POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY PROVISION TO EXPAND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, NEITHER IN SIZE NOR IN RANK, NEXT YEAR.

SHE SAID HONG KONG CANNOT AFFORD, IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY AND DIVERSIFY OUR INDUSTRY, TO RELY ON HAVING SO MANY OF OUR CHILDREN EDUCATED AT SECONDARY LEVEL BY UNTRAINED TEACHERS.

+THERE HAS BEEN MUCH HIGH-SOUNDING TALK OF AN IMPROVE JUNIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM, WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS. UNTRAINED TEACHERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THIS NEW CURRICULUM. UNTRAINED TEACHERS TEACH ONLY IN THE WAY THEY WERE TAUGHT THEMSELVES,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

SHE QUOTED THE CASE OF AN UNTRAINED REGISTERED TEACHER WHO COMPLAINED TO UMELCO ABOUT BEING REFUSED ADMISSION TO AN IN-SERVICE COURSE. THE REASON FOR THE REFUSAL WAS BECAUSE THE COURSE WAS FILLED VERY EASILY WITH OTHERS WITH BETTER QUALIFICATIONS, SO THAT THAT TEACHER WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO TEACH WITHOUT TRAINING IN A SCHOOL WHICH IS GIVEN SOME AID BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WHERE THE CHILDREN RECEIVE BOUGHT PLACES.

+WHAT NONSENSE THAT MAKES OF HIGH-SOUNDING STATEMENTS ABOUT ATTEMPTS TO BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE, MISS BENNETT POINTED OUT THAT NO EXPANSION HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THIS IN THE COMING YEAR.

+THIS CONTRADICTS THE PROMISE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THAT PROVISION WAS BEING MADE IN THE BUDGET FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREEN PAPERS IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD,+ SHE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE GREEN PAPERS WOULD BE DEBATED IN DETAIL LATER, +SUFFICE IT TO SAY NOW THAT COMMUNITY NURSES CANNOT APPEAR OVERNIGHT TO SERVE THE ELDERLY AND INFIRM.+

SHE SAID SHE WAS TOLD THERE WOULD BE NO EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE DURING THE CURRENT THREE-YEAR TRIAL PERIOD, BUT ON FURTHER ENQUIRY LEARNED THAT ABOUT 20 NURSES WOULD BE TRAINED THIS SUMMER TO PERMIT A MODICUM OF EXPANSION DURING THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT A NURSE HAS THE HEAVY JOB OF VISITING EIGHT TO TEN PATIENTS IN ONE DAY. THE NURSE ALSO PROVIDES MEDICAL CARE FOR THE PATIENTS FAR MORE CHEAPLY THAN IF THEY WERE IN HOSPITAL, AT \$20 A VISIT, COMPARED WITH \$140 FOR A HOSPITAL BED A DAY.

+PATIENTS ARE BEING TURNED OUT OF OUR HOSPITAL UNABLE TO WALK BECAUSE THEIR BEDS ARE NEEDED,+ SHE SAID. +WHEN THEY ARE NOT REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE THEY WILL BECOME BED-RIDDEN AND THE FAMILY DISTRAUGHT AS THEY DESPAIR OF CARING FOR THEIR LOVED ONES SATISFACTORILY.+

THE SCHEME HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL IN THE WHOLE HEALTH CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY. +WHEN WE CAN DEPLOY OUR MEDICAL STAFF BETTER IN THIS WAY, THE HOSPITAL BEDS CAN BE RESERVED FOR ACUTE PATIENTS DEMANDING CONSTANT MEDICAL SUPERVISION AND NURSING CARE,+ SHE SAID.

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FACTORY OWNERSHIP SCHEME SUGGESTED

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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON. S.L. CHEN, TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A +FACTORY OWNERSHIP SCHEME+ TO HELP SMALL INDUSTRIAL OPERATORS TO OVERCOME THE PRESSURE OF RENT INCREASES.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. CHEN SAID SUCH A SCHEME WOULD NOT ONLY HELP REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO HELP PROVIDE THE OPERATORS WITH A MEASURE OF SECURITY THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR MAINTAINING STABILITY IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S THRIVING ECONOMY OWES AS MUCH TO THEIR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AS TO THAT OF LARGE COMPANIES.

+OWNING A FACTORY WOULD NO DOUBT MEAN AS MUCH TO A SMALL MANUFACTURER AS WOULD OWNING A HOME TO A MAN IN THE STREET,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO STATISTICS, MR. CHEN NOTED THAT THERE WERE 34,196 OUT OF A TOTAL 37,135 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS (OR 92 PER CENT) EMPLOYING 49 OR LESS WORKERS. FEW OF THESE OPERATORS OWN THEIR FACTORY PREMISES AND MANY ARE OPERATING IN PREMISES NOT SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND IN THE WORST CASES, IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES.

+THIS NOT ONLY GIVES RISE TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS FIRE HAZARDS, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND OVER-CROWDING, A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, BUT ALSO RESULTS IN OPERATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT INSTABILITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHEN ALSO DREW THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO ITS ROLE IN DEVELOPING OUR TWO SCARCE RESOURCE - LAND AND MANPOWER - TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND MAXIMISE THE RETURN FROM THEIR UTILISATION.

THE TIME HAD NOW COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN LEFT IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, MR. CHEN SAID.

+WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ADMIRABLE EFFORTS IN THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS, IT HAS NOT PLACED SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS ON THE PRACTICAL INDUSTRIAL TRAINING OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER, PARTICULARLY AT THE HIGHER TECHNICAL LEVELS,+ HE SAID.

+IT WOULD BE BOTH FRUSTRATING AND POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT BROADENING AND UPGRADING OUR TECHNOLOGICAL BASE UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE,+ HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE HIGH COST OF INDUSTRIAL LAND, HE SAID THAT THIS NOT ONLY DISCOURAGED OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS FROM COMING TO HONG KONG BUT ALSO GREATLY RESTRICTED THE PATTERN OF OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THERE IS THEREFORE A NEED TO REVIEW OUR PRESENT LAND POLICY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW NOT ONLY OF PRODUCING AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF LAND BUT ALSO OF ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME LAND-INTENSIVE HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES SO AS TO DEVELOP A MORE BALANCED OVERALL INDUSTRIAL BASE,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +I DO NOT SEE THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG IN MAKING LAND ESPECIALLY INEXPENSIVE FOR, OR IN OTHER WORDS SUBSIDISING, THOSE LAND-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES WHICH WE WANT TO ATTRACT TO HONG KONG IF HONG KONG WILL BENEFIT ECONOMICALLY IN THE LONG RUN.+

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC SPENDING, MR. CHEN SUGGESTED VARIOUS WAYS FROM WHICH ADDITIONAL BENEFITS COULD BE DERIVED.

- * OVERSEAS CONSULTANCY SERVICES -- HE FELT THAT SUCH WORK COULD BE DONE ON A JOINT VENTURE BASIS BETWEEN OVERSEAS AND LOCAL CONSULTANTS TO ENSURE THAT SOME OF THE EXPERTISE SOUGHT IS RETAINED LOCALLY. FURTHERMORE THE GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO MAKE THE PROVISION OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR GRADUATES A CONDITION FOR THE CONSULTANT'S APPOINTMENT.
- * PRISONS MANPOWER -- MR. CHEN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE FULL USE OF PRISON MANPOWER ESPECIALLY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE ESTIMATED THAT THE ANNUAL WORK OUTPUT FROM THE PRISONERS COULD BE WORTH SOMETHING OF THE ORDER OF \$30 TO \$40 MILLION WHICH IS ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

COMMENTING ON WATER SUPPLY, MR. CHEN PRODUCED A SET OF STATISTICS WHICH SHOWED THAT 'TRADE' CONSUMPTION OF WATER ROSE ABOUT 94 PER CENT AND 'DOMESTIC' CONSUMPTION BY 37.7 PER CENT FROM 1968 TO 1976.

WHILE THE INCREASE IN 'TRADE' USE REFLECTS THE INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, COMMERCE AND SERVICES, THE INCREASE IN 'DOMESTIC' USE WOULD SHOW A CHANGE IN PEOPLE'S LIVING HABIT, SINCE THE POPULATION INCREASE IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS ONLY 16.4 PER CENT.

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+PUTTING IT MORE PLAINLY, PEOPLE ARE BEING MORE EXTRAVAGANT IN USING WATER,+ MR. CHEN SAID, WHICH IS NOT IN UNLIMITED SUPPLY IN HONG KONG.

TO DETER SUCH WASTEFUL USE, HE SUGGESTED INTRODUCING A STEEP TARIFFF STRUCTURE FOR DOMESTIC USERS WHICH WOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE MINIMUM AMOUT OF WATER REQUIRED TO KEEP A FAMILY ALIVE AND HEALTHY AND WHICH WOULD NOT HURT THE CAREFUL USERS.

HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR INDUSTRY. TO DO SO WHEN IT IS ALREADY FACING MANY PROBLEMS THREATENING THE VIABILITY OF CERTAIN SECTORS IS, IN HIS OPINION, CONTRARY TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC INTEREST.

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NEED FOR URGENT REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL
CORRDINATING AND POLICY MAKING ROLE

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THE HON. LYDIA DUNN SAID AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TODAY THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO REVIEW THE CENTRAL COORDINATING AND POLICY MAKING ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN THE LIGHT OF A VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS OF OVER \$20,000 MILLION AND A CIVIL SERVICE OF OVER 126,000.

OTHER AREAS WHICH MISS DUNN THOUGHT DESERVE URGENT ATTENTION ARE:

- * THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND DEPARTMENTS,
- * THE ADEQUACY OF PRESENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES, AND
- * THE WAY IN WHICH SENIOR OFFICERS ARE DEPLOYED.

SHE DID NOT ADVOCATE THE USE OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS BUT THOUGHT AN 'IN-HOUSE' EXERCISE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND LESS DISRUPTIVE.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE PRESSING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SIZE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WHICH WILL BE EXPANDED BY A FURTHER 10,000 POSTS IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR TO 135,000 - 136,000 AT A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$2,800 MILLION.

MISS DUNN ASKED WHETHER SUCH A SIZEABLE INCREASE IS REALLY JUSTIFIED, AND WHETHER SUCH A COMPLEMENTING AND GRADING PROCEDURES ENSURE MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY FROM EXISTING STAFF BEFORE ADDITIONAL POSTS ARE APPROVED.

SHE FELT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HIMSELF WAS NOT TOO CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH.

/SHE NOTED

SHE NOTED THAT SOME 550 EXPATRIATES, REPRESENTING ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPATRIATE OFFICERS, WERE RECRUITED IN 1977.

WHILE SHE RECOGNISED THAT HONG KONG IS TOO SOPHISTICATED A PLACE FOR IT TO BE WISE OR NECESSARY TO PURSUE A POLICY OF LOCALISATION FOR ITS OWN SAKE, MISS DUNN SAID SHE HAS A DISTINCT FEELING THAT SOME EXPATRIATES ARE RECRUITED +SIMPLY BECAUSE STAFF REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT FORESEEN IN ADVANCE.+

SHE ASKED WHETHER SUITABLE LOCAL RECRUITS ARE SOUGHT AFTER AGGRESSIVELY ON THE BASIS OF RATIONAL, FORWARD PLANNING, AND WHETHER THE CAREER PLANNING OF SERVING LOCAL OFFICERS MAXIMISES THE USE OF THEIR TALENTS.

ON THE WORK OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, WHERE UNOFFICIALS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH AND EVEN INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS, MISS DUNN THOUGHT THAT A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO THEIR MANNING IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE CAREER PLANNING OF LOCAL OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SHE DOUBTED WHETHER THEY ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH BY THE GOVERNMENT.

SHE ASKED WHETHER THEY ARE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY TO SEE WHETHER CHANGES ARE CALLED FOR= WHETHER THERE ARE NOT SOME WHICH ARE OBSOLETE OR WHOSE TERMS OF REFERENCE NEED UPDATING= WHETHER THEIR ROLE IS SUFFICIENTLY WELL DEFINED, THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP APPROPRIATE, AND WHETHER MORE OF THEM SHOULD NOT BE CHAIRED BY UNOFFICIALS.

MISS DUNN WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR SEEKING OUT A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THESE COMMITTEES, WHICH ARE OFTEN CLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS OUR UNIQUE STYLE OF ADMINISTRATION.

AS TO THE FINANCIAL PROCEDURES OF THE GOVERNMENT, MISS DUNN SUGGESTED A GREATER DEGREE OF DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY, NOW THAT THE VOLUME AND COMPLEXITY OF TRANSACTIONS ARE SO MUCH GREATER, ALTHOUGH SHE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY ABROGATION OF CONTROL BY THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THIS WOULD AVOID UNDUE DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL OF PROJECTS, AVOID INADVERTENT OVERSIGHTS AS A RESULT OF THE WORKLOAD, AND ENSURE THAT THE CASE FOR REALLY SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS IS REALLY PROPERLY SCRUTINISED, SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THE FINANCE BRANCH WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE MORE TIME TO ENSURING THAT DEPARTMENTS ARE ACHIEVING VALUE FOR MONEY, AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO PAY SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THE POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS.

SHE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT ANY FURTHER DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY DOWNWARDS FROM FINANCE BRANCH AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD NEED TO BE LINKED WITH A REAPPRAISAL OF CONTROL PROCEDURES AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL.

MISS DUNN ALSO COMMENTED ON THE PATTERN OF OUR BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE WHICH SHE THOUGHT REQUIRES A BALANCE BETWEEN GENERAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY SERVICES, ECONOMIC SERVICES, AS WELL AS SOCIAL SERVICES.

WHILE THE RIGHT BALANCE IS A MATTER OF OPINION, +THERE SEEMS TO BE A TENDENCY WITHIN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, AND ELSEWHERE, TO ASSUME THAT THE LARGER THE SHARE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE DEVOTED TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES THE BETTER. THERE IS NO LOGICAL BASIS FOR THIS ASSUMPTION,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT AS HONG KONG BECOMES BETTER OFF, IT IS BOTH POSSIBLE AND RIGHT THAT MORE SHOULD BE SPENT TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AND AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MORE FORTUNATE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE GENERAL QUALITY OF LIFE MUST BE IMPROVED AND SHE FEARED THAT PRIORITIES ARE INFLUENCED BY THIS GROUNDLESS ASSUMPTION.

MISS DUNN REFERRED TO OUR FISCAL SYSTEM, WHICH HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, THOUGH NARROWLY BASED AND COUPLED WITH A LOW AND RARELY CHANGED STANDARD RATE OF TAX. SHE SAID THAT IN THIS FISCAL CONTEXT, +ONLY A LIMITED RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS PRIMARY EDUCATION, SHOULD BE PROVIDED FREE ON A NON-MEANS TESTED BASIS ... ALL OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES SHOULD BE CHARGED FOR, REMISSION OF FEES BEING ARRANGED FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PAY.+

+THIS PRINCIPLE IS ACCEPTED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHINESE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.+

SHE THEREFORE THOUGHT IT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS PRINCIPLE THAT JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION IS TO BE FREE FROM THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. EVEN THOUGH MANY PARENTS MAY BE WILLING AND CERTAINLY MANY ARE WELL ABLE TO PAY THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FEES, THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY IN FUTURE, SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THE COST OF THIS, AT \$80 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR, COULD BE MORE PROPERLY SPENT ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM OR ON OTHER SERVICES.

SHE KNEW THE GOVERNMENT REGARDS SUCH FREE EDUCATION AS BEING A CONSEQUENCE OF UNIVERSAL, COMPULSORY EDUCATION AT THIS LEVEL BUT SHE THOUGHT IT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO SPELL OUT THE LOGIC OF THIS ARGUMENT SO THAT ITS VIEWPOINT CAN BE BETTER ASSESSED.

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VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES
DESERVE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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DR. THE HON. HENRY HU TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. HU SAID THAT WHILE THE \$100 MILLION PROVIDED IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR SUBVENTING VOLUNTARY AGENCIES REPRESENTED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEARS, A LARGE PROPORTION OF IT WOULD ACTUALLY GO TOWARDS MAINTAINING EXISTING SERVICES, SALARY INCREASES AND RENTS AND RATES.

/+ONLY A SMALL

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+ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MANY PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPERS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. HU WELCOMED THE PROPOSED INCREASED SPENDING ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER TO GIVE GREATER ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY AND THE NEEDY.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE \$535 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD BE SPENT ON SUCH WELFARE SERVICES AS GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK, FAMILY SERVICES, TRAINING AND COUNSELLING.

+VIEWED FROM THIS ANGLE, ARE WE REALLY DOING ENOUGH IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WELFARE?+ HE ASKED. +WHY SHOULD WE HOLD BACK EXPENDITURE ON THOSE ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE, TRAINING OF THE DISABLED FOR EMPLOYMENT, COUNSELLING OF THOSE IN DISTRESS OR AT RISK AND CARE OF LONELY OLD PEOPLE?+

DR. HU SAID HE APPRECIATED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING EXPENDITURE ON SUBVENTIONS TO AGENCIES, AND HE AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO REVIEW THE MATTER.

HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COULD BE STRENGTHENED TO ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF THE AGENCIES AND THEIR CLIENTS WERE ADEQUATELY MET.

REFERRING TO PROPOSALS FOR ADOPTING UNIT COSTING AND STANDARD SETTING OF THE WELFARE SERVICES, DR. HU STRESSED THAT SUCH STANDARDS SHOULD BE SET AT A REALISTIC LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES PROVIDED WERE ADEQUATE.

IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT, HE ADDED, TO ESTABLISH PARITY OF PAY BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS OF SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DR. HU SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPING HONG KONG AS A TOURIST AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+FOR ONE THING, THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE ROOM FOR EXPANSION OF OUR TOURIST AND FINANCIAL INDUSTRIES AND IN THIS RESPECT MORE SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE OUR PORT, BANKING, INSURANCE AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES.+

DR. HU POINTED OUT THAT +TERTIARY OR SERVICE INDUSTRIES+ HAVE GROWN IN RELATIVE IMPORTANCE WHILE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES HAVE DECLINED.

HE SAID THIS TREND WAS BORNE OUT BY THE FACT THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ACCOUNTED FOR 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OUTPUT IN 1971 BUT ONLY 26 PER CENT IN 1977.

/+IN COMPARISON,

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+IN COMPARISON, THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS INCREASED FROM 20 TO 23 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD WHEREAS FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES INCREASED THEIR CONTRIBUTION FROM 18 TO 20 PER CENT,+ DR. HU ADDED.

FROM THE EMPLOYMENT ANGLE, HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EMPLOYED 47 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE IN 1971 AS AGAINST 44 PER CENT IN 1977, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS INCREASED FROM 16 TO 20 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE DECREASE IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, DR. HU SAID, HAD BEEN ABSORBED BY THE GROWING TERTIARY OR SERVICE INDUSTRIES. +THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT AND I HOPE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON IT.+

HE HIGHLIGHTED THE UNCERTAINTY IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE DECREASE IN TEXTILE AND CLOTHING EXPORT AND THE RECENT SHIFT TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM BY MANY OF HONG KONG'S TRADING PARTNERS.

+IN THIS RESPECT I HOPE BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY WILL MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SO AS TO PLACE HONG KONG IN A BETTER POSITION TO BENEFIT FROM DIVERSIFICATION.+

ON THE ISSUE OF WATER CHARGES, DR. HU SUGGESTED THAT THE NUMBER OF UNITS OF WATER NOW CHARGED AT THE LOWER RATE AFTER THE FREE ALLOWANCE BE RAISED. AND HE SAID THAT ANY INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES WOULD HAVE GREATER ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE POOR THAN ON THE RICH.

+WATER IS A BASIC NECESSITY AND SHOULD BE SUPPLIED BY GOVERNMENT TO THE PUBLIC AT A REASONABLY LOW PRICE, EVEN IF THIS ENTAILS SUBSTANTIAL SUBSIDY BY GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

DR. HU, HOWEVER, ADVOCATED IMPOSING HEAVIER TAX ON PETROL AS A MEANS OF GENERATING REVENUE THAN INCREASING WATER CHARGES.

HE SAID THAT THE MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF ROADS AND FLYOVERS WHICH AMOUNT TO \$1,288 MILLION OR 12.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGETTED EXPENDITURE FOR THE 1978-79 FINANCIAL YEAR WERE FOR THE BENEFIT OF MOTORISTS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, IT WOULD NOT BE UNFAIR FOR THEM TO BEAR PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

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OPPOSITION TO FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY
EDUCATION FOR WEALTHY CHILDREN

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THE REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN IS OPPOSED, ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROUNDS, TO THE POLICY OF MAKING JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION FREE FOR ALL IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

SPEAKING AT THE BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY HE SAID IF THE HIGH COST OF FREE EDUCATION IS NOW ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS NOT ENVISAGED IN THE 1974 WHITE PAPER ON +SECONDARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG OVER THE NEXT DECADE+, THERE ARE STILL GREATER NEEDS ON WHICH THE AVAILABLE MONEY COULD BE SPENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, WORKING MOTHERS ARE SPENDING HARD WON DOLLARS ON VERY HIGH KINDERGARTEN FEES, PARTLY TO GET THEIR CHILDREN OFF THEIR HANDS WHILE THEY GO TO WORK, AND PARTLY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CHILDREN CAN COMPETE WITH RICH CHILDREN IN THEIR ENTRY INTO, AND PROGRESS THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, EXTREME MEASURES, SUCH AS BISESSIONALISM, OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS AND OTHER MEASURES WHICH LED TO LOWER STANDARDS, TAKEN IN THE MID-SIXTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE CRASH PROGRAMME OF PROVIDING PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL, WERE MEANT TO BE TEMPORARY BUT ARE STILL WITH US.

THE WORKING PARTIES ON PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION WILL HAVE MANY SUGGESTIONS FOR URGENTLY SPENDING MONEY, HE SAID.

IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HE SAID HE COULD SUGGEST SUCH +EXPENSIVE AND NECESSARY REFORMS+ AS THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF MANY MORE PERSONNEL FOR CAREER AS WELL AS PERSONAL GUIDANCE.

+IT IS A LONG LIST AND A BIG BILL, EVEN WITHOUT MOVING OUT OF THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AND WITHOUT DEALING WITH THE GREEN PAPER, ESPECIALLY THE SADLY NEGLECTED FIELD OF ADULT EDUCATION,+ HE SAID.

FATHER MCGOVERN REALISED THAT HIS STATEMENT OPPOSING FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL IS OPEN TO MISINTERPRETATION.

HE WAS NOT SAYING THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS SPENDING \$50 MILLION TOO MUCH ON EDUCATION, HE WAS SAYING THAT THE MONEY COULD BE BETTER SPENT ON THINGS OTHER THAN WHAT IS, +IN EFFECT, A SUBSIDY TO THE RICH WHO COULD WELL AFFORD TO PAY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION,+ HE EXPLAINED.

FATHER MCGOVERN STRESSED THAT HE IS IN FAVOUR OF FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ANYONE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY, BUT IS OPPOSED TO IT FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD.

/HE DISAGREED

HE DISAGREED WITH THE LOGIC OF THE ARGUMENT THAT THE COROLLARY TO MAKING JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION COMPULSORY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS THE ABOLITION OF FEES.

+IN MY LOGIC IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SAY THAT THE COROLLARY TO MAKING JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION COMPULSORY IS THE REMISSION OF FEES IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY IN WHOLE OR IN PART.+

HE SAID THE REASON FOR THE RICH TO PAY IS BASED ON A SOUND AND WIDELY ACCEPTED SOCIAL PRINCIPLE THAT THE PRIMARY RIGHT AND DUTY OF EDUCATION LIES WITH THE PARENTS, NOT WITH THE STATE, WHETHER THE EDUCATION IS LEGALLY COMPULSORY OR NOT.

HE SAW THE RIGHT AND DUTY OF PARENTS AS TWOFOLD: THEY SHOULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE LEVEL OF EDUCATION TO THEIR CHILDREN FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S OWN SAKE, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMMUNITY. AN UNEDUCATED, OR AN INSUFFICIENTLY EDUCATED CHILD, BECOMES A LIABILITY ON THE COMMUNITY. THE PARENTS' OBLIGATION EXISTS QUITE INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY STATE COMPULSION.

THIS, HE SAID, IS WELL UNDERSTOOD IN HONG KONG, WHERE PARENTS MAKE TREMENDOUS SACRIFICES TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN. +PARENTS IN HONG KONG ALSO HAVE SELF RESPECT, AND IN MY CONSIDERED OPINION WOULD WELCOME A SYSTEM OF REMISSION OF FEES, READJUSTED IF NECESSARY TO COVER MORE PEOPLE, RATHER THAN A FREE HAND-OUT SYSTEM.+

HE ADDED: +WHEN PARENTS GIVE UP THEIR OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN THEY IN FACT TEND ALSO TO LOSE THEIR RIGHTS, WITH CONSEQUENCES TOO PAINFULLY VISIBLE TO NEED COMMENT.+

THIS BROADER SOCIAL IMPLICATION, HE SAID, HAS HAPPENED ELSEWHERE IN MODERN SOCIETY. IT COULD HAPPEN IN HONG KONG.

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TAXATION SYSTEM UNFAIR TO MIDDLE INCOME GROUP -- WONG LAM
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THE PRESENT TAXATION SYSTEM IS UNFAIR TO THE MIDDLE INCOME CLASS WHO EARN ABOUT \$25,000 TO \$70,000 PER ANNUM, UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. WONG LAM SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE, MR. WONG SAID IN RELATION TO THEIR INCOME, THE PERCENTAGE WHICH THE MIDDLE INCOME CLASS PAID AS TAX WAS USUALLY HIGHER THAN OTHER CLASSES OF TAXPAYERS.

HE SAID WHILE THE MIDDLE CLASS HAD TO PAY TAX AT A PERCENTAGE ALMOST EQUIVALENT TO OR IN SOME CASES HIGHER THAN THAT PAID BY THE WEALTHY, THEY DID NOT ENJOY AS MANY FORMS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, INCLUDING PUBLIC HOUSING, AS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE LOWER INCOME GROUP.

MR. WONG ALSO CRITICISED THE CLAW-BACK SYSTEM, WHEREBY FOR ANY INCOME IN EXCESS OF \$12,500, A SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE OF THE ALLOWANCE WOULD BE CLAWED BACK.

HE SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S INCREASE OF THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FROM \$10,000 TO \$12,500, WAS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FACT THAT THE MINIMUM ANNUAL COST OF SUBSISTENCE FOR A PERSON IS \$12,500.

+WHY THEN FOR EVERY EXTRA DOLLAR OF INCOME EARNED BY THE MIDDLE INCOME RANGE PEOPLE, A PERCENTAGE OF THE SUPPLEMENTED ALLOWANCE (\$12,500) HAS TO BE CLAWED BACK? ARE WE TO BELIEVE THAT FOR EVERY EXTRA DOLLAR THEY EARN, THEIR COST OF LIVING WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE LOWERED TO THE LEVEL OF THE BASIC PERSONAL ALLOWANCE?+ MR. WONG ASKED.

HE ADDED THAT TO THE MIDDLE INCOME GROUP, +THIS SYSTEM MEANS EXTRA BURDEN AND WORKS AGAINST THEM.+

+IN THIS CONNECTION, I THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRAIGHT FORWARDLY RAISE THE BASIC PERSONAL ALLOWANCE TO A MORE REASONABLE LEVEL AND ABOLISH THE PRESENT CLAW-BACK SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

MR. WONG ALSO SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER REINTRODUCING DEPENDENT PARENTS' ALLOWANCE +IN DEFERENCE TO POPULAR WISH.+

AS REGARDS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REMARK THAT AN INCREASE OF WATER CHARGES HAD TO BE PUT BACK, MR. WONG SAID THIS WARRANTED SECOND THOUGHT BY GOVERNMENT. ACTUALLY, HE SAID, HE CANNOT AGREE MORE TO FREEZING WATER CHARGES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL FOREVER.+

HE SAID: +IT IS GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO SUPPLY THE DRINKING WATER WE NEED. AND, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INDUSTRY, ANY INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON THE ALREADY HARD HIT TEXTILE AND DYEING INDUSTRIES.+

MR. WONG ALSO SAID THE QUESTION OF REVISION OF WATER CHARGES PROMPTED HIM TO DOUBT THE EFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

HE SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS REPEATEDLY HINTED AT THE INCREASE. +IT FOLLOWS THAT THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED (ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH COMPUTER) SHOULD HAVE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR YEARS. ONE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE WORK IS STILL OUTSTANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.+

MR. WONG ADDED: +IN A CASE INVOLVING REVENUE COLLECTION, THE EFFICIENCY SHOWN BY THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED IS YET SO LOW THAT ONE CANNOT HELP WONDERING WHAT IT WILL BE WHEN THE NATURE OF WORK DOES NOT GENERATE REVENUE BUT IS PURELY PROVISION OF SERVICE.+

HE RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONDUCT A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF ALL DEPARTMENTS +TO ENSURE THAT THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY IS USED TO THEIR BEST ADVANTAGE.+

DR HUANG COMMENTS ON THE PROVISION
FOR FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

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IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG CONGRATULATED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON A HEALTHY BUDGET AND ON A BUDGET WHICH SUPPORTS THE CONTINUATION OF THE TREND, ESTABLISHED IN RECENT YEARS, OF MAKING GREATER PROVISION FOR THE AREAS OF PUBLIC WELFARE AND EDUCATION.

WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION FOR EDUCATION, DR. HUANG SAID HE WOULD LIKE IN PARTICULAR TO REFER TO THE SUM EARMARKED FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION AS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, AMOUNTING TO \$50 MILLION IN 1978-79, AND \$80 MILLION FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR THEREAFTER.

HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING LIKE UNANIMITY IN THE COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE TO PROVIDE FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL. WHILE NO CHILD SHOULD BE PREVENTED, SOLELY BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE, FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION UP TO THE END OF FORM III, THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT THING FROM THE INDISCRIMINATE PROVISION OF FREE PLACES FOR THE RICH AND POOR ALIKE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THIS MEANS EITHER HAVING TO ACCEPT A PLACE IN A SCHOOL WHICH IS NOT OF ONE'S CHOICE OR RECEIVING NO FEE REMISSION OR SUBSIDY FOR A PLACE IN A SCHOOL WHICH ONE HAS CHOSEN.

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION FOR FORM I EDUCATION, HE EXPLAINED, A PARENT WILL BE FACED WITH THE CHOICE OF ACCEPTING THE PLACE ALLOCATED TO HIS CHILD IN A SECONDARY SCHOOL OR OF PAYING FULL FEES IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL OF HIS CHOICE. WHILE RICH PARENTS CAN AFFORD TO MAKE A CHOICE, LESS WELL-OFF PARENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD ANOTHER SCHOOL FOR WHICH THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY FULL FEES, AND THESE PARENTS WILL BE WORSE OFF THAN UNDER THE PRESENT SUBSIDISED SCHEME WHERE THEIR CHILDREN MIGHT EXPECT SOME REMISSION IN THE FEES OF THEIR SCHOOLS.

AT PRESENT SUBSIDISED SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE LOWER FORMS HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED EQUABLE FINANCIAL PROVISION TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT NOT MANY CASES OF HARDSHIP REMAIN. BY USING A SMALL PART OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE TO EXTEND THE EXISTING PROVISION FOR REMISSION OF FEES THE REMAINING CASES OF HARDSHIP COULD BE ELIMINATED, HE SAID.

DR. HUANG POINTED OUT THAT OUR PRIMARY GOAL IN EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IS EDUCATED UP TO A LEVEL AT WHICH HE CAN FIND HIS WAY IN SOCIETY. TO MOST PEOPLE THIS MEANS EDUCATION UP TO FORM V LEVEL, AND UNTIL OPENINGS INTO THE CRAFT AND TECHNICAL VOCATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED AND PROPERLY PROVIDED FOR, WE CAN EXPECT PRESSURE TO ENTER FORM IV TO CONTINUE.

IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE OUR PRIOR AIM TO PROVIDE MORE SUBSIDISED PLACES IN FORMS IV AND V WITH AN EXTENSION OF THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME FOR THOSE IN NEED, HE SAID. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE \$80 MILLION COULD BE USED TO SUBSIDISE EDUCATION IN FORMS IV AND V IN CERTAIN SELECTED PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS, THUS HELPING TO REMOVE THE BOTTLENECK BETWEEN FORMS III AND IV.

/DR. HUANG

DR. HUANG SAID IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZED THAT IF THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IS NOT TO BE INSTITUTED, AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH RELIABLE MEANS BY WHICH THE APTITUDE OF THE PUPILS CAN BE ASSESSED, AND NOT MERELY HAVE THIS DONE THROUGH INTERNAL SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS. THIS IMPLIES THE NEED FOR STUDENT COUNSELLORS AS WELL AS TEACHERS TRAINED TO TEACH A CURRICULUM IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND NOT THE EXAMINATION, IS THE GOAL.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TRAINED PERSONNEL AND GREATER INVESTMENT IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVED SCHOOL AMENITIES, AND THE REMOVAL OF PRESSURE IN OUR CROWDED CLASSROOM, WE WILL, HOPEFULLY, BE ABLE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OFFERED TO OUR YOUNG.

DR. HUANG SAID IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT DIFFICULTIES ARE BEING ENCOUNTERED BY GOVERNMENT IN THE PROVISION OF TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS GROWING SCHEMES FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES DURING 1977-78, WHILE GOVERNMENT'S EXPANDING SOCIAL WELFARE PLANS ALSO REQUIRE A HIGH INPUT OF SKILLED STAFF WHICH WILL TAKE TIME TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN IN THE NUMBERS REQUIRED. HE ASKED THAT ACTIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO FULLY UTILISE THE LOCAL RESOURCES IN THE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL.

IN CONCLUSION, DR. HUANG THOUGHT THAT WE SHOULD USE THE \$80 MILLION, PROPOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR FREE EDUCATION AT THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL, TO BEGIN TO REMOVE THE BOTTLENECK BETWEEN FORMS III AND IV, ENSURING AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE EDUCATION PROVIDED IS OF ACCEPTABLE STANDARD THROUGH THE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF TRAINED PERSONNEL. ONLY WHEN THESE NEEDS HAVE BEEN MET SHOULD WE CONTEMPLATE FREE EDUCATION AT THE LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL, HE SAID.

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PLEA TO IMPROVE SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG, TODAY APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEND MORE ON THE VARIOUS SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SO AS TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. YEUNG SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MUCH MORE HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE ITS QUALITY OF LIFE COULD MATCH THAT NOW ENJOYED BY URBAN DWELLERS.

/MR. YEUNG

MR. YEUNG FIRST TOUCHED ON LAND COMMUNICATIONS AND URGED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF FEEDER ROADS AND VILLAGE ACCESS ROADS TO THE LESS ACCESSIBLE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+AS AND WHEN THE NETWORK OF SUBSIDIARY ROADS IS IMPROVED OR EXPANDED, THE BETTER LAND COMMUNICATIONS WILL FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE NEW TOWNS AND MARKET TOWNS AND EXTENSION OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNAL SERVICES TO THE VILLAGES.

+THIS WILL IN TURN PROVIDE VILLAGERS WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND FOR MARKETING THEIR PRODUCE AS WELL AS RAISING THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING,+ HE SAID.

ON HOUSING, MR. YEUNG ASKED THE GOVERNMENT +TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENCOURAGE AND TO FACILITATE THE PLANS OF PRIVATE DEVELOPERS, WHETHER THESE BE FOR HOUSING IN THE URBAN OR RURAL AREAS+.

+GOVERNMENT ITSELF SHOULD CONSIDER ALSO CONSTRUCTING LOW COST HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OFFER TO SELL THEM TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITHIN THE LOW INCOME BRACKET WITH PRIORITY ACCORDED TO VILLAGERS AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+SUCH GOVERNMENT-BUILT HOUSES WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE URBAN HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, AND WILL ALLOW BOTH URBAN AND RURAL FAMILIES TO ACQUIRE THEIR OWN HOMES IN A VARIETY OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION LOCATED IN VARIOUS SURROUNDINGS,+ MR. YEUNG SAID.

MR. YEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE RECENT UPROOTING OF MANY VILLAGES TO MAKE WAY FOR MAJOR PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT HAS RESULTED IN RESENTMENT AND DISSATISFACTION AMONG VILLAGERS.

HE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES TO THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF SUCH DISRUPTION: CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENTIRELY NEW VILLAGE OF HOUSES IN A SUBURBAN AREA FOR THE AFFECTED VILLAGERS, OFFER OF A CHOICE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG, HELP IN BUYING OR GRANTING OF LAND IN THE RURAL AREA TO AN INDIVIDUAL TO REBUILD HIS OWN HOME, OR ALLOWING THE WHOLE VILLAGE TO BE REDEVELOPED IN SITU WITH PROPER PLANNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL TOWN LAYOUT.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION, MR. YEUNG EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE PROPOSAL TO SUBSIDISE MORE THAN HALF OF THE NEW AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES UNDER THE CAPUT SCHOOL SYSTEM WOULD RESULT IN A LOWERING OF STANDARD, AS THE FACILITIES WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE WILL BE LESS AND THE QUALITY AND STANDARD OF TEACHERS WILL BE JEOPARDISED BY THE INSUFFICIENCY AND UNCERTAINTY OF FUNDS.

+TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING STANDARDS OF EDUCATION I WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT ALL SUCH NEW SCHOOLS SHALL BE UNDER THE PRESENT CODE OF AID WITH FULL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY,+ HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS, MR. YEUNG PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE THE FULL COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND THAT THEIR SUBSIDY FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE EXTRA STAFF AND MATERIAL TO CATER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.

AS REGARDS RECREATION, MR. YEUNG SAID THERE IS STILL A +SERIOUS DEFICIENCY+ OF PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, SPORTS FIELDS AND OTHER OPEN RECREATIONAL SPACES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE MARKET TOWNS AND THE RURAL TOWNSHIPS AND IN THE VILLAGES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE PROPERTY TAX AND RATES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO MANY AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER ALLOCATING A PORTION OF THE RATES FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, AS IN THE CASE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, TO EMBARK ON THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMMES FOR THE BUILDING OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUCH AS AUDITORIA AND LIBRARIES.

WITH THE FORMATION OF THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS TO COVER ALL PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. YEUNG SAID, A GREATER RANGE OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES MAY NOW BE QUICKLY IMPLEMENTED WITH SPECIALLY ALLOCATED GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

MR. YEUNG WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO SET UP MORE COUNTRY PARKS, BUT HE FELT THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE, PATROL AND MAINTAIN THESE GREEN BELTS SHOULD NOT FALL SOLELY ON THE STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

HE SUGGESTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING YOUTH AGENCIES BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH PRACTICAL PROJECTS BY SERVING AS +AUTONOMOUS GROUPS+ IN A CORPS OF VOLUNTARY FOREST RANGERS AND PARK WARDENS.

MR. YEUNG SAID THE PLAN WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXTEND GREATER FACILITIES TO THESE AGENCIES, PROVIDING THEM WITH FUNDS AND TRANSPORT.

ON CRIME, HE SAID THE BEAT RADIO SYSTEM OF THE POLICE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WHILE THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND THE VILLAGE GUARDS SYSTEM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. HELICOPTERS SHOULD ALSO BE USED IN CERTAIN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

MR. YEUNG ALSO SUGGESTED A TERRITORY-WIDE HEALTH CARE SCHEME TO BE SET UP WITH VOLUNTARY HEALTH FUNDS.

A PARTICIPANT IN THE SCHEME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY A PRESCRIBED FEE ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND AFTER A QUALIFYING PERIOD WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH BENEFITS.

WHEN HE ATTENDS A DOCTOR OR ENTERS A HOSPITAL, HE CAN OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE TO QUALIFY FOR A REFUND OF THE EXPENSE INCURRED, UP TO THE MAXIMUM OF THE COMMON CHARGE FOR THE PARTICULAR MEDICAL EXAMINATION FIXED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE PATIENT CAN THUS CHOOSE HIS OWN DOCTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN DIRECT ITS RESOURCES TO UPGRADING EXISTING SERVICES AND TO CARING FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO JOIN THE SCHEME.

IF SUCH A SCHEME IS COMMENDABLE, MR. YEUNG SUGGESTED THAT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS WOULD NEED TO BE INVESTIGATED BY A WIDELY REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE.

ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG, MR. YEUNG ASKED THAT MORE FUNDS AND FACILITIES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HONG KONG LONDON OFFICE AND THAT HONG KONG VISITORS TO BRITAIN BE ENCOURAGED TO ACT AS GOODWILL AMBASSADORS.

HE ALSO WANTED MORE PRE-RELEASE CENTRES AND HALF-WAY HOUSES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DISCHARGED PRISONERS AND ASKED FOR EQUITABLE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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VALEDICTORY TO P.B. WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS AFTERNOON PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. P.B. WILLIAMS, WHO WILL RETIRE SHORTLY AFTER 25 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +HIS DEPARTURE WILL LEAVE A VERY BIG GAP IN HONG KONG AND IN THIS COUNCIL HE HAS GAINED RESPECT IN MANY FIELDS OF GOVERNMENT DURING HIS 25-YEAR SERVICE.

+I THINK HE WILL PARTICULARLY BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS WORK IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, WHERE HE PLAYED SUCH A LARGE PART IN DRAWING UP THE PLANS ON WHICH THE EXPANSION OF OUR EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL, AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES HAVE SINCE BEEN BASED, AND ALSO HE DREW UP MUCH OF OUR PROGRAMME OF LABOUR LEGISLATION,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+MORE RECENTLY, AS COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION IN THIS FIELD, AND IN PUSHING FORWARD LEGISLATION AND IN PLANNING THE REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION OF THIS DEPARTMENT.+

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, ALSO PRAISED MR. WILLIAMS FOR HIS +INVALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY DURING HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH GOVERNMENT.+

SIR SZE-YUEN SAID ALTHOUGH MR. WILLIAMS HAS BEEN THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LESS THAN A YEAR, +HE HAS IN THAT TIME WON THE RESPECT OF THOSE WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES.+

+FOR HIS WORK IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND HIS MANY OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL BEING OF HONG KONG DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS, HE WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED,+ SIR SZE-YUEN SAID.

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ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE TO OPEN ON APRIL 1

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THE 23RD ANNUAL ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAUSEWAY BAY, ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (APRIL 1 AND 2).

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION, IS 'NEW TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.' THE CONFERENCE WILL OPEN AT 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY AND WILL INCLUDE THEME LECTURES, PRIZE DISTRIBUTION, AND SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS. ON SUNDAY IT WILL START AT 9.30 A.M.

MR. COLVYN HAYE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WILL GIVE THE WELCOMING SPEECH. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, WILL OFFICIATE AND DELIVER THE THEME LECTURE.

MORE THAN 1,200 PART-TIME TEACHING STAFF AND FIELD WORKERS OF THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION AND GUESTS FROM FELLOW ORGANISATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION AND SOUVENIRS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY MR. HAYE TO PART-TIME STAFF OF THE SECTION WITH OVER 10 OR 20 YEARS' SERVICE.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE MAIN THEME, WHICH WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. C.S. TANG, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (ADULT EDUCATION). OTHER PANELISTS INCLUDE: MR. JOHN WINFIELD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), MR. DANIEL WATERS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), AND MR. T.W. CHU, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (TECHNICAL).

SEMINARS WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON AND WILL INCLUDE SUCH TOPICS AS TEACHING OF CHINESE AND IN CHINESE CULTURE, RECEPTION OF 'MIXED ABILITY GROUPS' AND 'CURRICULA INTEGRATED SUBJECTS,' AND ADULT EDUCATION AND FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF THE WORKING POPULATION.

THE PROGRAMME ON THE SECOND DAY (SUNDAY) INCLUDES A PANEL DISCUSSION ON 'EXTENSION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE - FROM CENTRE TO COMMUNITY' AND 'EXTENDED PROGRAMMES FOR VOLUNTARY HELPERS', AND OTHER GROUP DISCUSSIONS. SOME 700 ORGANISERS, ASSISTANT ORGANISERS, TRAINEES AND VOLUNTARY HELPERS OF THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES WILL TAKE PART.

THE ANNUAL ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE PROVIDES A FORUM FOR PARTICIPANTS TO KEEP UP WITH MODERN TRENDS, UPDATE THEIR SPECIAL SKILLS, EXCHANGE VIEWS, DISCUSS PROBLEMS, AND SHARE EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF ADULT EDUCATION.

THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OPERATES NINE DIFFERENT TYPES OF COURSE IN 141 CENTRES IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, RENDERING SERVICE TO AN ESTIMATED 60,000 PARTICIPANTS.

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/NOTE TO EDITORS: , , , , ,

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPORTERS TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE 23RD ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAUSEWAY BAY, AT 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY (APRIL 1) AND ALSO THE LECTURE AND DISCUSSIONS STARTING FROM 9.30 A.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (SUNDAY).

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IN-LAW RELATIONSHIP FEATURED IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION DRAMA
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MINOR CLASHES AMONG MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW WHICH LEAD TO MANY DOMESTIC SKIRMISHES DISRUPTING THE HARMONY OF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF LOCAL FAMILIES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO A LIGHT-HEARTED TELEVISION DRAMA TO BE SCREENED FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) NIGHT.

THE HALF-HOUR DRAMA TRACKS OFF FROM THE MORE IMMEDIATE HUMAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE ON MARRIAGE, ADOLESCENCE OR PARENTAL LOVE AND FOCUSES ON THE OFTEN NEGLECTED RELATIONSHIP AMONG IN-LAWS.

IT IS THE FIFTH EPISODE OF THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SERIES +UNDER THE SAME ROOF+ PRODUCED BY THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS PART OF THE CURRENT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

WITH THE OPENING SCENES CONVEYING THE HAPPY MOOD OF A TRADITIONAL CHINESE WEDDING BANQUET, THE PLOT OF +EVER SINCE+ UNVEILS STEP BY STEP THE SOUR-TURNING PROCESS OF AN APPARENTLY WELL-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO LEADING CHARACTERS, WHOSE ATTITUDES TOWARDS EACH OTHER BECOME MORE HOSTILE EVER SINCE THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST CHILD.

+EVER SINCE+ WILL BE SCREENED ON TVB JADE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 8.30 P.M., ON RTV CHANNEL 1 ON SATURDAY (APRIL 1) AT 7.30 P.M. AND ON CTV ON SUNDAY (APRIL 2) AT 6 P.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WORKED AS A DISC JOCKEY, A PROFESSION REPRESENTING ONLY A MINORITY OF THE MODERN GIRLS IN HONG KONG, HER BEHAVIOUR IN THE PLAY WAS HOWEVER TYPICAL OF TODAY'S YOUNG WOMEN, BEING CONFIDENT OF HER ABILITY IN HANDLING HER OWN AFFAIRS AND REFUSING TO COMPROMISE WHEN ANYONE ATTEMPTED TO INTRUDE INTO HER PRIVATE LIFE.

+WHEREAS THE MOTHER-IN-LAW, KIND AT HEART BUT NONETHELESS STUBBORN AND EQUALLY CONFIDENT OF HER DEEP-ROOTED EXPERIENCE IN LIFE, COULD BE EASILY IDENTIFIED,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE TRIFLE HAPPENINGS WHICH LED TO THE FINAL OUTBREAK BETWEEN THE TWO GENERATIONS WERE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON ONES FOUND IN CASE HISTORIES HANDLED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

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+MUTUAL SUSPICION, OVER-SENSITIVITY, CHARACTERISTIC POSSESSIVENESS TOGETHER WITH THE DIFFERENCES IN UPBRINGING WILL RESULT IN MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS WHEN A BONE OF CONTENTION APPEARS.

+THROUGH JUXTAPOSITION OF THE TWO FEMALE LEADS' REACTION TOWARDS EVERYDAY DETAILS, AND THE CONSTANT PLAYBACK TO SHOW THE CONTRAST BEFORE THE YOUNG COUPLE'S MARRIAGE, THE AUDIENCE ARE GIVEN A BETTER VIEW OF THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

IN THE DRAMA, HE SAID, IN ORDER TO GIVE A MORE OBJECTIVE DIAGNOSIS OF THE DETERIORATION, NOT ONLY THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE TWO WOMEN IS GIVEN ATTENTION, THE BLUNDERS AND EMBARRASSMENT OF THE MAN PLAYING THE ROLES OF BOTH SON AND HUSBAND ARE ALSO DEPICTED.

+WE HOPE THAT THIS REALISTIC PORTRAYAL WOULD HELP THE PUBLIC GAIN INSIGHT INTO THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE WHICH INDIRECTLY LEADS TO MANY FAMILY BREAKDOWNS,+ HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:-

LADY MACLEHOSE TO ATTEND HK PONY CLUB CAMP
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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL ATTEND THE OPEN DAY OF THE HONG KONG PONY CLUB CAMP 1978 AT THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS' SADDLE CLUB, CASSINO LINES, NEW TERRITORIES AT 2.30 P.M. ON SATURDAY (APRIL 1).

THE CAMP SITE IS NEAR SAN TIN BETWEEN 31 AND 32 MILESTONES, CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT NINE-SEATER VAN WILL LEAVE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CAR PARK AT 1 P.M. SHARP TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CAMP.

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FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSION ON A LIST OF SUITABLE OPERATORS FOR A NEW MINOR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN IN THE NORTHERN PART OF LANTAU ISLAND.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN IS 2.2 NAUTICAL MILES.

AT PRESENT, THE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND TAI O OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY CALLS AT BOTH TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN. THIS FERRY SERVICE WILL STOP CALLING AT TUNG CHUNG IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID: +IT IS, THEREFORE, ANTICIPATED THAT APART FROM SERVING THE LOCAL PEOPLE IN TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN THIS MINOR FERRY SERVICE WILL CARRY A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RECREATIONAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES. +

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SERVICE WOULD PROVIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, INTERCHANGE FACILITY FROM TUNG CHUNG TO SHA LO WAN WHERE THE FERRY SERVICE OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY CONTINUED TO CALL. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE MINOR FERRY SERVICE WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CHEK LAP KOK AT A LATER STAGE.

THE LAUNCHES PROVIDED FOR THE MINOR FERRY SERVICE MUST BE COMPLETELY DECKED AND EXCEED A REGISTERED LENGTH OF 40 FEET, AND LICENSED AS CLASS II OR CLASS III LAUNCHES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS) REGULATIONS.

THESE LAUNCHES WILL BE PERMITTED TO CARRY PASSENGERS AS WELL AS CARGO.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT OPERATION OF THIS MINOR FERRY SERVICE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN APPROVED SCHEDULE OF SERVICE SPECIFYING TIMETABLE AND FARES.

THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE INITIALLY OFFERED A TEMPORARY LICENCE TO OPERATE THE FERRY SERVICE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THE LICENCE IS RENEWABLE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY RECORD OF SERVICE.

IF REQUIRED BY THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT, THE SERVICE CAN BE OPERATED FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE ISSUE OF THE TEMPORARY LICENCE IS CONSIDERED.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF SUITABLE OPERATORS FOR THE ABOVE MINOR FERRY SERVICE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, GUARDIAN HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE APRIL 14, 1978 AND SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED: +APPLICATION FOR THE MINOR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUNG CHUNG AND SHA LO WAN+.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT
OPENING AT TUEN MUN
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THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SET UP A SUB-OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S TUEN MUN BRANCH OFFICE AT 33, TAK CHING COURT ON SATURDAY (APRIL 1) TO SERVE FACTORIES IN THE DISTRICT AND NEARBY AREAS.

THE SERVICES IT WILL PROVIDE INCLUDE RECEIVING OVERTIME REPORTS FROM INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, APPROVING NOTICES OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT AND INTERVALS FOR REST AND MEAL BREAKS FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS AS WELL AS GIVING ADVICE ON THE FIXING OF THE HOURS OF WORK FOR FACTORY WORKERS.

THE AREAS COVERED BY THE SUB-OFFICE ALSO INCLUDE TAI LAM CHUNG, SO KWUN WAT, CASTLE PEAK BAY, LAM TEI AND CHUNG UK TSUEN.

ITS TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR ENQUIRIES WILL BE 12-818393.

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SHIP NIGHT SIGNAL CHANGE
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE NIGHT SIGNAL WHICH ALL SHIPS ARRIVING IN HONG KONG ARE REQUIRED TO HOIST FOR IMMIGRATION EXAMINATION WILL BE CHANGED FROM NEXT MONTH.

THE PRESENT IMMIGRATION EXAMINATION SIGNAL IS A SET OF FOUR LIGHTS COLOURED +WHITE-RED-WHITE-RED+, DISPLAYED VERTICALLY.

FROM SATURDAY (APRIL 1), THE SIGNAL WILL BE A VERTICAL DISPLAY OF THREE WHITE LIGHTS.

THE NEW SIGNAL, WHICH IS PRESCRIBED IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COLOURED LIGHTS TO BE HOISTED. IT WILL ALSO BENEFIT THOSE SHIPS ARRIVING, PARTICULARLY SMALLER VESSELS, WHICH ARE NOT FITTED WITH SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LIGHTS FOR THE EXISTING SIGNAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRISONS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

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THE ANNUAL SPORTS MEETING OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION, WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY (APRIL 1) AT THE STANLEY FOOTBALL FIELD FROM 2 P.M. THE OCCASION ALSO MARKS THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE MAJOR COMPETITORS WILL BE NINE COMPOSITE TEAMS REPRESENTING ALL INSTITUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT. THERE WILL ALSO BE RACES FOR VETERANS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND CHILDREN OF ITS STAFF.

MRS. P.B. WILLIAMS, WIFE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, WILL PRESENT PRIZES AND TROPIES TO WINNERS.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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