



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1990

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NEW MEASURES TO CURB WATER POLLUTION OUTLINED

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THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WHICH IS CONSIDERED A CORNERSTONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO CURB POLLUTION, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, SAID IT WAS NOW TIME TO ACT, BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.

"IF WE DO NOT RECTIFY THE WRONGS OF THE PAST, HONG KONG WILL BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN THE WORLD," MR OXLEY SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATION WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY AND TO DECLARE THE REMAINING SIX WATER CONTROL ZONES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

MR OXLEY SAID THE MAIN IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WERE INTENDED TO BE EFFECTED BY THE BILL WERE:

- * THE DELETION OF THE RIGHT OF EXEMPTION FROM LICENSING FOR DISCHARGES IN FUTURE WATER CONTROL ZONES;
- * THE REPLACEMENT OF EXEMPTION BY A RIGHT TO A LICENCE UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS;
- * THE INTRODUCTION OF A PROVISION THAT WHEN SETTING LICENCE CONDITIONS, THE AUTHORITY, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SHOULD BE GUIDED BY EFFLUENT STANDARDS WHICH WERE TO BE LAID DOWN IN A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS; AND
- * TO INCREASE PENALTIES.

HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE TWO POINTS HE WANTED TO EMPHASISE.

FIRSTLY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TAKING AWAY, OVERNIGHT, THE RIGHT TO DISCHARGE WASTE WATERS.

"DISCHARGERS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED EXEMPTIONS IN THE FOUR EXISTING WATER CONTROL ZONES WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE THEIR CURRENT EMISSIONS. WHEN THE AMENDED BILL COMES INTO EFFECT THEY WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN GRANTED LICENCES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

THIS REPRESENTED, IN EFFECT, A TWO-YEAR GRACE PERIOD FOR A VERY STRICTLY LIMITED GROUP OF EFFLUENT PRODUCERS. BUT AFTER TWO YEARS THOSE DISCHARGERS WOULD HAVE TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

/ALL DISCHARGERS

ALL DISCHARGERS IN FUTURE WATER CONTROL ZONES WOULD HAVE TO APPLY FOR LICENCES. AND THE AUTHORITY, IN GRANTING LICENCES, WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE STANDARDS IN THE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM.

SECONDLY, MR OXLEY SAID, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT THERE WOULD BE COSTS TO INDUSTRY IN COMPLYING WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS, THESE COSTS NEED NOT BE ONEROUS.

"THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR SAYING THIS," HE SAID.

"FIRSTLY, ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY WILL FACE EFFLUENT TREATMENT COSTS.

"SECONDLY, THERE IS SCOPE FOR REDUCING COSTS THROUGH WASTE MINIMISATION IN THE FACTORY.

"THIRDLY, RECYCLING OF SOME VALUABLE RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY, ESPECIALLY HEAT, CAN REDUCE POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS DRAMATICALLY.

"AND FOURTHLY, UPGRADING PRODUCTION PLANT AND PROCESSES CAN INCREASE PROFITABILITY AS WELL AS REDUCE POLLUTION LOADS."

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS REPLACING THE PRESENT OUTDATED SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM WITH A COMPREHENSIVE NEW SCHEME, REQUIRING A TOTAL INVESTMENT IN EXCESS OF \$15 BILLION.

"WITHOUT THIS INVESTMENT, THE DIRECT COSTS TO INDUSTRY OF MEETING EVEN MINIMAL EFFLUENT STANDARDS WOULD BE MANY TIMES HIGHER," HE SAID.

HE SAID SOME INDUSTRIAL SECTORS HAD CLAIMED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE SPACE TO INSTALL THE EFFLUENT TREATMENT EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO MEET THE PROPOSED STANDARDS.

IF THAT WERE THE CASE, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK AT THEIR DATA, AND WOULD FIND WAYS TO EASE THEIR PROBLEMS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

"HOWEVER, I MUST STRESS THAT OUR ENVIRONMENT MUST BE RESTORED TO A TOLERABLE CONDITION, SO THERE MAY BE A NEED FOR SOME RESTRUCTURING," MR OXLEY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE PROPOSED REFORMS BE TAKEN FORWARD IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION.

AS FOR HONG KONG'S WATERS GENERALLY, THERE HAD BEEN A MORE OR LESS STEADY DECLINE IN EVERY MAJOR POLLUTION INDICATOR SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1972, HE SAID.

"THE WASTE RECEIVING CAPACITY OF OUR COASTAL WATER IS LIMITED, AND URGENT ACTION IS NOW REQUIRED FOR THE PROPER CONTROL, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF WASTES GENERATED BY OUR POPULATION AND OUR INDUSTRIES," HE STRESSED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

ADVICE OF MEDICAL COUNCIL SOUGHT ON COMPLEX PROFESSIONAL ISSUE

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SHE APPRECIATES THAT THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TO CATER FOR SPECIAL GROUPS AS WELL AS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BUT THIS MUST BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY DECLINE IN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

"I AM ALSO MINDFUL THAT PROVISION MUST BE MADE FOR THE FUTURE WHEN HONG KONG WILL NO LONGER BE PART OF THE COMMONWEALTH," MRS WONG SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

MR BARROW HAD ASKED WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON A PROPOSAL THAT NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE IN CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE.

WITH THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES IN MIND, MRS WONG SAID, SHE WAS NOW SEEKING THE ADVICE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AS TO HOW THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE MIGHT BEST BE AMENDED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND WAS AWAITING ITS REPLY.

"HOWEVER, AS THIS IS A COMPLEX PROFESSIONAL ISSUE, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT AN EARLY SOLUTION," SHE SAID.

PENDING CHANGE TO THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE UNHCR AND MEDICINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) HAD BEEN ASKED TO ESTABLISH A RECRUITMENT BASE IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND TO TAP THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS ORGANISATION AS A SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR REGISTRABLE DOCTORS, SHE ADDED.

THE LATTER HAD PROVIDED TWO DOCTORS FROM NEW ZEALAND WHO WOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.

"MSF HAS THUS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THE NUMBER OF DOCTORS IT REQUIRES TO MEET ITS PRESENT NEEDS," MRS WONG SAID.

MRS WONG EARLIER EXPLAINED THAT THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT ONLY PERSONS HOLDING A HONG KONG DIPLOMA, A UNITED KINGDOM OR IRISH DIPLOMA OR A RECOGNISED COMMONWEALTH DIPLOMA OR ANY LICENTIATE SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

"THERE IS PRESENTLY NO PROVISION TO ALLOW PERSONS WITH OTHER MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG, EVEN IF THEY ONLY SERVE RESTRICTED GROUPS SUCH AS VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE OR SPECIFIC FOREIGN COMMUNITIES," MRS WONG NOTED.

SUCH DOCTORS WOULD NEED TO PASS THE EXAMINATIONS AND COMPLETE THE PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT NECESSARY TO BECOME A LICENTIATE, THOUGH EXEMPTIONS FROM SOME OF THESE REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN CERTAIN CASES, SHE ADDED.

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\$4M DONATION FOR FUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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A DONATION OF \$4 MILLION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR FUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG, MR OXLEY SAID THE SUM WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR THE NEWLY FORMED ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO FUND ACTIVITIES ORGANISED WITH VOLUNTARY GROUPS.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S OBJECTIVES IN THIS FIELD CAN BE FURTHER FUNDED," MR OXLEY SAID.

ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS WAS TO SUBVENT SUCH ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED.

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REVIEW OF NT TAXI OPERATION

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THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONDUCT A REVIEW TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING NEW TERRITORIES TAXI OPERATION TO INCLUDE ROUTE 5, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR LEUNG SAID THE REVIEW WAS IN LINE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF EXAMINING TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND TRANSPORT NEEDS ARISING FROM THE OPENING OF NEW FACILITIES.

"THE REVIEW WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN SHING MUN TUNNELS AND THE ADJACENT ROAD NETWORKS IN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN, THE DEMAND FOR NT TAXIS TO USE SUCH A LINK FROM AREAS OUTSIDE THE TWO NEW TOWNS, AND GENERAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ROLE OF NT TAXIS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE REVIEW WAS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS' TIME.

AT PRESENT, MR LEUNG SAID, ROUTE 5 INCLUDING SHING MUN TUNNELS WAS OUTSIDE THE PERMITTED AREAS FOR THE OPERATION OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS AS DEFINED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS.

"ROUTE 5 PROVIDES A DIRECT ACCESS BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN NEW TOWNS WHICH ARE ALREADY SERVED BY URBAN TAXIS.

"NT TAXIS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN THE TWO NEW TOWNS EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN LOCATIONS WHERE INTERCHANGE WITH OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES IS PERMITTED," HE ADDED.

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FREE PLAY OF MARKET FORCES BENEFITS ECONOMY

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GENERAL POLICY IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN COMMERCIAL DECISIONS REACHED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID LI, SIR PIERS SAID THAT BUSINESS DECISIONS WERE BEST TAKEN BY BUSINESSMEN BUT, OCCASIONALLY, WHEN IT WAS CLEARLY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTERVENE, THEN IT DID SO IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER.

"IN GENERAL, THIS INTERVENTION TAKES PLACE WHERE IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"WE ALSO INTERVENE WHERE THERE IS A CASE FOR REGULATION, BUT THAT IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ADHERING TO THIS POLICY FOR MANY YEARS. THE HIGH DEGREE OF FREEDOM ACCORDED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALLOWED THE FREE PLAY OF MARKET FORCES AND THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

"MR LI HAS REFERRED TO THE POLICY OF POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM. WHAT I HAVE DESCRIBED IS ESSENTIALLY THAT POLICY. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION," HE ADDED.

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TENANTS NOT EXPOSED TO UNDUE THREATS DURING REDEVELOPMENT

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EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT DURING REDEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE REMAINING TENANTS ARE NOT EXPOSED TO UNDUE THREATS TO THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ADOLF HSU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR HSU SAID TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WERE NORMALLY GIVEN 18 TO 24 MONTHS' FORMAL ADVANCE NOTICE TO ENABLE THEM TO PLAN AHEAD AS REGARDS THEIR ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION.

"THE HOUSING AUTHORITY RECOGNISES THAT, INEVITABLY, PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS LEFT VACANT DURING THE REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS COULD BECOME PROBLEM AREAS FOR ESTATE MANAGEMENT," MR HSU SAID.

/A TOTAL

A TOTAL OF 87 INCIDENTS HAD BEEN REPORTED OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. OF THESE, ONE WAS CONNECTED WITH INDECENT ASSAULT, 15 WITH DRUGS AND THE REMAINDER INVOLVED TRESPASSING, MOSTLY CONCERNING PEOPLE SEEKING SALEABLE ITEMS FROM VACATED FLATS.

MR HSU SAID THESE STATISTICS SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH INVOLVED RECOVERING 49,743 VACANT UNITS IN 196 BLOCKS IN SAME PERIOD.

"THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS BEING COMPLACENT WITH THE SITUATION," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAD ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PREVENT ANY MISUSE OF VACANT FLATS:

(A) ALL VACANT UNITS ARE IMMEDIATELY SEALED AND PAINTED WITH A WARNING NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASSING. LUMINOUS STICKERS ARE PLACED AT CONSPICUOUS PLACES FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION. WHEN A WHOLE FLOOR IS EMPTY, THE CORRIDORS AND STAIRCASES ARE CLOSED SUBJECT TO FIRE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS;

(B) OFFICERS PATROLLING THE ESTATES KEEP AN UPDATED LIST OF VACANT UNITS, WHICH IS ALSO SENT TO THE LOCAL POLICE REGULARLY TO FACILITATE THEIR ROUTINE PATROLS. IN ADDITION, WHEN HALF OF THE UNITS IN A HOUSING BLOCK ARE VACANT, SECURITY GUARDS ARE POSTED TO THE BUILDING; AND

(C) REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH RESIDENTS AND LOCAL LIAISON BODIES TO IDENTIFY ANY PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE AND TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE.

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SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR MALADJUSTED CHILDREN

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THERE ARE NOW EIGHT SPECIAL SCHOOLS CATERING FOR MALADJUSTED CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT AND 16, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR YEUNG SAID THESE CHILDREN WERE PROVIDED WITH RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES BY THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS WHILE ATTENDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

"THEY RESIDE EITHER IN HOMES ATTACHED TO THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR HOSTELS NEARBY THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID SUCH SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESIDENTIAL CARE WAS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN FROM BROKEN HOMES, WHO WERE BETTER OFF NOT LIVING AT HOME.

ALL THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS WERE PROVIDED WITH SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

"COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT SERVICES SUCH AS PLAY THERAPY, STUDY SKILLS TRAINING AND SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING ARE OFFERED TO BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE PUPILS AT SCHOOL.

"THE BOARDING SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOLS ARE ALSO PROVIDED WITH SUPPORT FROM SOCIAL WORKERS AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID IN THESE SCHOOLS, THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM WAS MODIFIED AND ADAPTED TO HELP THE PUPILS TO REGAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE AND INTEREST IN THEIR WORK.

"INDIVIDUALISED PROGRAMMES ARE OFFERED WHENEVER NECESSARY.

"ALL THE PUPILS ARE PREPARED FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE MAINSTREAM ON COMPLETION OF THEIR PRIMARY OR JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED COUNSELLING SERVICES SUCH AS PSYCHOTHERAPY TO MALADJUSTED SCHOOL CHILDREN WITHOUT CRIMINAL RECORDS.

"CASES OF MILD MALADJUSTMENT ARE USUALLY DEALT WITH BY THE CLASS TEACHER AND THE DISCIPLINE TEACHER WITH SUPPORT WHERE NECESSARY FROM SCHOOL-BASED STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND FROM THE SCHOOL'S GUIDANCE TEAM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"THESE TEACHERS ARE SUPPORTED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS," HE ADDED.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY CONSIDERS TAKING MORE ACTIVE PART IN PSPS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN RELATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS) BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ADOLF HSU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR HSU SAID: "THE MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION, WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PRACTICE, WILL REQUIRE THE AGREEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/"BUT I

"BUT I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT PROMPT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS IN THE PSPS DEVELOPMENTS UNDER COMPLAINT."

MR HSU POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IN THE SCHEME WAS TO PRODUCE, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, FLATS WHICH WERE BUILT AND MANAGED TO SIMILAR STANDARDS AS HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ITSELF.

"THE AUTHORITY HAS HITHERTO PLAYED AN ADVISORY AND SUPERVISORY ROLE IN THIS SCHEME," HE ADDED.

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DISCUSSIONS ON CASES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT MOTHERS

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THE CASES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT MOTHERS WHO WERE REPATRIATED TO CHINA IN JANUARY 1988 HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON MANY OCCASIONS, WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING THE EARLY RETURN OF THE MOTHERS TO HONG KONG.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

"ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE HAD TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE QUEUE FOR ONE-WAY PERMITS, WE HOPE THEY WILL GET THEIR PERMITS WITHIN THE REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE.

"IN THE MEANTIME I UNDERSTAND THAT HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN CAN VISIT WIVES REGULARLY TO MAINTAIN CLOSE FAMILY TIES AND THAT THE MOTHERS ARE ABLE TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES HERE ON TWO-WAY PERMITS," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, ONE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT MOTHER FROM THE GROUP OF 56 REPATRIATED TO CHINA IN JANUARY 1988 HAD RETURNED TO HONG KONG.

"IN JANUARY 1988, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION IN THIS COUNCIL, THE THEN SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID THAT MOST ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS HAD OBTAINED THEIR ONE-WAY PERMITS WITHIN THREE YEARS OF APPLICATION.

"HE BASED THIS ON INFORMATION OBTAINED AT THAT TIME FROM PEOPLE WHO HAD COME TO HONG KONG ON ONE-WAY PERMITS. HIS REPLY WAS NOT A PROMISE," MR ASPREY SAID.

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'OUTWORKER' AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR
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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF EXISTING EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION TO "OUTWORKERS", THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID AT THE PRESENT TIME OUTWORKERS WERE DEFINED IN EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION AS "A PERSON TO WHOM ARTICLES OR MATERIALS ARE GIVEN OUT TO BE MADE UP, CLEANED, WASHED, ALTERED, ORNAMENTED, FINISHED, OR REPAIRED, OR ADAPTED FOR SALE, IN HIS OWN HOME OR ON OTHER PREMISES NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OR MANAGEMENT OF THE PERSON WHO GAVE OUT THE MATERIALS OR ARTICLES".

"THIS DEFINITION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT AN OUTWORKER IS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RATHER THAN AN EMPLOYEE," MR YEUNG SAID IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW.

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STAGE SET FOR HOLDING MORE INT'L EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES
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NOW THAT HONG KONG HAS A WORLD CLASS FACILITY -- THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, THE STAGE IS SET FOR AN EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S ROLE IN HOSTING MORE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES.

THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF SECRETARY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT AS TO ORGANISING LARGE SCALE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS, HE WAS PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES WERE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED.

"IT IS INDEED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, AS PART OF ITS EFFORTS TO RAISE HONG KONG'S PROFILE, TO ENCOURAGE BOTH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND THE HOSTING OF CONFERENCES IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT ITS ROLE WAS NOT SO MUCH THAT OF FINANCING SUCH ACTIVITIES (UNLESS THEY WERE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT) BUT RATHER OF FACILITATING THEIR ORGANISATION.

"NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ARE THEREFORE BEING ENCOURAGED TO BRING IN MORE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

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COMMENTING THAT NOTHING SPOKE LOUDER THAN FACTS, SIR DAVID SAID: "LAST YEAR, HONG KONG HOSTED OVER 500 EVENTS, OF WHICH JUST OVER 400 WERE CONFERENCES AND THE REMAINDER EXHIBITIONS.

"BETWEEN THEM THEY ATTRACTED 108,000 VISITORS FROM ABROAD - NEARLY 50 PER CENT UP ON THE FIGURE FOR 1987.

"THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES ARE ALREADY HEAVILY BOOKED FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND PRESENT FORECASTS ARE FOR OVER 600 EVENTS IN 1993 ATTRACTING SOME 190,000 VISITORS."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT QUITE APART FROM THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SUCH EVENTS, THERE WAS A BENEFIT TO BE GAINED BY EXPOSING MORE PEOPLE FROM ABROAD TO MODERN COSMOPOLITAN HONG KONG.

BOTH THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION DESERVED SPECIAL PRAISE FOR THE WORK THEY WERE DOING IN ATTRACTING THESE CONFERENCE VISITORS TO HONG KONG.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO SAID SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO BOOST LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WERE BEING TAKEN BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

AND IN A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER AREAS, EFFORTS WERE TAKEN EITHER JOINTLY OR INDEPENDENTLY BY GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE OVERSEAS OFFICES. THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- * HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, SOMETIMES LED BY THE GOVERNOR, TO TARGET COUNTRIES. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THESE VISITS WERE LINKED TO BUSINESS PROMOTIONS.
- * TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM PROMOTION MISSIONS AND CAMPAIGNS, UNDERTAKEN BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.
- * SPONSORED VISITS TO HONG KONG BY INFLUENTIAL PERSONS FROM TARGET COUNTRIES.
- * SPEAKERS SENT FROM HONG KONG TO ADDRESS INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCES OVERSEAS.
- * PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND THE HOSTING OF SUCH CONFERENCES IN HONG KONG.

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KCRC MAINTAINS ROBUST FINANCIAL POSITION

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A ROBUST FINANCIAL POSITION IN 1989, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OPERATING REVENUE STOOD AT \$1,359 MILLION, REPRESENTING A 14 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1988, SIR PIERS SAID WHEN MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1989, WHICH WERE TABLED IN THE COUNCIL.

SIR PIERS SAID PROFITS AFTER DEPRECIATION AND INTEREST AMOUNTED TO \$285 MILLION.

"SINCE NO NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED IN 1989, NET PROFIT INCLUSIVE OF INCOME FROM OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES WAS 49 PER CENT BELOW THE LEVEL OF 1988.

"HOWEVER, BORROWING WAS CONTAINED UNDER \$1.5 BILLION WITH A DEBT TO EQUITY RATIO OF 1 TO 2.1," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS NOTED THAT THE CORPORATION HAD SET ASIDE \$150 MILLION IN A DEVELOPMENT RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSES OF UPGRADING EXISTING FACILITIES AND MEETING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS NECESSITATED BY GROWTH IN SERVICE DEMAND.

THE HEAVY RAIL CARRIED OVER 171 MILLION PASSENGERS DURING 1989, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF SOME 12 PER CENT OVER 1988 AND AVERAGE DAILY PATRONAGE FOR THE YEAR EXCEEDED 500,000, HE SAID.

"TO FURTHER COPE WITH THIS LEVEL OF DEMAND, TRAIN CAPACITY WILL BE EXPANDED BY 51 PER CENT IN 1992, WHEN DELIVERY OF A PREVIOUS ORDER OF 54 TRAIN CARS AND AN ADDITIONAL ORDER FOR 42 NEW CARS WILL BE COMPLETED.

"FREIGHT TRAFFIC WAS SLIGHTLY CURTAILED DURING THE YEAR. WHILE IN-BOUND CARGO RECORDED A MODEST GAIN OF 2 PER CENT TO 3.2 MILLION TONNES, OUT-BOUND TRAFFIC DROPPED BY 8 PER CENT TO 1.3 MILLION TONNES," SIR PIERS SAID.

NOTING THAT THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM OPERATING IN THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES OFFERED SIX LIGHT RAIL AND EIGHT BUS ROUTES AT THE END OF 1989, SIR PIERS SAID AVERAGE DAILY PATRONAGE INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT FROM 181,000 AT THE END OF 1988 TO 227,000 BY THE END OF 1989.

"IN JUNE 1989, A NEW LIGHT RAIL ROUTE WAS INTRODUCED TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS OF TIN KING ESTATE.

"THE LRT WILL BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE END OF 1991 WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THREE REGIONAL EXTENSIONS IN TUEN MUN," SIR PIERS SAID.

/THESE EXTENSIONS

THESE EXTENSIONS WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF THE SYSTEM, IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE JOURNEY TIMES, HE SAID.

"IN OVERALL TERMS, THE CORPORATION PERFORMED WELL IN 1989. IT HAS SERVED THE COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY BY PROVIDING SAFE, HIGH QUALITY AND ECONOMIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MANAGING BOARD, THE MANAGEMENT AND ALL THE STAFF OF THE CORPORATION FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR," SIR PIERS ADDED.

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

THEY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, MERCHANT SHIPPING (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) BILL 1989, MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR OIL POLLUTION) BILL 1989 AND TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

THE TWO MERCHANT SHIPPING BILLS WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS MADE IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PADS PROJECTS OFFER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

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THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS OFFER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION BY FIRMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN CONSTRUCTION, FINANCING AND PROVISION OF SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN WASHINGTON TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS CHAN GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS) HAD BEEN DRAWN UP.

SHE SAID THAT MANY ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECTS WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO THE PRIVATE INVESTOR AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE INTEREST SHOWN TO DATE.

"THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, THE MAJOR BRIDGE AND TUNNEL LINKS, TENANT FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORT AND NEW PORT FACILITIES WOULD ALL INVOLVE A HIGH LEVEL OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION," SHE NOTED.

"ON THE FINANCING OF THE PADS PROJECTS, WE BELIEVED THAT IN BROAD TERMS AS MUCH AS 60 PER CENT OF IT COULD BE BORNE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S PLANS FOR FUTURE GROWTH WERE NECESSARILY ON A GRAND SCALE SINCE HONG KONG WAS ALREADY A TERRITORY OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN TERM OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY.

THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE PADS AND THE UPGRADING OF HONG KONG'S TARGETS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION WERE MAJOR INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE AND THEY WERE NOT PIPE DREAMS OR GRAND POLITICAL GESTURES, MRS CHAN SAID.

"THEY ARE DECISIONS BASED ON COOL HEADED ECONOMICS. THEY ARE ESSENTIAL IF HONG KONG IS TO REMAIN THE HUB OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION," SHE ADDED.

UPDATING PROGRESS OF THE AIRPORT PROJECT, MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT MASTER PLAN CONSULTANCY WAS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME.

"IT WILL INVOLVE THE PREPARATION OF THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN, DETAILED CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN WORKS FOR THE RECLAMATION AND SURROUNDING SEAWALL AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY," SHE SAID.

"WE ARE ESTABLISHING AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY WHICH WILL BE A STATUTORY CORPORATION. THE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WAS PASSED IN APRIL THIS YEAR," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE AUTHORITY WOULD, AT LEAST INITIALLY BE 100 PER CENT GOVERNMENT OWNED AND, IN ADDITION TO AN INJECTION OF GOVERNMENT EQUITY, WOULD BE FINANCED BY LOANS RAISED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, SHE ADDED.

ON THE LATEST ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG, MRS CHAN SAID THAT CURRENTLY THE ECONOMY HAD SLOWED AND A LOWER GROWTH OF THREE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS FOR 1990 WAS FORECAST.

"THIS SHOULD ALLOW OUR OVERHEATED ECONOMY TO COOL AND EASE PRESSURES ON PRICES AND WAGES," SHE SAID.

THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG INDICATED THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS APPRECIATED THE FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER.

"OUR STOCK MARKET IS NOW 40 PER CENT UP FROM THE LEVEL PREVAILING IN JUNE 1989. DEMAND FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES REMAINS STRONG AND RECENT GOVERNMENT LAND SALES HAVE FETCHED PRICES ABOVE EXPECTATION," SHE SAID.

WE HAD SEEN NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENTS PARTICULARLY FROM THE USA AND JAPAN AND MORE OVERSEAS BANKS WERE APPLYING TO COME TO HONG KONG, SHE NOTED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM BEING A SIGNIFICANT PRODUCER OF LIGHT MANUFACTURED GOODS, HONG KONG WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AND SERVICE CENTRE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

"SERVICES ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND RE-EXPORTS ARE NOW LARGER IN VALUE THAN OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS," SHE ADDED.

HONG KONG ENTREPRENEURS WERE QUICK TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE UP MARKET AND INTO AREAS OF HIGHER TECHNOLOGY OR INDEED TO DIVERSIFY ABROAD, MRS CHAN NOTED.

MRS CHAN SAID THAT 1997 MARKED A POLITICAL EVENT BUT ECONOMICALLY HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS ROLE AS A VIBRANT TRADING, FINANCIAL AND SERVICES CENTRE IN THE FAST GROWING ASIA PACIFIC RIM REGION, WITH A FIRST CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE AND A STABLE ADMINISTRATION, UNDERPINNED BY A LOW TAX STRUCTURE, FREE MARKET PRINCIPLES AND RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS.

"OUR ECONOMY, LIKE ALL OTHER ECONOMIES, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUFFER CYCLICAL DOWN-TURNS BUT AS IN THE PAST PROVIDED WE ARE BOLD IN OUR VISION AND PLAN AHEAD, WE WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF OUR RESILIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY," SHE SAID.

HONG KONG PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

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HONG KONG IS PLANNING SENSIBLY AND IMAGINATIVELY FOR THE FUTURE, NOT JUST TO 1997 BUT WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

STATING THIS AT A U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ON HONG KONG INFRASTRUCTURE IN WASHINGTON D.C. TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, SAID THE PROJECTS THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE TACKLING OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WERE HUGE, EVEN BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

"BUT WE HAVE A GOOD TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFULLY HANDLING LARGE PROGRAMMES AND CHALLENGES BEFORE," MR KWOK STRESSED.

ON AIRPORT AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MR KWOK SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK AFTER A DETAILED SITE SEARCH INVOLVING MORE THAN 30 INITIAL OPTIONS.

"THE PRELIMINARY PLAN WAS TO SEPARATE THE TWO RUNWAYS BY 900 METRES. BUT WE ARE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO INCREASING THE RUNWAY SEPARATION TO 1,300 METRES FOR A POSSIBLE BETTER PLANNING LAYOUT AS WELL AS TO ALLOW BOTH RUNWAYS TO BE OPERATED FULLY INDEPENDENTLY.

"THIS SUBJECT WILL BE FURTHER EXAMINED AS PART OF THE US\$12 MILLION MASTER LAYOUT PLAN AND ENGINEERING STUDY WHICH WOULD VERY SHORTLY BE COMMISSIONED," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE STUDY WOULD ALSO COVER THE FULL DESIGN OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS FOR THE AIRPORT AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

THE TARGET DATE FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST OF THE TWO RUNWAYS IS EARLY 1997.

BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE ADVANCE WORKS, ESTIMATED TO COST SOME US\$40 MILLION, WOULD BE CALLED BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR FOR A ONE YEAR CONTRACT WORKS PERIOD, WITH A ONE YEAR OPTIONAL EXTENSION FOR US\$25 MILLION WORTH OF EXTRA WORKS.

"THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY INVITING BIDS FOR THE MAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT FOR SOME 700 HECTARES IN MID 1991 AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WILL FOLLOW. THE NEW AIRPORT ITSELF IS EXPECTED TO COST IN TOTAL ABOUT US\$4.4 BILLION," HE SAID.

ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, MR KWOK SAID THE AIRPORT WOULD BE LINKED WITH THE URBAN AREAS BY MEANS OF A SIX-LANE EXPRESSWAY AND A DEDICATED RAIL SERVICE.

"THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WOULD BE A DUAL THREE-LANE HIGHWAY RUNNING ALONG THE NORTHERN COASTLINE OF LANTAU.

"THE PROJECT WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS ONE AS THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED ON COLUMNS AND EMBANKMENTS ON STEEP HILLSIDES AND OVER DEEP VALLEYS FOR A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 10 MILES.

"AS FOR THE MAIN FIXED CROSSING FROM LANTAU ISLAND VIA MA WAN TO TSING YI, IT WILL EITHER BE A SUSPENSION BRIDGE OR A TUNNEL; EITHER ONE WILL BE A WORLD CLASS UNDERTAKING AND WOULD TAKE FOUR YEARS TO BUILD.

"FROM TSING YI, THE MAIN ROUTE TO CENTRAL WOULD BE ROUTE 3, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE WEST KOWLOON CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO HONG KONG ISLAND."

MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT TO HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY.

THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY PROJECT WOULD LIKELY BE FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT AND EXECUTED IN-HOUSE BY CONSULTANTS WHILE THE FIXED CROSSING WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED BY PRIVATE CONSORTIA.

A BID PACKAGE WOULD BE ISSUED BY SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR. THE BIDDERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SUBMIT BIDS INCLUDING THE FUNDING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION FOR EITHER A BRIDGE OR A TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION.

MR KWOK ADDED THAT ROUTE 3 WOULD PROVIDE THE CONNECTION RUNNING SOUTHWARDS TO HONG KONG ISLAND. THE SECTION OF THE ROUTE WHICH WOULD BE USED AS A PRINCIPAL ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY GOVERNMENT.

THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY PROJECT TOGETHER WITH THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN-HOUSE.

TO TIE IN WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST RUNWAY, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BUILD PART OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY BEFORE RECLAMATION AND ON PILES.

A FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS IN HAND FOR THE WEST HARBOUR CROSSING WITH A VIEW ALSO TO PRIVATISATION. THE CROSSING WOULD LIKELY BE A TUNNEL BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE VERTICAL CLEARANCE FOR SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.

MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE HIGHWAY PROJECTS WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST RUNWAY OF THE AIRPORT. THE COST OF MAJOR AIRPORT-RELATED LINKS IN TOTAL WAS ABOUT US\$2.3 BILLION.

AS FOR THE RAIL LINK, IT WOULD RUN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH THE HIGHWAY AND TO BE DESIGNED TO TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE PASSENGER TRAFFIC. IN-TOWN CHECK-IN FACILITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED.

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"A VERY COMPLEX MONITORING AND CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IS REQUIRED AS YOU CAN SEE, BUT EVERY SECTION AS WELL AS EVERY ELEMENT OF THE PLAN AND PROGRAMME AS YOU WILL AGREE IS WELL PLANNED ON A WORKABLE, PRACTICABLE BASIS.

"THAT IS WHY WE HAVE ENGAGED THE AMERICAN FIRM OF INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL ON A US\$10 MILLION CONTRACT TO TAKE OVER THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER PROGRAMME AND TO CO-ORDINATE AND MONITOR THE WORKS AND EXPENDITURE PROGRAMMES OF THE AIRPORT-RELATED PROJECTS AS OVERALL PROJECT MANAGERS."

ON PORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MR KWOK SAID IT DEPENDED VERY MUCH ON THE MARKET DEMAND.

THE PORT DEVELOPMENT CONSISTED OF ROUGHLY FIVE PACKAGES, AND THOUGH EACH WAS INDEPENDENT, THERE WAS SOME INTERFACED INFRASTRUCTURE.

BRIEFLY THE PACKAGES ARE:

- (A) HARBOUR, TSING YI/STONECUTTERS ISLAND (CONTAINER TERMINALS 8 AND 9),
- (B) TUEN MUN WEST AND TRANSHIPMENT CENTRE (AREA 38),
- (C) NORTH LANTAU PORT PENINSULA,
- (D) NORTH OF THE AIRPORT - DEVELOPMENT OF TUNG CHUNG TO BE INTERFACED WITH THE NEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT,
- (E) BREAKWATERS - THIS PACKAGE WOULD INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-MILE LONG MAIN BREAKWATER AND NEW TYPHOON SHELTERS IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR, AS WELL AS IMPROVEMENT TO THE SHIPPING CHANNELS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ALSO SOME BROAD PROPOSALS FOR PORT FACILITIES AT KWUN TONG WHEN KAI TAK IS RELEASED BY THE NEW AIRPORT AND AT JUNK BAY SUPPORTED BY THE NEW TOWN TO THE NORTH.

ON PARTICIPATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MR KWOK QUOTED THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, AS HAVING SAID: "BECAUSE OUR ECONOMY IS COMPLETELY OPEN, WE HAVE ALWAYS WELCOMED PARTICIPATION BY COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN OUR DEVELOPMENT.

"INDEED MANY OF OUR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN BUILT BY COMPANIES FROM JAPAN, EUROPE, USA AND AUSTRALIA. WE HAVE BUILT BIG PROJECTS IN THE PAST BUT THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT WILL BE THE BIGGEST YET.

/"NOT ALL

"NOT ALL OF THE PROJECTS WILL BE GOVERNMENT FUNDED. AS AT PRESENT, THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING MANY OF THE FACILITIES. IT IS THIS CLOSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED HONG KONG WITH ITS GREAT EFFICIENCY."

MR KWOK ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALSO AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INCLUDING RESEWERING URBAN AREAS AND UPGRADING OUTFALL CAPACITIES AND TREATMENT AS WELL AS FOR WATER SUPPLIES.

HE ADDED THAT CHINA HAD ALREADY STARTED WORK ON THE LONG TERM HONG KONG WATER SUPPLIES PROJECT, FURTHER INDICATING CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

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PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT TO BENEFIT HK AND CHINA

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IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHINA TO SEE THAT THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS CRITICAL TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN LONDON YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO A HIGH POWER AUDIENCE FROM THE FIELDS OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, PORT AND AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION, MR BARNES SAID THE PROJECT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH HONG KONG AS WELL AS CHINA AND WAS THEREFORE CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION.

HE FIRST OUTLINED THE GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TERRITORY IN THE PACIFIC RIM, POINTING OUT THAT A TOTAL OF 85.4 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO WERE HANDLED BY HONG KONG LAST YEAR, MAKING HONG KONG THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD.

"WE ESTIMATE THE TOTAL VOLUME OF TRAFFIC IN PORT TO GO UP TO ABOUT 450 MILLION TONNES IN 2011," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SURGING TRAFFIC AT KAI TAK, MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE WORLDWIDE INCREASE IN AIR TRAVEL AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S FUNCTION AS A COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE AND ITS BEING THE GATEWAY TO AN INCREASINGLY OPEN CHINA.

"BETWEEN 1987 AND 1988, AIR TRAFFIC ROSE 21 PER CENT TO REACH 15.3 MILLION PASSENGERS. IT IS FORECAST TO RISE TO 47 MILLION BY 2010," HE SAID.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT WOULD BY BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK WHILE THE PORT FACILITIES WOULD BE SPREAD AROUND THE COASTLINE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VARIOUS DEEP WATER SHIPPING CHANNELS AND SHELTERED PLACES IN THE HARBOUR.

ALTOGETHER THERE WILL BE SIX BRIDGES AND TUNNELS IN THE FIRST STAGE AND SOME 70 KILOMETRES OF ROAD AND RAILWAY TO LINK THE URBAN AREAS WITH THE AIRPORT.

THE TARGET DATE FOR THE OPENING OF THE FIRST RUNWAY IS JANUARY 1997, HE SAID.

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IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY, ENERGY CONSERVATION STRESSED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO COMMISSION A CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING MEASURES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING SHOW (ELENEX 90).

MR KWOK SAID THE STUDY, TO BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH A DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK TO DESIGN AND BUILD MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS IN THE FUTURE AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS.

HE CITED THE PROPOSED STUDY AS AN EXAMPLE OF MEASURES PROVIDING FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION, IN WHICH HE BELIEVED THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE MUCH TO OFFER, AND WOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY IN THE COMING DECADE.

HE NOTED THAT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, TOGETHER WITH THE METROPLAN IN HONG KONG, THE FORESEEABLE GROWTH IN LOCAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WOULD CERTAINLY REQUIRE THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY IN PROVIDING FOR THE BEST PART OF THE ENERGY TO MAKE IT WORK.

THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH OF ELECTRICAL CONSUMPTION IN HONG KONG WAS FURTHER REFLECTED BY THE COMMITMENT OF THE TWO POWER COMPANIES EITHER TO BUILD NEW POWER STATIONS OR TO INSTALL MORE GENERATING UNITS WITHIN THE 90'S SO AS TO MEET THE EVER-RISING ELECTRICITY DEMAND.

/COUPLED WITH

COUPLED WITH THE CLOSER LINKAGE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA AS 1997 APPROACHED, THEY WERE ALL POSITIVE FACTORS INDICATING THAT THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG WOULD GROW MORE PROSPEROUSLY IN THE 90'S.

HOWEVER, MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT WHILE HONG KONG WAS EXPECTING CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE COMING YEARS, AN IMPORTANT ASPECT - THE ECONOMIC UTILISATION OF ELECTRICITY, HONG KONG'S LIMITED ENERGY RESOURCES - HAD BEEN MUCH NEGLECTED IN THE PAST.

"AS WE ALL KNOW, HONG KONG IS STILL AND WILL REMAIN LARGELY DEPENDENT IN THE FUTURE ON THE IMPORTATION OF FOSSIL FUELS, SO WE ARE VERY VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF ENERGY PRICE FLUCTUATIONS.

"ALSO, TO MINIMISE POLLUTION AND TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO LIMIT THE USE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY AND TO LIMIT OUR DEPENDENCE ON ENERGY DERIVED FROM FOSSIL FUELS," HE SAID.

MR KWOK ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER EXPECTED TREND, AND PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY, WAS THE GROWING AWARENESS OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY.

HE STRESSED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF USING ELECTRICITY SAFELY DID NOT JUST LIE WITH THE CONSUMERS BUT REALLY WITH EVERYBODY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS.

"THAT IS TO SAY ON THOSE WHO SET THE STANDARDS, THOSE WHO DESIGN AND INSTALL THE FACILITIES, THOSE WHO MANUFACTURE THE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, THOSE WHO TEST AND COMMISSION THE INSTALLATIONS AND FINALLY THOSE WHO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLAYED A LEADING ROLE BY INTRODUCING THE NEW ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE IN MARCH TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ORDINANCE, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A COMPLETELY NEW FRAMEWORK FOR DETAILED REGULATORY CONTROL ON ELECTRICITY RELATED MATTERS.

THE ORDINANCE DELINEATES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE SUPPLY COMPANIES, ELECTRICAL TRADE AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS.

IT ALSO ACTS AS AN ENABLING ORDINANCE FOR A NUMBER OF ITEMS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION WHICH CONTAIN THE TECHNICAL AND DETAILED MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY.

THESE INCLUDE THE PROPOSED ELECTRICITY (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS THAT WILL SET OUT THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL WORKS AND CONTRACTORS AND THE PROPOSED ELECTRICITY (WIRING) REGULATIONS THAT WILL PRESCRIBE THE MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WIRING OF FIXED INSTALLATIONS.

THEY ARE NOW UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, MR KWOK SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SET UP A SUPPLY VOLTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLTAGE UPGRADING IN HONG KONG WHICH WAS TARGETTED FOR COMPLETION IN THREE PHASES OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT SEVEN YEARS.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO UPGRADE THE LOCAL SUPPLY VOLTAGE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF CONSULTANCY STUDIES, PRACTICAL TESTS AND CONSULTATION WITH A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF RELEVANT BODIES SUCH AS THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION.

MR KWOK ALSO SAID THAT CURRENTLY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE SUBJECT OF SAFE USE OF LASERS IN HONG KONG AS THE TECHNOLOGY HAD BECOME MORE POPULAR BOTH IN LOCAL INDUSTRY AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING A SURVEY ON THE USE OF LASERS IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HAD COMPLETED A CODE OF PRACTICE ON LASER SAFETY FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE USE OF LASERS BY THE PUBLIC.

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IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES STRESSED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPING SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ALWAYS ENCOURAGES SCHOOLS TO OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE TOLD KOWLOON WEST ROTARIANS IN A LUNCHEON MEETING THAT ADDITIONAL TEACHERS WERE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS TO HELP DEVELOP THESE ACTIVITIES AND ALSO TO COMPLEMENT AND REINFORCE THE FORMAL CURRICULUM.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, INCLUDED:

- * REINFORCING CLASSROOM LEARNING AND ALLOWING STUDENTS TO APPLY THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS;
- * PROMOTING STUDENTS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BY BROADENING THEIR INTERESTS AND DEVELOPING THEIR POTENTIAL;

/* PROMOTING STUDENTS'

- * PROMOTING STUDENTS' SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY BROADENING THEIR SOCIAL EXPERIENCES; AND
- * MAKING SCHOOL LIFE MORE CHALLENGING AND INTERESTING.

"A BROAD RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS AND THIS RANGE WIDENS AS THEY MOVE FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL," MR LI SAID.

HE SAID THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT VARY FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL BUT PARENTAL SUPPORT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT.

HE SAID A SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SECTION WAS SET UP LAST YEAR TO CO-ORDINATE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHEN THE CENTRALLY-ORGANISED PROGRAMMES.

MR LI PRAISED THE HONG KONG EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR HELP IN IMPROVING AND PROMOTING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

A RECENT SURVEY SUGGESTED EXTENDING THEIR SERVICE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS.

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MORE IMPORTANT ROLE FOR GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATIONS

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GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, WILL HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WHEN DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR RAYMOND WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THEREFORE, KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD CONSIDER STRENGTHENING THEIR COMPOSITION, RECRUIT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE STUDYING OR WORKING AS MEMBERS, AND REDEFINE THEIR DIRECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK," HE NOTED.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATIONS IN THE 1990'S ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS WERE CAPABLE OF ASSISTING PEOPLE FROM THE DIFFERENT STRATA OF SOCIETY IN UNDERSTANDING REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, OBJECTIVELY REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINIONS AND PROVIDING DIVERSIFIED AND NEW SERVICES TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE THEIR OBJECTIVES, COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS WERE CAPABLE OF MEETING THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS, AND WINNING PUBLIC RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT.

"THEREFORE, THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES SHOULD TIE IN WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION. PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TOWNS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WILL BE THE GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS COMING FROM DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS TO STICK TOGETHER, TO BE CONCERNED WITH COMMUNITY MATTERS AND TO BUILD UP THEIR COMMUNITIES," HE NOTED.

IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 1987 REPORT ON REVIEW OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR WONG CONTINUED, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD ASSIST AND SUPPORT MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FOR THE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE DISTRICT OFFICES, APART FROM SETTING UP NEW MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, WOULD STRENGTHEN LIAISON WITH, AND ASSISTANCE FOR, EXISTING COMMITTEES.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE POLICY ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE GRASS-ROOT ORGANISATIONS WITH SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND MORE RESOURCES SO THAT THEY WILL MAKE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS COMMUNITY-BUILDING," MR WONG NOTED.

SPEAKING ON MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES' CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR WONG SAID MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES CULTIVATED A CIVIC SENSE AMONG RESIDENTS AND GROOMED THEM TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 1,000 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ALSO SERVING ON VARIOUS AREA COMMITTEES, AND IN THE 1985 AND 1988 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WERE AREA OR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

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MEDICAL SERVICES ON DB AGENDA
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES AT MA ON SHAN AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (MAY 25).

MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S RATIONALE FOR CONVERTING DOUBLE-SEATED CONSTITUENCIES INTO SINGLE-SEATED ONES IN THE 1991 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

/OTHER AGENDA

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE THE MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND THE PROVISION OF SINGLE-PERSON UNITS IN MEI LAM ESTATE.

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NOTE TO EDITOS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (MAY 25) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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DB TO DISCUSS PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY REPORT

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT ON THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, MR GREGORY LEUNG, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE LATEST POSITION OF THE SHEK O SEWERAGE SCHEME, WHICH HAS BEEN REVISED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS GIVEN BY THE BOARD IN ITS PREVIOUS MEETINGS, WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

A SENIOR OFFICER FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, MR V. MCNALLY, AND A SENIOR ENGINEER FROM THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR Y.W. KAN, WILL PRESENT THE REVISED SCHEME TO MEMBERS.

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1990

- 25 -

DB COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON AMENDMENT ORDINANCE

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1989 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON JUNE 5 TO COMMEMORATE THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS SET OF STAMPS HIGHLIGHTS HONG KONG'S GROWING AWARENESS OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE EFFORTS MADE IN THIS REGARD.

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS: 60-CENT, \$1.40, \$1.80 AND \$5.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR THE ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, AND THE SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE FROM FRIDAY (MAY 25).

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR KEN LI AND PRINTED BY LEIGH-MARDON PTY LTD OF AUSTRALIA.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 70 CENTS EACH.

/ORDERS FOR

ORDERS FOR SERVICED OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS CAN BE PLACED IN ADVANCE AT ANY POST OFFICE BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 31. THE MINIMUM QUANTITY PER ORDER IS FIVE COVERS. CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS SERVICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE PHILATELIC BUREAU DATESTAMP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$11 EACH AT THE DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING POST OFFICES ON JUNE 5:

HONG KONG ISLAND

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON

AIRPORT POST OFFICE
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE
MONG KOK POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TAI PO POST OFFICE
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1990

- 27 -

LABOUR COMMISSIONER VISITS NEW UNIVERSITY SITE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE BUILDING SITE OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SAI KUNG TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE LATEST SAFETY AND LABOUR RELATIONS SITUATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IS DIVIDED INTO THREE MAJOR PHASES, WITH A DONATION OF \$1,600 MILLION BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (RHKJC) TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COST.

THE UNIVERSITY WILL TAKE IN ITS FIRST BATCH OF 700 STUDENTS IN OCTOBER 1991 UPON COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE 2,000 FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SITE, MR HAMMOND WAS GIVEN A GENERAL BRIEFING BY THE PROJECT MANAGER, MR F.G. STOREY, WHO WAS ENGAGED BY THE RHKJC TO MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

MR HAMMOND WAS THEN TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE PROJECT AREAS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE THREE MAIN CONTRACTORS - HIP HING CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD, SUNG FOO KEE LTD AND GAMMON CONSTRUCTION LTD.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE SITE SAFETY COMMITTEE HOLDS MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE RESIDENT ENGINEERS, SENIOR SITE MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY OFFICERS OF THE CONTRACTORS, WITH FACTORY INSPECTORS FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ATTENDING.

HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS AND LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ON THE SITE ARE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY.

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WATER CUT IN SHEUNG WAN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT 107-151 CAINE ROAD (ODD NUMBERS), PO HING FONG, KUI IN FONG, BRIDGES STREET, SHING WONG STREET, HOLLYWOOD ROAD POLICE QUARTERS, WAH IN FONG EAST, WAH IN FONG WEST, PO WAH STREET, WING LEE STREET, U LAM TERRACE, LADDER STREET BETWEEN CAINE ROAD AND BRIDGES STREET, 3-21 CHUNG WO LANE (ODD NUMBERS), ROZARIO STREET, AND 70-90 STAUNTON STREET (EVEN NUMBERS).

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN TUEN MUN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TUEN WUI STREET BETWEEN TUEN SHUN STREET AND TUEN HI ROAD;
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TUEN SHUN STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN WUI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TUEN SHUN STREET BETWEEN TUEN LUNG STREET AND TUEN WUI STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING RESTRICTED ZONES ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TUEN WUI STREET BETWEEN TUEN SHUN STREET AND TUEN HI ROAD AND ON THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TUEN SHUN STREET BETWEEN TUEN LUNG STREET AND TUEN WUI STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE SECTION OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO HING TIN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD D7 AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS AT THESE URBAN CLEARWAYS.

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF TUEN SHUN STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED TAXI URBAN CLEARWAYS 24 HOURS DAILY:

- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN WUI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN WUI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE OF BRIDGE IN TUEN MUN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE WESTBOUND LANE OF THE BRIDGE CONNECTING TSING LUN ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED FOR EIGHT CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS BETWEEN 8 PM AND 5 AM FROM FRIDAY (MAY 25) TO JUNE 1.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIODS, ALL VEHICLES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR SIU HONG COURT, INCLUDING BUSES ON KMB ROUTES 67M AND 67X AND ON LRT FEEDER BUS ROUTE 559, WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ROAD P2, TSUN WEN ROAD, TSING CHUNG KOON ROAD AND TSING LUN ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SIU HONG BOUND BUS STOP ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD OPPOSITE BOWRING CAMP FOR THESE BUS ROUTES WILL BE SUSPENDED.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWUN TONG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CABLES REPAIR WORKS, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF FLYOVERS IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25) TO 5 AM THE NEXT DAY:

- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE FLYOVER LINKING KWUN TONG ROAD AND KAI FUK ROAD; AND
- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE FLYOVER LINKING WAI YIP STREET AND KAI FUK ROAD WESTBOUND.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WAI YIP STREET AND KWUN TONG ROAD HEADING FOR KAI FUK ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KAI CHEUNG ROAD.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN KWUN TONG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE SECTION OF THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF LAM HING STREET IN KWUN TONG FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WANG CHIU ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 37 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE IN TSIM SHA TSUI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE MIDDLE LANE OF THE SECTION OF CHATHAM ROAD NORTH WESTBOUND FROM HUNG HOM INTERCHANGE TO ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, IN TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM FRIDAY (MAY 25) FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT FIVE WEEKS.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION WORK THERE.

VEHICLES ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH HEADING FOR TSIM SHA TSUI AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND, PAK HOI STREET WESTBOUND AND NATHAN ROAD SOUTHBOUND TO TSIM SHA TSUI; OR VIA GASCOIGNE ROAD WESTBOUND, JORDAN ROAD WESTBOUND, COX'S ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND AUSTIN ROAD EASTBOUND TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

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RESCISSION OF PROHIBITION AT PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE CURRENT PROHIBITION IMPOSED AT THE HANG HAU ROAD PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS, IN SAI KUNG, WILL BE CANCELLED.

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SPEED LIMIT ON CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON THE SECTION OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD EASTBOUND, IN SAI KUNG, FROM A POINT ABOUT 750 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY TO A POINT ABOUT 250 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE REDUCED TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN ABERDEEN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 25), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SAI ON STREET IN ABERDEEN BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT THREE METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG SING ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 28 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

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

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