



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JACOBS EXPLAINS ROLE OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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THE FINANCE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT WAS CENTRAL TO THE TERRITORY'S INTERNAL FINANCIAL STRUCTURE, HAVING THE RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY FOR THE COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND THE LEVYING OF TAXATION BUT ALSO THE CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS SAID AT A PO LEUNG KUK LUNCHEON TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE ROLE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY UNDER HIS JURISDICTION, INCLUDING THE WORK OF FOUR POLICY BRANCHES: FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC SERVICES AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING DEMANDS. FINANCE BRANCH, AS THE OLDEST OF THE FOUR, SHOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE AS THE STRONG CENTRAL ORGANISATION WHICH PLANNED AND CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AND WHICH ALSO RAISED THE NECESSARY REVENUE.

"IT HAS THEREFORE AN ENDURING RAISON D'ETRE," HE ADDED. "ITS ROLE AND IN PARTICULAR ITS INFLUENCE MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME, PERHAPS IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC PURSE AND PERHAPS IN RELATION TO THE PERSONALITIES CONCERNED BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BRANCH. BUT THE BRANCH WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US," HE SAID.

ON THE RESPONSIVENESS OF FINANCE BRANCH, MR JACOBS SAID THAT THE ROLE OF THE BRANCH WAS ALSO CONSTANTLY CHANGING "LIKE ALL DYNAMIC ORGANISATIONS".

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE NOW AS IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN RATHER MORE SOPHISTICATED FORMS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE CONTROL AND AT THE SAME TIME IT IS MOVING AWAY FROM THE MORE TRADITIONAL AND MORE NARROWLY DEFINED FORMS OF CONTROL WHICH IT HAS EXERCISED IN THE PAST."

IN ADDITION TO THE RESOURCE DIVISIONS WHICH HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANALYSING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPANDED ON THE AMBIT OF THE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE BRANCH IN THE RECENT YEARS. THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES, MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING, FINANCIAL APPRAISALS, MEDIUM RANGE FORECAST AND PRIVATISATION.

MR JACOBS ALSO SAID THAT A REVENUE DIVISION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED APPROACH TO REVENUE AND TO TAXATION POLICY. HE ADDED THAT THIS DIVISION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ROLE OF INDIRECT TAXATION IN OUR TAXATION SYSTEM.

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CONTINUING EFFORT NEEDED TO COMBAT CHILD ABUSE

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CONTINUING EFFORT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE TO FAMILIES, AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROFESSIONALS WHO NEED SKILLS TO WORK WITH THE COMPLEX AND POTENTIALLY VERY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS IN CHILD ABUSE CASES, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, LADY WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SHE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE IN THE LADY TRENCH AUDITORIUM, DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, WAN CHAI.

THE CONFERENCE IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN CO-OPERATION WITH AGAINST CHILD ABUSE. LADY WILSON IS THE CONFERENCE PATRON.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT PEOPLE HAD BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE DISTRESSING PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST DECADE AND THERE WERE NOW SOCIAL WORKERS SPECIALISING IN CHILD ABUSE WORK BOTH IN THE STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THIS WAS A BEGINNING, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH, SHE SAID, AND THE CONFERENCE WAS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM.

"WE KNOW FROM COUNTRIES WITH LONGER EXPERIENCE OF DEALING WITH CHILD ABUSE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING THIS PROBLEM IS NOT THE SOLE PRESERVE OF ANY ONE PROFESSION OR DISCIPLINE.

"A NUMBER OF CHILD ABUSE ENQUIRIES OVERSEAS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE DANGERS WHICH MAY ARISE WHEN PROFESSIONALS WORK ONLY WITHIN THEIR OWN AREA OF OPERATION, LEAVING GAPS THROUGH WHICH INCIDENTS OF ABUSE CAN ESCAPE UNNOTICED, OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS OCCUR," LADY WILSON SAID.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE ROLE OF EACH AGENCY OR DISCIPLINE IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE WHEN WORKING TOGETHER," SHE ADDED.

STRESSING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS OUR CHILDREN, SHE SAID WE COULD NOT BE COMPLACENT THOUGH CHILDREN IN HONG KONG WERE POSSIBLY MORE PRIVILEGED THAN THOSE IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF ASIA.

"CHILDREN ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS OUR FUTURE.

"THIS BRINGS WITH IT A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT PARENTS KNOW HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN," SHE SAID.

"PEOPLE WHO ABUSE THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT OFTEN MONSTERS OR SADISTS BUT THEY DO NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP.

"EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE TO CHILDREN MUST BE CONDEMNED AND APPROPRIATE METHODS OF DISCIPLINE LEARNED AND USED," SHE EMPHASISED.

/LADY WILSON

LADY WILSON BELIEVED THAT IN ADDITION TO PROFESSIONALS, OTHER PEOPLE INCLUDING REHABILITATED ABUSIVE PARENTS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AND THE COMMUNITY ALSO HAD THEIR ROLE TO PLAY.

SHE OBSERVED THAT IN SOME PLACES, ABUSIVE PARENTS, AFTER INVOLVEMENT IN TREATMENT PROGRAMMES, HAD FORMED SELF-HELP GROUPS OR SET UP "HOT-LINES" TO PROVIDE HELP AND ADVICE IN AN EMERGENCY.

"THESE CAN PROVIDE THE KIND OF SUPPORT OFTEN FOUND BY ALCOHOLICS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAMMES, WHICH HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL.

"THE ABUSIVE, OR POTENTIALLY ABUSIVE, FAMILIES ALSO NEED THE SUPPORT OF THEIR RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND THE COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD GENERATE SOME GUIDANCE AND ACTION ON THIS POTENTIALLY VALUABLE NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND URGED THE PROFESSIONALS TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND IN ORDER TO HEAR AND LEARN FROM WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD IN RECENT YEARS WORKED CLOSELY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PROMOTE AT SCHOOL LEVEL AN AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE.

IT WAS AT THIS LEVEL THAT MUCH COULD BE DONE IN THE EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF CASES AND IN DEVISING AND ADOPTING EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES, HE SAID.

"THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE IS DEALT WITHIN THE TRAINING OF OUR TEACHERS, BOTH AT THE INITIAL TRAINING AND DURING IN-SERVICE TRAINING" MR LAN SAID, ADDING THAT THE GUIDANCE OFFICERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WERE PROVIDED WITH APPROPRIATE TRAINING ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH CASES IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES.

"ADDITIONALLY, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SCHOOLS WITH GUIDANCE ON THE APPROPRIATE WAYS OF HANDLING INCIDENTS OF CHILD ABUSE THROUGH THE ISSUE OF INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND PROCEDURAL GUIDES."

"BUT IN SKETCHING THE EFFORTS WE MAKE IN THESE DIRECTIONS, I AM FAR FROM WISHING TO SUGGEST THAT WE REGARD THE PROBLEM AS SOLVED," HE SAID.

"ON THE CONTRARY, WE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ARE VERY CONSCIOUS THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE LEARNT IN THIS FIELD, PARTICULARLY AS TO WAYS IN WHICH A CO-ORDINATED AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH, BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, CAN BE FURTHER DEVELOPED," HE CONTINUED.

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COMMENTING ON THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE EXISTED IN EVERY SOCIETY, MR LAN SAID IT HAD BEEN RECOGNISED THAT AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE MUST BE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IN CHARACTER.

"THUS THE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL ITS ASPECTS: MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, LEGAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL," HE SAID.

EARLIER, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE, MR THOMAS MULVEY SAID IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS THAT THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE AIMED TO ENABLE PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONS TO BENEFIT FROM THE SHARING OF EACH OTHER'S CONCERN AND EXPERIENCE IN THE CHILD ABUSE PROBLEM, AS WELL AS FROM THE WIDE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE OVERSEAS SPEAKERS.

WHILE HEARTENED BY THE GOOD RESPONSE FROM THE PROFESSIONALS, HE SAW THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

"DESPITE THE FOCUS OF THIS CONFERENCE, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS IS NOT MERELY A PROFESSIONAL ISSUE, NOR ONLY AN ISSUE FOR FAMILIES, IT INVOLVES A COMMUNITY RESPONSE.

"FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE POSITIVE SIGNS THAT THIS IS BEING RECOGNISED," HE SAID.

HE THANKED LADY WILSON FOR HER ENCOURAGING SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GRANT OF \$145,300 FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND AND THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS AND COMPANIES, AS WELL AS THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN ORGANISING THE CONFERENCE.

"WE HOPE THAT IT MAY STIMULATE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CO-OPERATION IN TACKLING THIS POTENTIALLY MOST TRAGIC PROBLEM OF ABUSE," HE SAID.

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GOOD RESPONSE TO SEMINARS ON HARMONISED SYSTEM

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RESPONSE TO THE FOURTEEN SEMINARS ORGANISED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE NEW COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, THE HONG KONG HARMONISED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM (HK HS), HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SOME 20,000 APPLICATIONS FOR TAKING PART IN THE SEMINARS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 29. ADMISSION TO THE SEMINARS IS FREE.

/ "AS MORE

"AS MORE APPLICATIONS ARE EXPECTED, FOUR ADDITIONAL SEMINARS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED IN EARLY JANUARY TO ACCOMMODATE THE ENTHUSIASTIC TRADERS," HE SAID.

THE HARMONISED SYSTEM WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM BASED ON THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC), FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR. THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE ADOPTED BY MOST OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS FOR CUSTOMS TARIFF AND STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

THE SEMINARS WILL HELP IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BASIC CONCEPT AND CLASSIFICATION PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW SYSTEM, AND FAMILIARISE THEM WITH THE WAY TO FIND THE CORRECT COMMODITY CODES. DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE USE OF THE NEW HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM), WHICH CONTAINS THE DESCRIPTIONS AND CODES OF THE NEW SYSTEM, IN COMPLETING IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATIONS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN.

"UNDER THE HK HS, THERE ARE ABOUT 5,500 EIGHT-DIGIT COMMODITY CODES TO REPRESENT PRECISELY DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOODS, WHILE IN THE CURRENT SITC-BASED SYSTEM THERE ARE ONLY 3,600 SIX-DIGIT CODES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE NEW HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST IS SYSTEMATICALLY DESIGNED, SO THAT LOOKING UP THE CORRECT HK HS CODE WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT," HE ADDED.

THE CLASSIFICATION LIST CONTAINS, AMONG OTHERS, A CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES BASED ON THE HK HS, AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ARTICLES, AND A TABLE SHOWING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SITC CODES AND THE HK HS CODES.

A HANDBOOK HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP USERS UNDERSTAND THE NEW SYSTEM.

IT GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE HK HS AND THE CHANGES TO BE NOTED BY IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WHEN SUBMITTING DECLARATIONS.

IT ALSO GIVES DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS ON THE SIX GENERAL INTERPRETATIVE RULES WHICH SERVE AS A SET OF CLASSIFICATION PRINCIPLES TO ENSURE UNIFORM LEGAL INTERPRETATION.

"AS THERE WILL BE PRACTICAL EXAMPLES AND EXERCISES ON CLASSIFICATION IN THE SEMINARS, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THE CLASSIFICATION LIST AND HANDBOOK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EACH SESSION WILL LAST ONE AND A HALF HOURS AND MOST OF THEM WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. SOME SESSIONS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSING THE CLASSIFICATION OF TEXTILES AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS, AND MACHINERY, MECHANICAL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, WHILE THE OTHER SESSIONS ARE FOR COMMODITIES IN GENERAL.

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"TIME-TABLES FOR THE SEMINARS AND TICKET ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT COLLECTION OFFICES AT STAR HOUSE, TSIM SHA TSUI, AND HARBOUR BUILDING, CENTRAL. APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE A TICKET ORDER FORM AND CAN OBTAIN A TICKET DIRECTLY AT THE TICKETING COUNTER THERE. BUT HURRY, THERE ARE ONLY LIMITED TICKETS LEFT FOR A FEW SESSIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEMINARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234920.

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DREDGING OFF TSING YI ISLAND PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT AN APPROVAL TO HONG KONG OIL COMPANY LIMITED TO CARRY OUT DREDGING WORK WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 50.9 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED OFF THE EAST COAST OF TSING YI ISLAND.

THIS WILL ENABLE SHIPS AND VESSELS TO BERTH AT A PROPOSED PIER ADJOINING SECTION A, TSING YI TOWN LOT NO. 45, WHICH IS TO BE BUILT BY THE COMPANY.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

IN ADDITION, WORK ON THREE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED.

THESE INCLUDED DREDGING WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 29 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED TO IMPROVE THE MARINE APPROACHES TO THE FERRY TERMINAL NOW BEING DEVELOPED ON KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 10743 AT TSIM SHA TSUI; GRANTING A SHORT TERM TENANCY WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 45.8 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AT TSENG TAU, SAI KUNG (NORTH) FOR CONSTRUCTING A WOODEN PIER TO ACCOMMODATE ROWING BOATS AND CANOES; AND GRANTING OF AN EXTENSION TO A LOT AT THE NORTHERN COAST OF TONG PO CHAU (MIDDLE ISLAND) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 185 SQUARE METRES OF ADDITIONAL HARDSTANDING BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB.

/THE EXTENT

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THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THESE PROJECTS HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE DECEMBER 10, 1988.

THE NOTICES TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PLANS FOR ALL FOUR PROJECTS CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, FIFTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, AND THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES, AND IN THE CASE OF THE TONG PO CHAU PROJECT, AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH AS WELL.

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LION ROCK TUNNEL ONE-WAY TOLL TO END

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT THE ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL END AS SCHEDULED AT 3 AM NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 21).

MOTORISTS AND TAXI PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO THE NEW TERRITORIES VIA THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO PAY \$6. A NORMAL TOLL CHARGE OF \$3 WILL APPLY TO ALL SOUTHBOUND AND NORTHBOUND VEHICLES USING THE TUNNEL.

THE ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE NOVEMBER 23 TO ASSESS WHETHER TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE TUNNEL CAN BE IMPROVED.

DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TRIED OUT DIFFERENT TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN VEHICLE CHANNELISATION AND IN OPENING DIFFERENT NUMBER OF LANES IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THEIR VARIOUS IMPACT ON THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.

FOR THIS WEEK, ONLY TWO LANES ARE OPENED FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC AND THE BUS LANE IN THE TOLL PLAZA AREA IS NOT IN USE.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSULTANT HAVE BEEN CLOSELY MONITORING THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXPERIMENT, AND ASSESSMENT REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.

/MEANWHILE, SOME

MEANWHILE, SOME 20 MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, SHAM SHUI PO AND KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARDS VISITED THE LION ROCK TUNNEL CONTROL ROOM THIS MORNING TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE TRAFFIC SITUATION AT THE TUNNEL.

THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE EXPERIMENT BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RICHARD MEAKIN AND CHIEF ENGINEER, MR TSOH MING, AND ON THE TAI PO ROAD WIDENING PROJECT BY THE REGIONAL HIGHWAYS ENGINEER, MR H.S. KWONG.

FOLLOWING ARE THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND TAI PO ROAD DURING THE EVENING AND MORNING PEAK HOURS OF LAST FRIDAY (DECEMBER 11) AND TODAY RESPECTIVELY:

	LION ROCK TUNNEL		TAI PO ROAD	
	SOUTHBOUND	NORTHBOUND	SOUTHBOUND	NORTHBOUND
DECEMBER 11 (4.30 PM - 7 PM)	7,066	7,013	1,973	2,175
NORMAL WEEKDAY (4.30 PM - 7 PM)	7,274	6,995	2,358	2,085
DECEMBER 14 (7 AM - 10 AM)	8,699	6,284	3,166	2,105
NORMAL WEEKDAY (7 AM - 10 AM)	9,309	6,615	2,812	1,874

NOTE: NO SURVEYS WERE CARRIED OUT ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 12) AND SUNDAY.

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LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
SEE OPERATION OF DISPOSAL METHODS

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MEMBERS OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HAD GAINED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS WASTE DISPOSAL METHODS AFTER WATCHING A DEMONSTRATION AT THE TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, THE DEMONSTRATION WAS AIMED AT EXPLAINING TO LIVESTOCK BREEDERS THE OPERATION OF A DRY-MUCK-OUT AND TWO WET-MUCK-OUT METHODS.

/CHAIRMAN OF

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CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, DESCRIBED THE DEMONSTRATION AS VERY USEFUL.

"IT HAS PROVIDED LIVESTOCK BREEDERS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO SEE THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF TREATMENT METHODS BUT ALSO TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS WITH EXPERTS.

"THE DEMONSTRATION WILL HELP LIVESTOCK BREEDERS TO DECIDE WHICH METHOD WILL SUIT THEIR FARM BEST," MR KWAN ADDED.

THE VISIT IS THE FIRST ACTIVITY ORGANISED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE SINCE ITS FORMATION EARLY THIS MONTH.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO ORGANISE A SERIES OF SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS AND SEMINARS FOR INTERESTED LIVESTOCK BREEDERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION

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THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (TUESDAY). IT WILL BE HELD AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR IS "LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IN A BILINGUAL OR MULTI-LINGUAL SETTING", WHICH IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO HONG KONG IN ITS PRESENT SITUATION WHEN LANGUAGE POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION ARE BEING SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY PROFESSIONALS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MRS RITA FAN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

MORE THAN 300 PROFESSIONALS FROM OVERSEAS AND HONG KONG WILL TAKE PART IN THE FUNCTION AND SOME 115 PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR BETWEEN TOMORROW AND THURSDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 9 AM.

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AAB MEMBERS LOOK AT AIRPORT OPERATIONS

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MEMBERS OF THE AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND TOOK A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TREVOR THORPE, THE MEMBERS - THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN; MR H.M.P. MILES; MR EDMUND LAU, AND MR CHUNG PUI-LAM - TOURED THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE AND CONTROL TOWER.

THEY ALSO VISITED THE NEW APPROACH CONTROL SUITE WHERE A REPLACEMENT RADAR DATA PROCESSING AND DISPLAY SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTALLED.

FOLLOWING THE VISIT, THE AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD HELD ITS QUARTERLY MEETING TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION IN HONG KONG.

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LABOUR COMMISSIONER VISITS WATCH FACTORY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, VISITED AN ELECTRONIC AND MECHANICAL WATCH MANUFACTURING FACTORY IN ABERDEEN TODAY (MONDAY).

ON ARRIVAL AT THE REMEX HOLDINGS LIMITED, HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE), MR ROGER TSUI, AND THE DIRECTOR (WATCH DIVISION), MR PHILIP CHAN.

HE WAS THEN SHOWN AROUND VARIOUS ASSEMBLY PLANTS WHERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF WATCHES ARE PRODUCED FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE. HONG KONG IS AN IMPORTANT WORLD EXPORTER OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1986 VALUED AT \$11,667 MILLION.

MR HAMMOND WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE COMPANY ATTACHED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

HE DISCUSSED VARIOUS ISSUES CONCERNING LABOUR LEGISLATION, LABOUR/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WITH THE MANAGEMENT BEFORE CONCLUDING THE VISIT.

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WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD TO MEET

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXAMINE THE PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF POLICE ACTION AGAINST MAHJONG-PLAYING IN FRATERNITY ASSOCIATIONS WHICH WAS RAISED AT A PREVIOUS MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE USE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, AND THE PROPOSED WAN CHAI/TSIM SHA TSUI FERRY SERVICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2:30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, EIGHTH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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OPERATION TO REMOVE ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS

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TWENTY-FOUR ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS AT 13 BUILDINGS IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE REMOVED IN A CLEARANCE OPERATION TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE CLEARANCE IS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN AND IS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE OWNERS CORPORATIONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE CLEARANCE OPERATION SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 10 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 22 JORDAN ROAD (NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH NATHAN ROAD).

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17 WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 62.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 365.217 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 360.010 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 61.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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