



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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COMPANIES WINDING UP AMENDMENT RULES APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON OCTOBER 28.

MOVING A MOTION UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE RULES INTRODUCED TWO AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING PROCEDURES.

FIRST, RULE 28(1) WAS AMENDED TO ENABLE A PETITIONER TO APPLY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR AFTER PRESENTATION OF THE WINDING-UP PETITION TO THE COURT.

SIR PIERS SAID THE PRESENT RULE PROVIDED FOR AN APPLICATION BY A CREDITOR, CONTRIBUTORY, OR BY THE COMPANY ITSELF.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT IS TO GIVE THE RELEVANT REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AN EXPRESS RIGHT TO PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES," HE EXPLAINED.

AT PRESENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ALL HAD POWERS TO PRESENT WINDING-UP PETITIONS UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE ORDINANCES.

ANY SUCH PETITIONS WERE FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY AND TO PRESERVE THE BOOKS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS, AND IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY IN HIS CAPACITY AS PETITIONER SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE APPLICATION, HE ADDED.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT SPECIFIED THAT RULE 93(1) WAS AMENDED TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 217 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDED THAT CREDITORS WHO DID NOT PROVE THEIR DEBT OR CLAIM ON OR BEFORE THE DATE FIXED BY RULE 93(1) WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE BENEFIT OF THE DISTRIBUTION MADE NEXT AFTER THAT DATE AND FROM THE BENEFIT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE EXISTING RULE, CREDITORS WHO FAILED TO PROVE WITHIN THE TIME-LIMIT WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEXT DISTRIBUTION, BUT NOT FROM PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTIONS.

DECISION WILL MAKE HK ATTRACTIVE AS ARBITRATION CENTRE

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THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON FRANK STOCK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IT IS GRATIFYING THAT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVE GIVEN THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 "A SWIFT SEAL OF APPROVAL".

SPEAKING IN THE COUNCIL'S RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR STOCK SAID THE ADOPTION OF THE MODEL LAW WOULD MAKE HONG KONG EMINENTLY ATTRACTIVE AS AN ARBITRATION VENUE.

REFERRING TO THE HON MARIA TAM'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE FUNDING OF THE HONG KONG ARBITRATION CENTRE, MR STOCK SAID THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAD INDEED RECOMMENDED THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR THE PERMANENT FUNDING OF THE ARBITRATION CENTRE, ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS NOT STRICTLY WITHIN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

HE SAID THAT THE PROVISION OF \$1.2 MILLION IN 1984, TO WHICH MISS TAM HAD REFERRED, WAS INTENDED TO BE A ONE-OFF GRANT.

"HOWEVER, IN JUNE THIS YEAR A SUBMISSION WAS PUT TO MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY WHICH FURTHER FUNDING WAS SOUGHT.

"THE PAPER THEN BEFORE MEMBERS POINTED OUT THAT INCOME OF THE CENTRE HAD BEEN LESS THAN ENVISAGED, BUT PREDICTED THAT THE CENTRE SHOULD SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING ITSELF FIRMLY IF THE FUNDING THEN PROPOSED WAS FORTHCOMING.

"A NUMBER OF FACTORS WERE PUT FORWARD TO JUSTIFY NEW OPTIMISM, AND ONE OF THESE RELATED TO THE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT WOULD FLOW FROM ADOPTION OF THE MODEL LAW." HE SAID.

MR STOCK SAID THE FURTHER FUNDING WAS REQUESTED FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO ENABLE THE CENTRE TO OPERATE WITH FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE.

"THE PROPOSAL WAS PUT FORWARD ON THE BASIS THAT TO CONTINUE TO MAXIMISE THE NECESSARY INDEPENDENCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, A LUMP SUM GRANT RATHER THAN A RECURRENT GRANT SHOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER A CAPITAL ACCOUNT SUBVENTIONS SUB-HEAD.

"MEMBERS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE PROVISION OF A FURTHER GRANT OF \$19.1 MILLION BUT ASKED THAT SOME FORM OF ADMINISTRATION CONTROL OVER THE CAPITAL SUM BE ENSURED, AND THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED TO CONSIDER HOW THIS WOULD BE EFFECTED.

"I GATHER THAT THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME CONCERN ON THE PART OF THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE CENTRE BECAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT THIS IS TO BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION," HE SAID.

MR STOCK ADDED THAT THE INTEREST ON THE SUM, AS MISS TAM HAD POINTED OUT, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT THE CENTRE TO OPERATE UNTIL THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, BY WHICH TIME THE CENTRE COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT REVENUE OF ITS OWN TO COVER 75 PER CENT OF ITS EXPENDITURE.

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NECESSARY STEP FOR HK AS ARBITRATION CENTRE

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THE PASSAGE OF THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 WILL BE A MAJOR AND NECESSARY STEP TO PUT HONG KONG IN THE LEAGUE OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION. THE HON MARIA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MISS TAM SAID THE MEASURE WAS A RESULT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO REGIMES FOR ARBITRATION IN HONG KONG FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

WHILE DOMESTIC ARBITRATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW EXISTING LAW IN HONG KONG, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION SHOULD IN GENERAL BE GOVERNED BY THE MODEL LAW PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL) IN 1985 AND PASSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SHE SAID.

"BY ADOPTING THIS MODEL LAW, HONG KONG WILL HAVE JOINED CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND, IN A MODIFIED FORM, CALIFORNIA, AND BRITISH COLUMBIA IN UPDATING ITS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IN ARBITRATION," SHE SAID.

MISS TAM POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 BUT HAD SO FAR CONDUCTED ONLY 28 CASES.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS FACING REGIONAL COMPETITION FROM KUALA LUMPUR AND MELBOURNE.

"WE NEED FRESH IMPETUS TO REALISE THE POTENTIALS OF THE ROLE WE WISH TO PLAY IN HONG KONG. THAT WE ARE HONEST AND EFFECTIVE BROKERS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS AND, IN PARTICULAR, IN TRADING WITH CHINA," SHE SAID.

AFTER STUDYING THE BILL, MISS TAM SAID MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE "CONTRACTING OUT" METHOD IN INDICATING WHETHER THE UNCITRAL MODEL LAW SHOULD APPLY TO THE AGREEMENT UNDER DISPUTE IN AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

"WE BELIEVE THAT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION THE MODEL LAW SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY LAW WHICH IS ALREADY BEING ADOPTED IN MAJOR COUNTRIES; THAT UNDER THE MODEL LAW JUDICIAL REVIEW IS EXCLUDED IN ALL INTERNATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AS BUSINESSMEN WANT THE LEAST POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE BY THE COURTS AND PREFER SPEED AND FINALITY IN SETTING DISPUTES." SHE SAID.

AS FOR THE FUNDING OF THE HONG KONG CENTRE, MISS TAM POINTED OUT THAT IT OPERATED ON A GRANT OF \$1.2 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND \$1.3 MILLION FROM PRIVATE SECTOR DONATIONS IN THE PAST YEARS.

/SHE SAID

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SHE SAID THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED A GRANT OF \$19.1 MILLION TO ASSIST THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRE IN JUNE THIS YEAR WITH A VIEW THAT THE INTEREST GENERATED FROM THE FUND COULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE CENTRE'S OPERATION UP TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, BY WHICH TIME THE CENTRE COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE REVENUE TO COVER ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF ITS EXPENDITURE.

BUT THERE WERE DIFFERENT VIEWS AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP, SHE SAID, NOTING THAT ONE MEMBER FELT THE FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE CENTRE WHILE ANOTHER MEMBER BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FULLY FUND THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRE.

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OVER 1,000 IMPORTED WORKERS EXPECTED BY YEAR'S END

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THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORKERS WILL HAVE ARRIVED BY THE END OF THE YEAR UNDER THE SPECIAL SCHEME FOR IMPORTING SKILLED LABOUR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR YEUNG SAID THE SPECIAL SCHEME FOR IMPORTING SKILLED LABOUR WAS A TEMPORARY MEASURE DESIGNED TO RELIEVE SHORTAGES AT TECHNICIAN, CRAFTSMAN AND SUPERVISORY LEVELS.

"TO THE EXTENT THAT IT HAS OPENED UP AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY OF SUCH SKILLS, THE SCHEME HAS ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME ALLOWED FOR THE ADMISSION OF UP TO 3,000 WORKERS.

"OF 8,470 WORKERS APPLIED FOR, THE ADMISSION OF 2,479 HAS BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE AND AS OF LAST WEEK 1,438 APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

"ABOUT 730 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND THE REMAINDER ARE BEING PROCESSED," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THAT THE STEERING GROUP THAT OVERSAW THE SCHEME WAS NOW REVIEWING IT AND WAS EXPECTED TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

"DEPENDING ON THE ADVICE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE SCHEME IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE ADDED.

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NUMEROUS AGREEMENTS WITH GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES
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THERE ARE CURRENTLY IN FORCE NUMEROUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN VARIOUS AUTHORITIES OF THE GUANGDONG GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, SIR DAVID SAID THESE COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF PRACTICAL ISSUES. HE CITED THE FOLLOWING AS EXAMPLES:

- * AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE GUANGZHOU ADMINISTRATION OF CAAC ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL;
- * AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL RADIO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR FREQUENCY CO-ORDINATION ON BORDERING TERRITORIES;
- * AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ON THE SUPPLY OF WATER TO HONG KONG AND KOWLOON; AND
- * AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND THE GUANGDONG METEOROLOGICAL BUREAU TO ESTABLISH AN AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS SUCH HAS NO AGREEMENTS IN EXISTENCE WITH THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DOES HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FORECASTING CENTRE TO CO-OPERATE IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL FORECASTING AND RELATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH," SIR DAVID SAID.

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NO NOTICEABLE RISE IN TAXI-RELATED CRIME
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THE VIEW OF THE POLICE REGIONAL CRIMES FORMATIONS BASED ON THEIR WORKING KNOWLEDGE, IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN TAXI-RELATED CRIME IN OVERALL TERMS.

HOWEVER, A SPECIAL REVIEW IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO CHECK THIS POINT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/REPLYING TO

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REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR BARNES SAID NO SEPARATE STATISTICS WERE KEPT OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL CASES IN WHICH THE CULPRITS WERE REPORTED TO BE TAXI DRIVERS OR PERSONS POSING AS TAXI DRIVERS, AND IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER SUCH CRIMES WERE INCREASING OR NOT.

HE SAID THE SPECIAL REVIEW SO FAR HAD SHOWN THAT THIS YEAR 27 CASES OF ROBBERY, FOUR CASES OF RAPE AND THREE CASES OF INDECENT ASSAULT WERE IN THIS CATEGORY. THE FIGURES FOR 1988 WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

"HOWEVER, SINCE THERE ARE SOME 16,000 TAXIS OPERATING ON OUR STREETS, CARRYING UP TO 1.2 MILLION PASSENGERS EVERY DAY, THESE FIGURES WOULD INDICATE A RATIO OF ONE VICTIM AMONGST EVERY 11 MILLION PASSENGERS.

"THIS DOES NOT SUGGEST A SERIOUS SITUATION, ALTHOUGH IDEALLY EVEN ONE CRIME IS ONE TOO MANY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID CLOSE LIAISON WAS MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE WITH THE TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION, AND THEIR ADVICE WAS SOUGHT ON HOW BEST TO COMBAT TAXI-RELATED CRIMES.

"IN THIS CONNECTION THE ASSOCIATION HAS MADE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AND GIVEN HELPFUL ADVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID POLICE ACTION GENERALLY WAS DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF PREVAILING CRIME TRENDS AND OTHER POLICE PRIORITIES.

SPECIFIC ACTION AGAINST TAXI CRIMES INVOLVED FOLLOWING-UP REPORTS ON THE ONE HAND AND PREVENTIVE ACTION ON THE OTHER.

IN THE LATTER CONTEXT, ROUTINE ROAD BLOCKS AND VEHICLE CHECKS SERVED BOTH AS A DETERRENT AND ALSO AS A MEANS OF DETECTING OFFENDERS.

"SEPARATELY, NEW LEGISLATION IS BEING PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WHICH WILL PROVIDE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, FOR THE DISPLAY OF TAXI DRIVER IDENTITY PLATES INSIDE TAXIS WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR PASSENGERS TO IDENTIFY TAXI DRIVERS.

"WHEREAS THE MAIN AIMS OF THIS LEGISLATION ARE TO ENCOURAGE SELF-DISCIPLINE IN TAXI DRIVERS AND TO DISCOURAGE MALPRACTICES SUCH AS OVERCHARGING, THE DISPLAY OF IDENTITY PLATES SHOULD ALSO HELP CURB TAXI CRIME," HE ADDED.

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NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO EXTEND TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA

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THERE ARE NO PLANS AT PRESENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA TO ALL LEVELS IN BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 1 - 3 HAD TO DEVELOP LITERACY IN CHINESE AND AT THE SAME TIME TO LEARN ENGLISH.

"IT WOULD PUT A CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON MOST OF THEM IF THEY WERE REQUIRED TO LEARN A THIRD LANGUAGE AT THAT STAGE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THERE WERE NO PLANS TO EXTEND THE FORMAL TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA UP TO SECONDARY 5.

"THE SIX YEARS OF PUTONGHUA UP TO SECONDARY 3 ALREADY GIVE STUDENTS A SUFFICIENT GROUNDING TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS IN THEIR OWN TIME.

"MOREOVER, AT SECONDARY 4 AND 5 THE CURRICULUM IS ALREADY VERY HEAVY AS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG NOTED THAT THE PRESENT PUTONGHUA COURSE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE, ON AN OPTIONAL BASIS, TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1986 AND TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS SINCE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, WITH SYLLABUSES COVERING PRIMARY 4 - 6 AND SECONDARY 1 - 3.

"THIS YEAR THE SUBJECT IS BEING OFFERED IN 77 PER CENT OF ALL SCHOOLS.

"SOME 223,000 CHILDREN, OR ABOUT 43 PER CENT OF ALL PUPILS BETWEEN PRIMARY 4 AND SECONDARY 3, ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN PUTONGHUA," HE EXPLAINED.

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THAT THE QUESTION FROM MISS LEUNG IMPLIED THAT STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA AND EXTENDING IT TO ALL LEVELS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLING WOULD IMPROVE STUDENTS' CHINESE LANGUAGE SKILLS.

"THIS SEEMS TO ME TO BE A QUESTIONABLE ASSUMPTION.

"FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR STUDENTS, THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOME AND THE COMMUNITY IS CANTONESE.

"IT IS POSSIBLE TO BECOME HIGHLY LITERATE IN CHINESE EVEN IF ONE IS A CANTONESE SPEAKER, AS MANY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL CAN ATTEST.

"GIVEN THE PRESSURE OUR STUDENTS ARE ALREADY UNDER TO BECOME COMPETENT IN TWO LANGUAGES, ENGLISH AS WELL AS CHINESE, IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR THAT ADDING PUTONGHUA TO THE BASIC CURRICULUM, OR TEACHING CHINESE LANGUAGE THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF PUTONGHUA, WOULD LEAD TO ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL STANDARD OF WRITTEN CHINESE," HE SAID.

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DRAFT LEGISLATION ON REGULATING SECURITY INDUSTRY

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DRAFT LEGISLATION ON REGULATING THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AND IMPROVING STANDARDS IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM, WHO HAD ASKED WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN AMENDING THE WATCHMEN ORDINANCE, IN VIEW OF PUBLIC CONCERN ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF WATCHMEN AND ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR SERVICE.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT AS HE HAD SAID IN THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 8, THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE THE TWO OBJECTIVES.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE REGULATION OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, HAD WORKED OUT A BASIC FRAMEWORK BASED ON A LICENSING SYSTEM TO BE RUN ON TWO LEVELS, HE SAID.

THIS WAS THE LICENSING OF SECURITY OFFICERS, INCLUDING WATCHMEN, AND PERSONS INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING SECURITY DEVICES; AND THE LICENSING OF THE SECURITY COMPANIES THEMSELVES.

"THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY BILL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

"OUR AIM IS FOR THE NEW BILL TO BE PUT BEFORE THIS COUNCIL DURING THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE WATCHMEN ORDINANCE WILL THEN BE REPEALED," HE SAID.

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WIDER USE OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS PROMOTED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE WIDER USE OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS IN THE COMMUNITY - IN ORDER TO REDUCE PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC CONGESTION - THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, SIR DAVID SAID ALTHOUGH THE RESPONSE AMONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING, FEEDBACK ON PRIVATE SECTOR PRACTICE IN FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS HAD BEEN MIXED.

HE SAID PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS HAD INDICATED THERE WERE LIMITATIONS SUCH AS PROBLEMS RELATED TO STAFF SUPERVISION, SIZE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, EMPLOYEES' RESISTANCE TO CHANGE AND THE NEED TO SYNCHRONISE THEIR OPERATING HOURS WITH THEIR BUSINESS COUNTERPARTS WHICH DETERRED A WIDER APPLICATION OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS.

/"NO DOUBT

"NO DOUBT COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR INFLUENCE SUBSTANTIALLY MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON WHETHER TO ALLOW THEIR STAFF TO WORK MORE FLEXIBLE HOURS OR NOT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID A PUBLICITY PROGRAMME PROMOTING THE WIDER USE OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS LAUNCHED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME HAD BEEN LED BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH WAS RUNNING ON ALL FOUR TELEVISION STATIONS.

"THIS IS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS AND POSTERS ON FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS TO OVER 7,000 PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS EACH OF WHICH EMPLOY MORE THAN 50 STAFF.

"WE ALSO INCLUDED A FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE ADVANTAGES OF FLEXITIME IN TWO RECENT ISSUES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS NEWSLETTER WHICH HAS A CIRCULATION OF OVER 20,000 EMPLOYERS AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

"IN TOTAL, EXCLUDING STAFF COST AND AIR-TIME ABOUT \$120,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT SINCE THE SUBJECT OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS WAS RAISED IN THE COUNCIL IN JUNE LAST YEAR, HEADS OF DEPARTMENT HAD REVIEWED THE USE OF FLEXITIME OR STAGGERED WORKING HOURS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO SEE WHETHER THE PRACTICE COULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED AND WHETHER GREATER FLEXIBILITY COULD BE INTRODUCED IN DECIDING THE "CORE" OPERATION HOURS, WHICH WERE HOURS WHEN ALL STAFF EXCEPT THOSE WHO WORKED SHIFTS SHOULD BE AT WORK.

THE RESPONSE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING, HE SAID.

FORTY-THREE DEPARTMENTS INVOLVING ABOUT 30,000 STAFF HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WERE OPERATING SOME FORM OF FLEXITIME OR STAGGERED WORKING HOURS FOR ALL OR PART OF THEIR STAFF AND OF THESE, FOUR DEPARTMENTS OPERATED FLEXITIME/LIMITED FLEXITIME, 16 OPERATED STAGGERED WORKING HOURS AND 23 OPERATED BOTH SCHEMES.

"THESE FIGURES COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH THE FIGURE OF 31 DEPARTMENTS (INVOLVING ABOUT 20,000 STAFF) GIVEN IN THIS COUNCIL LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO ADOPT A WIDER USE OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS SUBJECT TO THE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC NOT BEING ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND TO THE STAFF FULFILLING THEIR PRESCRIBED WORKING HOURS.

PEAK CONGESTION FARE AIMED AT PASSENGER SAFETY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO RETAIN THE PEAK-HOUR CONGESTION FARE WAS MADE WITH FULL REGARD TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST, PARTICULARLY PASSENGER SAFETY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALBERT LAM, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR LAM SAID THAT APART FROM SAFETY, THE BOARD OF THE MTR CORPORATION ALSO TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE LEVEL OF MORNING PEAK HOUR DEMAND ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR AND THE RELIABILITY OF TIME-TABLE SERVICES, BEFORE IT TOOK THE DECISION TO RETAIN THE PEAK CONGESTION FARE.

"THIS DECISION WAS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT SURVEY WHICH INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE NEWLY COMPLETED EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING HAS PROVIDED SOME RELIEF, THE MORNING PEAK HOUR DEMAND ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR STILL EXCEEDS THE SAFETY MARGIN OF 75,000 PASSENGERS PER HOUR WHICH IS CONSIDERED TOLERABLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING PASSENGER COMFORT AND SAFETY," HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID THAT TO CARRY MORE THAN 75,000 PASSENGERS PER HOUR IN ONE DIRECTION WOULD INCREASE THE RISK OF OVERCROWDING ON THE PLATFORMS, AND CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN EVACUATING PASSENGERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

"MOREOVER, THE RELIABILITY OF TRAIN SCHEDULES AND PASSENGER COMFORT WOULD ALSO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED," HE ADDED.

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IMPROVED CONTROL OVER PERCUSSIVE PILING

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED ITS CONTROL OVER PERCUSSIVE PILING OPERATIONS SINCE NOVEMBER 17, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, WHO REFERRED TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAN CHAI THAT HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY NOISE, MR BARNES SAID THAT WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 17 PERCUSSIVE PILING COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT A PERMIT UNDER THE NEW SECTION 6(3) OF THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID: "IN PRACTICE THIS MEANS THAT WHEREAS BEFORE NOVEMBER 17 CONTRACTORS COULD CARRY OUT PERCUSSIVE PILING FOR 12 CONTINUOUS HOURS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, FROM THAT DAY THE NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION (INCLUDING DUST) FROM SUCH CONSTRUCTION WORK CAN BE RESTRICTED TO FIVE OR THREE HOURS IF IT IS CAUSING DISTURBANCE TO NEARBY RESIDENTS; WE ARE NORMALLY RESTRICTING SUCH PILING TO THREE HOURS IF A NEARBY SCHOOL IS AFFECTED AND CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE DONE SO IN THE WAN CHAI CASE."

MR BARNES SAID THAT BEFORE WORKS COMMENCED, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, AS THE RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT, WOULD LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR SO AS TO SCHEDULE PERCUSSIVE PILING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE DURING LONG RECESS TIMES, LUNCH BREAKS AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS -- THE AIM BEING TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE DURING TEACHING.

"DURING THE OPERATION, IF THE DEPARTMENT DISCOVERS AN AIR POLLUTION NUISANCE CAUSED BY THE PILING OPERATION, IT CAN TELL THE CONTRACTOR TO ABATE THE NUISANCE, AND FOLLOW UP BY SUMMONSING HIM IF HE FAILS TO COMPLY," HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF THE WAN CHAI SCHOOL, THE CONTRACTOR PUT UP A SCREEN BETWEEN THE SITE AND THE SCHOOL VOLUNTARILY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE EPD.

"I CANNOT YET COMMENT ON THE GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW MEASURES, AS THEY HAVE ONLY BEEN IN OPERATION FOR LESS THAN A WEEK.

"BUT THEY WILL AT LEAST BE A MORE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FOR SCHOOLS THAN THE OLD MEASURES, AS NOISY OPERATIONS CAN BE SCHEDULED AT BETTER TIMES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE NOISY OPERATIONS WERE NOW SUBJECT TO MORE STRINGENT TIME RESTRICTIONS THAN QUIET ONES, IT WAS IN A CONTRACTOR'S INTEREST TO CHOOSE THE QUIETEST METHODS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING NON-PERCUSSION PILING.

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STEPS TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN SUPERVISION OF FOREX RISKS

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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING HAS RECENTLY TAKEN STEPS TO STRENGTHEN ITS SUPERVISION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISKS IN THE OPERATIONS OF AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, SIR PIERS ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CREATE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISKS THROUGH INVESTOR EDUCATION.

UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENTS, SIR PIERS SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S OVERSIGHT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS WOULD INVOLVE:

- ASSESSING THE ADEQUACY OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR MONITORING AND LIMITING FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPOSURES;
- SETTING A GUIDELINE LIMIT FOR OVERNIGHT FOREIGN CURRENCY EXPOSURES;
- ANALYSING REGULAR RETURNS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES AND POSITIONS; AND
- REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH MANAGEMENT OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS TO REVIEW OPERATIONS.

SIR PIERS SAID THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE WAS CONSULTING WITH BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING INDUSTRY BODIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

TURNING TO INVESTOR EDUCATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE POSITION OF INVESTORS, WHO MIGHT NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS ARISING FROM VOLATILITY IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS, WAS OF SOME CONCERN.

"IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CREATE A GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THESE RISKS THROUGH INVESTOR EDUCATION.

"THIS IS LIKELY TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE, AND CHEAPER, THAN INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS." HE SAID.

SIR PIERS ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS, HOWEVER, LOOKING AT THE OPERATION OF FRINGE OPERATORS WHO OFFERED LEVERAGED CONTRACTS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SUCH OPERATORS, WHOSE NUMBERS HAD INCREASED RAPIDLY OVER RECENT YEARS, CURRENTLY FELL OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF SUPERVISION OF EITHER THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S OFFICE OR THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION.

"WE ARE EXAMINING THEIR LEGAL POSITION AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR OPERATIONS BEFORE COMING TO A VIEW AS TO WHETHER, AND IF SO HOW BEST, THEIR ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONTROLS." SIR PIERS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS IN THE COURSE OF FORMULATING ANY NEW REGULATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TOOK A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE STANDARDS OF PRUDENCE OBSERVED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE SYSTEM OF PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS ENSURING THAT INDIVIDUAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS COMPLIED WITH PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS AND FOLLOWED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WHICH LIMITED RISKS TO PRUDENT LEVELS.

"THESE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE KEPT UNDER REVIEW TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AN INSTITUTION'S OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED, INCLUDING FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS," SIR PIERS SAID.

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ACTION ON SMOKY VEHICLES NOT IMPROVING OVERALL SITUATION

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THE ACTION OF SPOTTING SMOKY VEHICLES AND REQUIRING THEM TO UNDERGO EXAMINATION HAS SOME DETERRENT EFFECT AGAINST SMOKY EMISSIONS. BUT THE OVERALL SITUATION IS NOT IMPROVING SIGNIFICANTLY.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

MR BARNES SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE, FIRST, NOT ENOUGH VEHICLES WERE BEING SPOTTED AND EXAMINED: SO THE CHANCES OF A VEHICLE OPERATOR BEING CAUGHT AND REQUIRED TO FIX THE PROBLEM WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH.

"SECOND, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INCENTIVE FOR OWNERS TO KEEP THEIR VEHICLES PROPERLY MAINTAINED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE EMISSIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAD THEREFORE RECENTLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF TRAINED SPOTTERS FROM 150 TO 230.

"AND WE ARE CONSIDERING WAYS TO EXPAND THE TESTING CAPACITY AND, ABOVE ALL, TO INTRODUCE FINES IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROL STRATEGY," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, OVER 2,000 SMOKY VEHICLES WERE SPOTTED PER MONTH AND MORE THAN 100 VEHICLES WERE TESTED BY THE EPD PER DAY AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TESTING CENTRE. HE SAID.

VEHICLES WHICH FAILED THE SMOKE EMISSION TEST HAD TO UNDERGO FURTHER EXAMINATION UNTIL THEIR EMISSIONS WERE ACCEPTABLE.

/AS TO

AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE SCHEME TO COVER BRAKING NOISES PRODUCED BY BUSES AND OTHER HEAVY VEHICLES, MR BARNES SAID BRAKING NOISES WERE CURRENTLY TACKLED THROUGH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S NORMAL INSPECTION PROGRAMMES.

"EXTENDING THE VEHICLES EMISSION CONTROL SCHEME TO COVER NOISY VEHICLES DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WARRANTED FOR THE TIME BEING," HE SAID.

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STEPS TO EXPEDITE ROAD EXCAVATION WORKS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLLING ROAD OPENINGS, ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE TIME IT TAKES TO COMPLETE THEM AND THE INCONVENIENCE TO ALL WHICH THEY CAUSE.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, STATED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYED CONTRACTORS BOTH FOR INDIVIDUAL AND TERM CONTRACTS, HE SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

"SHOULD THE CONTRACTOR FAIL TO COMPLETE THE WORKS BY THE SPECIFIED COMPLETION DATE WITHOUT VALID REASONS, HE IS OBLIGED UNDER THE CONTRACT TO PAY TO THE GOVERNMENT A SPECIFIED SUM AS LIQUIDATED DAMAGES FOR EACH DAY OF DELAY," HE SAID.

THOSE UNDERTAKING UTILITY WORKS HAD TO OBTAIN EXCAVATION PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO BEGIN EXCAVATION.

"WHEN AN APPLICATION IS RECEIVED, THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CHECKS, FROM CURRENT WORKS PROGRAMMES, THE EXISTENCE OF ANY ROAD OPENING RESTRICTIONS AND THE LIKELY EFFECT ON TRAFFIC.

"IF THE OPENING WILL AFFECT TRAFFIC, THE TRAFFIC POLICE AND APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS ARE CONSULTED, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE ROAD OPENING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES, WHICH MEET MONTHLY," HE SAID.

ON AVERAGE, 100 APPLICATIONS FOR EXCAVATION PERMITS WERE RECEIVED AND PROCESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT EACH DAY.

MR BARNES SAID UNDER THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE IT WAS AN OFFENCE TO MAKE OR MAINTAIN ANY EXCAVATION IN THE HIGHWAY RESERVE WITHOUT A VALID EXCAVATION PERMIT, AND SO THE PERMITTEE HAD TO COMPLETE THE WORKS BY THE EXPIRY DATE.

/"IF, HOWEVER,

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"IF, HOWEVER, A ROAD EXCAVATION IS LEFT UNATTENDED FOR NO ACCEPTABLE REASON, THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL, UNDER EXCAVATION PERMIT CONDITIONS, TAKE OVER THE SITE AND COMPLETE THE WORK, INCLUDING FINAL REINSTATEMENT, AT THE PERMITTEE'S EXPENSE.

"IN PRACTICE, AN ENQUIRY IS FIRST MADE WITH THE PERMITTEE AND THIS USUALLY HAS THE DESIRED EFFECT OF SPEEDING UP THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK," MR BARNES SAID.

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THREE BILLS PASSED
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THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE BANK NOTES ISSUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 AND THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1989.

A MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989, MADE BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON OCTOBER 28, WAS PASSED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:-

MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES WILL SUCCEED MR HARNAM GREWAL AS SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE ON APRIL 1, 1990. MR GREWAL WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE;

ON APRIL 1, 1990 THE GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH WILL MERGE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH. MR MICHAEL SUEN WILL CONTINUE AS SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING POSTINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY JANUARY, 1990:-

MR BRIAN CHAU TAK-HAY, SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL BECOME DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE;

MR MICHAEL SZE CHO-CHEUNG, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE WILL BECOME DIRECTOR OF MARINE;

MRS ELIZABETH WONG CHIEN CHI-LIEN, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL BECOME SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE;

MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, DEPUTY SECRETARY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY WILL BECOME DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE;

MR JOSEPH WONG WING-PING, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE WILL BECOME DEPUTY SECRETARY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY;

MR DERICK HALL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARINE WILL SUCCEED MR PETER CHAN AS MARINE ADVISER. MR CHAN WILL BE PROCEEDING ON LEAVE PENDING RETIREMENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED:

MR BARRIE WIGGHAM

AGED 52, MR WIGGHAM JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1961. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC BRANCH, FINANCE BRANCH, HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH AND GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY, HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH (1976 - 79), COMMISSIONER, RECREATION AND CULTURE (1979 - 83), REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (1983 - 86) AND BECAME SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH IN 1986. BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY FOR GENERAL DUTIES, HE WAS SECONDED AS COUNSELLOR IN THE BRITISH AMBASSY PEKING IN 1986. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN DECEMBER 1986.

/MR BRIAN

MR BRIAN CHAU TAK-HAY

AGED 46, MR CHAU JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1967. HE INITIALLY SERVED IN THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENTS AND JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN JULY 1982. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS COUNSELLOR (GENEVA), TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH (1982 -84), DEPUTY SECRETARY, HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH (1984 - 85), DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (1985 - 86), REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON) (1986 - 88) AND WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY, HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH IN 1988. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN MARCH 1988.

MR MICHAEL SZE CHO-CHEUNG

AGED 44, MR SZE JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN JULY 1969. HE HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND TRADE DEPARTMENT. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH (1981 - 84), DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRADE DEPARTMENT (1984 - 87) AND AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE SINCE MARCH 1987. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN APRIL 1987.

MRS ELIZABETH WONG CHIEN CHI-LIEN

AGED 52, MRS WONG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN MAY 1969. SHE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, FINANCE BRANCH, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY SHE HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (1983 - 84), DEPUTY SECRETARY, LANDS AND WORKS (1984 -85), DEPUTY SECRETARY, MUNICIPAL SERVICES (1985 - 86). SHE BECAME DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN MARCH 1987. SHE WAS PROMOTED TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN OCTOBER 1987.

MR MICHAEL CARTLAND

AGED 44, MR CARTLAND JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN 1972. HE SERVED IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, AS PRIVATE SECRETARY GOVERNMENT HOUSE, IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, IN SECURITY BRANCH AND IN THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR TRADE DEPARTMENT (1982 - 84), COUNSELLOR (GENEVA) (1984 - 88) AND AS DEPUTY SECRETARY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH SINCE APRIL 1988. MR CARTLAND WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN DECEMBER 1988.

MR JOSEPH WONG WING-PING

AGED 41, MR WONG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN AUGUST 1973. HE SERVED IN A VARIETY OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING ECONOMIC BRANCH, FINANCE BRANCH, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, TRADE DEPARTMENT AND CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADE (1984 - 87), DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE (1987) AND AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE SINCE JANUARY 1988.

MR DERICK HALL

AGED 51, MR HALL JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN NOVEMBER 1965. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1972, AND PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1981. HE BECAME SURVEYOR GENERAL OF SHIPS IN 1982 AND WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN NOVEMBER 1984.

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BARRIE WIGGHAM APPOINTED EXCO MEMBER

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SECRETARY FOR GENERAL DUTIES, HAS BEEN APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1989.

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SURVEY ON UTILISATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

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A TERRITORY-WIDE TELEPHONE SURVEY WILL START LATER THIS WEEK TO FIND OUT THE PATTERN OF UTILISATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN HONG KONG.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY WAS PART OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON CHINESE MEDICINE BEING CARRIED OUT BY A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

"THE RESEARCH STUDY IS COMMISSIONED AND FUNDED BY THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH ON THE ADVICE OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE MEDICINE," HE SAID.

"A RANDOM SAMPLE OF APPROXIMATELY 4,000 INDIVIDUALS AGED 18 AND ABOVE WILL BE INTERVIEWED BY TELEPHONE OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

"RESPONDENTS WILL BE ASKED ABOUT THEIR USE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE AND WESTERN MEDICINE, THE PRACTICE OF SELF-MEDICATION, THE NATURE OF THE ILLNESS AND MEDICATION INVOLVED AND THE OCCURRENCE OF SIDE-EFFECTS.

"SIMILAR DATA FOR CHILDREN WILL BE OBTAINED THROUGH MOTHERS WITHIN THE SAMPLE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON THE CONTROL OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE AND ON THE TRAINING OF PRACTITIONERS WOULD ALSO BE SOUGHT.

"INFORMATION ON THE SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE INTERVIEWED WILL BE OBTAINED. HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION IS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY AND WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL," HE SAID.

"THE INTERVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED BY TRAINED RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE NO MORE THAN 20 MINUTES."

THE QUESTIONNAIRE USED IN THE SURVEY WAS REVIEWED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE MEDICINE AT ITS MEETING LAST WEEK. MEMBERS NOTED THAT IN A PILOT SURVEY CONDUCTED EARLIER ON, RESPONDENTS WERE GENERALLY CO-OPERATIVE AND THEY EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST ON THE SUBJECT.

OTHER PARTS OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME INCLUDE A SERIES OF PERSONAL INTERVIEWS OF PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE MEDICINE AND A STUDY ON THE TRAINING, REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS IN CHINA, TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE STUDY WILL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE WORKING PARTY'S DELIBERATIONS. OUR AIM IS TO PROMOTE THE GOOD PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR WORK HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY. WE THEREFORE REQUEST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE INTERVIEWS TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH THE RESEARCH TEAM."

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SURVEY MAY CONTACT PROFESSOR STUART DONNAN OR DR WONG TZE-WAI, MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, ON TEL. 0-6973211 EXT. 247.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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PAC TO HOLD OPEN HEARING TOMORROW

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD AN OPEN HEARING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEDNESDAY.

THE REPORT IS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 AND THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THE MORNING SESSION WILL RUN FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.45 PM, AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 2.30 PM TO 4.30 PM.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE DATA PROCESSING MANAGER, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS.

THE TIMETABLE FOR THE HEARING IS AS FOLLOWS:

9.30 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY AND DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, PARAGRAPHS 7.1-9.1.
9.50 AM	DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, PARAGRAPHS 13.1-13.8.
10.20 AM	DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PARAGRAPHS 14.1-14.6.
11.05 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE DATA PROCESSING MANAGER, PARAGRAPHS 6.1-6.9.
11.50 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, PARAGRAPHS 16.1-16.25.
2.30 PM	SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, PARAGRAPHS 10.1-10.15.
3.20 PM	SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, PARAGRAPHS 11.1-11.8.

/3.55 PM

3.55 PM ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,
PARAGRAPHS 17.1-17.7.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE OPEN HEARING ARE ADVISED TO BRING WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

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PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS OPENS TOMORROW
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF STAGE I OF THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS AND WATER TRANSFER FACILITIES PROJECT TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE \$515 MILLION PROJECT COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TREATMENT WORKS AT PAK KONG, SAI KUNG, THE ADQUEDUCT TO TSEUNG KWAN O, THE PRIMARY SERVICE RESERVOIR AND THE TRUNK MAIN TO EAST KOWLOON.

IT MARKS A NOTABLE STEP FORWARD IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A TREATED WATER SUPPLY TO THE SAI KUNG HINTERLAND AND TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN AND TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUPPLIES TO EAST KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS, SAI KUNG.

PRESS TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT COACH (AM5895) WILL LEAVE MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AT 1.30 PM SHARP.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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POSTAL APPLICATION FOR LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND TESTS

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ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND DRIVING TESTS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES MUST BE MADE BY POST AS FROM DECEMBER 1, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

APPLICATIONS IN PERSON WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

THIS NEW MEASURE IS AIMED AT CURBING THE TOUTING ACTIVITIES AT THE SHA TIN LICENSING OFFICE WHERE SUCH APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR BRIAN COAK, EXPLAINED.

SINCE 1986, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM DRIVING INSTRUCTORS OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES THAT SOME OF THEIR FELLOW INSTRUCTORS GAINED MORE BUSINESS BY SENDING SALES AGENTS TO TOUT FOR BUSINESS IN THE WAITING HALL OF THE SHA TIN LICENSING OFFICE.

DESPITE THE INTRODUCTION OF A SERIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AT THE SHA TIN LICENSING OFFICE, INCLUDING THE POSTING OF WARNING NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADVICE THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, THE TOUTING PROBLEM REMAINED UNABATED.

MR COAK SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE POSTAL APPLICATION SYSTEM AS A LONG TERM MEASURE TO STOP THE TOUTING PROBLEM.

AT THE SAME TIME HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO UTILISE THE POSTAL SYSTEM OR THE "DROP-OFF" BOX FOR RENEWING DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES TO SAVE TIME.

THE NEW MEASURE WILL APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES: PRIVATE/PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, TAXIS, PRIVATE/PUBLIC BUSES, MEDIUM/HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, AND ARTICULATED VEHICLES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES.

APPLICANTS SHOULD MAIL THE COMPLETED FORMS WITH REMITTANCE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AT P.O. BOX 73323, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

FOR ENQUIRIES, APPLICANTS MAY CALL THE SHA TIN LICENSING OFFICE ON TEL. 0-6061027.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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AN EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN FROM FRIDAY TO TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 24 TO 28).

THE "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE - CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES" EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND CO-ORGANISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL (OSHC).

"THE EXHIBITION AIMS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN WORK PLACES, AND TO ACQUAINT EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS WITH THE VARIOUS OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS AND DISEASES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES," THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OFFICER, DR C.W. YU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AND SAMPLES ON DISPLAY, VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMON OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS AND DISEASES AND THEIR PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN THE TWO INDUSTRIES," DR YU ADDED.

THESE INCLUDE SILICOSIS, ASBESTOSIS, CONTACT DERMATITIS, POISONING CAUSED BY ORGANIC SOLVENT AND GAS AS WELL AS DEAFNESS CAUSED BY NOISE.

IN ADDITION TO SLIDE SHOWS, A NEWLY-PRODUCED 18-MINUTE VIDEO ON SILICOSIS WILL BE SCREENED TO EXPLAIN THE CAUSES OF THE DISEASE AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST IT.

"VISITORS CAN TRY THE LUNG FUNCTION TEST WHICH CAN DETECT EARLY DETERIORATION OF THE LUNGS," DR YU ADDED.

"THEY CAN ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON SOME 1,000 CHEMICALS COMMONLY USED IN LOCAL INDUSTRIES FROM A COMPUTER TOXICOLOGY DATA BANK AT THE EXHIBITION.

"STAFF OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION WILL BE ON HAND TO EXPLAIN TO VISITORS THE HEALTH HAZARDS RELATING TO THE CHEMICALS," DR YU SAID.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 24) BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR TONY HAMMOND, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF OSHC, MR K.Y. TONGSON, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OSHC'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, MR PETER NIE.

/THE OPENING

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THE OPENING HOURS OF THE EXHIBITION ARE FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE - CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES" EXHIBITION ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 24) AT 3 PM AT THE FOOTBRIDGE GALLERY, LEVEL THREE, NEW TOWN PLAZA, SHA TIN.

OVERSTAYERS ARE LIABLE TO FINES, IMPRISONMENT
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT PEOPLE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY IN HONG KONG ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE REMINDER WAS MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONVICTION OF FOUR FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS AT THE WESTERN MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) FOR OVERSTAYING IN HONG KONG.

FIVE FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS WERE ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 18 BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ON BOARD M.V. "VAST PIONEER" IN THE HARBOUR DURING A RAID BASED ON INFORMATION.

THEY WERE WOMEN AGED BETWEEN 25 AND 29 AND HAD BEEN OVERSTAYING IN HONG KONG RANGING FROM TWO MONTHS TO 17 MONTHS.

FOUR OF THEM WERE CONVICTED OF BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY AND WERE EACH FINED \$1,000 IN DEFAULT OF 14 DAYS' IMPRISONMENT. THE REMAINING OVERSTAYING FILIPINO WOMAN IS STILL ON BAIL TO ASSIST FURTHER ENQUIRIES.

"OVERSTAYERS WILL REMAIN ON OUR RECORDS UNTIL THEIR CASES ARE CLEARED AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IF INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR WHEREABOUTS COMES TO OUR ATTENTION." A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STRESSED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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WARNING ON ILLEGAL ROAD RACING

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POLICE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WARNED ILLEGAL ROAD RACERS THAT THEIR DANGEROUS ACT MAY LAND THEM IN COURT OR EVEN IN JAIL.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN GAVE THE WARNING WHEN HE WAS COMMENTING ON A COURT CASE IN WHICH A MAN WAS SENTENCED TO TWO MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT AND HAD HIS DRIVING LICENCE SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS FOR ILLEGAL ROAD RACING.

"ILLEGAL ROAD RACING NOT ONLY CAUSES NUISANCE TO RESIDENTS BUT ALSO PUT ONE'S LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS AT RISK." THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"APART FROM ILLEGAL ROAD RACING, OFFENDERS MAY ALSO BE CHARGED WITH RELATED OFFENCES SUCH AS RECKLESS DRIVING," HE ADDED.

THE DEFENDANT IN THE COURT CASE CONCERNED, A 21-YEAR-OLD MAN, WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE ON JUNE 4 IN SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, AFTER HE HAD BEEN SPOTTED FOR RACING AT HIGH SPEED, JUMPING RED LIGHT AND JOGGING POSITIONS. AT 3 AM.

HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH THREE COUNTS OF ILLEGAL ROAD RACING, RECKLESS DRIVING AND DRIVING WITHOUT THIRD PARTY INSURANCE, AND WAS CONVICTED IN SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY.

A TWO-MONTH JAIL SENTENCE TOGETHER WITH DISQUALIFICATION OF HIS DRIVING LICENCE FOR TWO YEARS WERE PASSED ON HIM FOR EACH OF THE FIRST TWO OFFENCES. THE SENTENCES ARE TO RUN CONCURRENTLY. A FINE OF \$5,000 WAS IMPOSED FOR THE THIRD OFFENCE.

ANOTHER DEFENDANT, A 20-YEAR-OLD MAN WHOSE CAR WAS LOCATED AFTER THE INCIDENT, WAS CHARGED WITH FAILING TO PROVIDE PARTICULARS OF DRIVERS WITHIN THE DEMAND OF 21 DAYS.

HE PLEADED GUILTY IN THE SAME COURT ON SEPTEMBER 5 AND WAS SENTENCED TO A \$5,000 FINE.

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RESCUERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES FOR BRAVE DEEDS

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TEN PUBLIC-SPIRITED PEOPLE WERE EACH AWARDED THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR RESCUING PEOPLE FROM THE SEA.

THE 10 COMPRISE SIX CIVILIANS AND FOUR POLICE OFFICERS WHO ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR RESCUED EIGHT PEOPLE FROM THE WATERS OF HONG KONG.

/THE DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, SAID DURING THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY THAT THE 10 HAD ACTED ABOVE THE NORMAL CALL OF DUTY IN RESCUING OTHERS.

HE SAID THAT SOMETIMES HONG KONG WAS REGARDED AS A SELFISH CITY WHERE PEOPLE WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

"THE PRESENCE OF THESE BRAVE PEOPLE HERE TODAY IS A HEARTENING REMINDER THAT THIS IS UNTRUE.

"EACH ONE HAS RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE A COMPLETE STRANGER FROM THE SEA," HE SAID.

THE COMMENDATION HAS A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF HONOURING THE GALLANTRY OF PEOPLE WHO RESCUE OTHERS DESPITE THE RISK TO THEIR OWN SAFETY.

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DB TO DISCUSS GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH

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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR USING THE DISTRICT BOARD LOGO ON ITS FLAG.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE BOARD'S FIVE COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT'S AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN CENTRE.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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BRIEFING ON KCRC CROSS HARBOUR LINK PROPOSAL

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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON A CROSS HARBOUR RAIL LINK PROPOSED BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCRC) AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROPOSAL IS FOR A CONNECTION FROM THE EXISTING KCR LINE SOUTH OF MONG KOK TO RUN TO A NEW STATION AT WHAMPOA ON THE HUNGHOM BAY RECLAMATION, AND THEN ON TO HONG KONG ISLAND, RUNNING FROM FORTRESS HILL TO THE STAR FERRY.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN BY THE KCRC'S CORPORATE PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER, MISS JENNY FUNG, AND AN ENGINEER (PLANNING), MR HERBERT HO.

ALSO AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON RAILWAY SERVICES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR A PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL AT THE JUNCTION OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND LUNG SUM AVENUE IN SHEUNG SHUI, AND A PROPOSAL THAT A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND BE LOCATED NEAR SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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PROPOSED PETROL FILLING STATION ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A PETROL FILLING STATION IN TSING YI AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KWAI CHUNG AND KWAI FONG ESTATES AND DISCUSS MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SITE FORMATION WORKS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SHEK YAM RESETTLEMENT AREA.

/THE COMMITTEE'S

THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS ON VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WILL REPORT THE PROGRESS OF THEIR WORK.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME TO BE RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROGRAMME IS TO PROVIDE SERVICES, SUCH AS HOMEWORK GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING, FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 12. SHAM SHUI PO HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS ONE OF THE FIVE REGIONS WHERE AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT FOR SUCH A SERVICE IS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP ON HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY FORMED BY THE HOUSING AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS AND ENQUIRE ABOUT THE REPROVISIONING OF THE MORNING LIGHT SCHOOL AT PAK TIN ESTATE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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SPORTS DAY FOR ELDERLY IN WONG TAI SIN

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MORE THAN 100 ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN WONG TAI SIN WILL TAKE PART IN A SPORTS DAY SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THEM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE INDOOR GAMES HALL IN MORSE PARK, BEGINNING AT 9 AM.

IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AS ONE OF THE MANY ACTIVITIES OF THE CURRENT DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

"THE AIM OF THE SPORTS DAY IS TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING AMONG ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND TO WIDEN THEIR SOCIAL CIRCLE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID.

"IT IS ALSO AIMED AT INCREASING THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SPORTS DAY FOR THE ELDERLY OF THE 1989 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT THE MORSE PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25). THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM.

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GOVT LOT IN KWUN TONG TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE IN KWUN TONG.

THE 6,200 SQUARE METRES SITE IS LOCATED AT SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD, KWUN TONG.

IT IS FOR USE AS OPEN SPACE STORAGE, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR THE SITE IS NOON ON DECEMBER 8.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION ON MTR

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A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY TO ALLEVIATE THE CONGESTION ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR DURING PEAK HOURS. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL INTRODUCE THREE NEW OR MODIFIED ROUTES AND ONE CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE NEXT YEAR TO DIVERT COMMUTERS FROM THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

A COACH SERVICE, ROUTE 38X FROM RIVIERA GARDEN IN TSUEN WAN TO THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL BE INTRODUCED IN JANUARY.

THE EXISTING BUS ROUTE 43D BETWEEN CHEUNG CHING IN TSING YI AND SHAM SHUI PO FERRY WILL BE EXTENDED TO CHEUNG HANG IN TSING YI AND JORDAN ROAD FERRY IN MARCH.

IN AUGUST, A NEW BUS ROUTE 79X FROM TAI PING ESTATE IN NORTH DISTRICT TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY AND CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE 690 FROM HING SING IN TSEUNG KWAN O TO CENTRAL WILL BE PUT INTO SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, A FERRY LINK FROM TSING YI TO CENTRAL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE MID-NOVEMBER TO RELIEVE THE DEMAND ON THE MTR TSUEN WAN LINE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DISCUSSING WITH THE MTRC FOR THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF FREE BUS SERVICES FROM HUNG HOM KCR STATION TO THE MTR STATION IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

FREE FEEDER BUS ROUTES FROM KOWLOON TONG AND HUNG HOM KCR STATIONS TO THE MTR STATION IN TSIM SHA TSUI HAD BEEN MAINTAINED DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS FROM MAY TO AUGUST. THE SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE RAIL SECTION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE INTERMODAL CO-ORDINATION POLICY HAD BEEN FLEXIBLY APPLIED. FOUR CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES AND THREE BUS ROUTES FROM EAST AND WEST NEW TERRITORIES TO SOUTH KOWLOON HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO ALLEVIATE THE MTR PEAK HOR CONGESTION PROBLEM.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1989

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TUEN MUN, KWAI CHUNG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 24), THE EASTERN KERBSIDE OF TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD SECTION FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HO PONG STREET TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY 95 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

IN KWAI CHUNG, TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, THE SECTION OF KOWLOON BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN CHEUNG WING ROAD AND LEI MUK ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 24 AND 25) RESPECTIVELY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE KWOK SHUI ROAD, LEI MUK ROAD, AND WO YI HOP ROAD.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND KOWLOON CITY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 24), THE RIGHT-TURNING FROM TONKIN STREET SOUTHBOUND ONTO LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE RESUMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE EXTENSION OF TONKIN STREET NORTHBOUND BETWEEN TUNG CHAU STREET AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES WILL BE IMPOSED ON GULLANE ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY.

THE SECTION OF GULLANE ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ARGYLE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

THE SECTION OF GULLANE ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH PERTH STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS.

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