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FIRST STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE AGE OF MAJORITY

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THE FIRST STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S REPORT ON "YOUNG PERSONS - EFFECTS OF AGE IN CIVIL LAW", A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE MAJORITY OF THE REPORT'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE FOR AMENDING LEGISLATION TO BE DRAFTED TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES.

THE EFFECT OF ADOPTING THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS WILL BE IN GENERAL TO REDUCE THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18.

ONCE THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ARE IMPLEMENTED, A PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A VALID WILL AT THE AGE OF 18 INSTEAD OF 21. HE WILL ALSO BE FULLY LIABLE AT LAW FOR CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO ONCE HE BECOMES 18.

CONTRACTS (SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS) CANNOT BE ENFORCED AGAINST A MINOR. THE REDUCTION OF THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18 WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THOSE OVER 18 TO ENTER INTO BINDING CONTRACTS.

OTHER EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE AGE OF MAJORITY INCLUDE THE FACT THAT CUSTODY AND WARDSHIP ORDERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE MADE IN RESPECT OF PERSONS WHO HAVE ATTAINED 18 YEARS OF AGE.

IT IS ALSO INTENDED TO LOWER FROM 21 TO 18 THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY BECOME A COMPANY DIRECTOR.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO ADOPT THE COMMISSION'S VIEW ON THREE MATTERS.

IN ITS REPORT, PUBLISHED IN APRIL 1986, THE COMMISSION FAVOURED REDUCING FROM 21 TO 18 THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY MARRY WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT.

FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT SUCH A CHANGE WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE MAJORITY VIEW AND DECIDED TO LEAVE THE EXISTING RESTRICTION UNALTERED.

ON THE MAXIMUM AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY BE ADOPTED, THE COMMISSION'S REPORT FAVOURED RETAINING THE AGE OF 21 YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT NOW PROPOSES TO REDUCE THAT AGE TO 18 YEARS IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE PACKAGE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL GRANT FULL LEGAL CAPACITY TO A PERSON AT 18 RATHER THAN THE PRESENT AGE OF 21.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ADOPTION WAS APPROPRIATE ONLY IN RESPECT OF MINORS AND IF THE AGE OF MAJORITY WAS NOW TO BE REDUCED TO 18 IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE ANOMALOUS NOT TO DO THE SAME IN RESPECT OF THE AGE OF ADOPTION.

/ONE OTHER .....

ONE OTHER AREA WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ADOPTED THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S APPROACH CONCERNED TRUSTEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

CONTRARY TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT THE AGE RESTRICTIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF SOLE TRUSTEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 18 YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE EXISTING LAW.

EXPLAINING THIS VIEW, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PERSUADED BY THE POINT MADE BY ONE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION THAT A DISTINCTION COULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN A CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH ONE'S OWN PROPERTY OR ESTATE AND BEING PERMITTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPERTY OR ESTATE OF OTHERS, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE INTERESTS OF OTHER YOUNG PERSONS WERE CONCERNED.

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TAC ACCEPTS REPORT ON KMB'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE FINAL REPORT BY ITS SUB-COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1987 -1991) OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB) AT A MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN NOVEMBER 1986 TO STUDY THE FORMULATION AND ASSESSMENT OF KMB'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO ITS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP), FLEET REQUIREMENT, DEPOT PROGRAMME, OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, AND PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME; AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO TAC REGARDING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PLAN.

ON APRIL 21 THIS YEAR, TAC ENDORSED THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S FIRST REPORT WHICH COVERED THE RDP, BUS ACQUISITION AND DEPOT PROGRAMME.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD HELD 10 MEETINGS BEFORE SUBMITTING TO TAC THE FINAL REPORT, WHICH COVERED KMB'S OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT KMB'S PREPARATION OF ITS FIVE-YEAR PLAN WAS GENERALLY IN ORDER BUT FOUND THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF SOME BUS ROUTES WERE NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.

IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE MONITORING OF ROUTING ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE IMPROVED WITH THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

/IN RESPECT .....

IN RESPECT OF THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME, TAC NOTED THE VIEWS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT AND KMB WHICH WERE FULLY DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE TO AIM AT ENCOURAGING BUS COMPANY IMPROVEMENTS IN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF INVESTMENTS, AND AVOID UNJUSTIFIED EXCESSIVE EXPANSION OF CAPITAL ASSETS.

THE THOROUGH STUDY MADE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON KMB'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN HAD GREATLY ASSISTED TAC IN SEEKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES.

TAC ALSO NOTED THE EXISTING POLICY ON THE NUMBER AND SEATING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES (PLB) AND THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF MIDIBUS SERVICES.

IN THEIR REVIEW, THE COMMITTEE HAD LOOKED INTO VARIOUS FACTORS INCLUDING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, IMPACT ON OTHER OPERATORS, AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, IT CONSIDERED THAT ALL VIEWS MUST BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT.

ACCORDINGLY, MEETINGS WITH PLB OPERATORS AND OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES WILL BE ARRANGED SHORTLY AND COMMENTS MADE BY ALL WILL BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BEFORE A FINAL RECOMMENDATION IS MADE.

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION MEETS

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THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE COMPOSITION AND SCHEDULE OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

MEMBERS CONCLUDED THAT THE EXISTING MEMBERSHIP WAS ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE IN FUTURE, SUB-COMMITTEES COULD BE SET UP ENLISTING HELP FROM OTHER EXPERTS IN THE RELEVANT AREAS.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT IT WILL INITIALLY EXAMINE THE NEED FOR LICENSING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION TO ENSURE QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVIDED, AND TO DISCUSS THE CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT OF SURROGACY.

/WHILE THESE .....

WHILE THESE TWO TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 15, 1988, SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, TO BE HELD MONTHLY, WILL EXAMINE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, IN-VITRO FERTILISATION, EGG DONATION, EMBRYO DONATION, EMBRYO RESEARCH AND OTHER ISSUES AS THEY ARISE.

MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE COMMITTEE, THROUGH THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THEIR VIEWS ON THE ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT MORE EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE TECHNIQUES INVOLVED IN SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE.

THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DR LEUNG CHI-HUNG, WAS RECENTLY SET UP TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SOCIAL, MORAL, ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES ARISING FROM LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGNED TO HELP INFERTILE WOMEN TO HAVE BABIES.

MEMBERS INCLUDE MR CHRISTOPHER CHAN, SOLICITOR; MR JIMSON CHAN, SOCIAL WORKER; DR FANNY CHEUNG, LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY; DR CONRAD LAM, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER; MRS PEGGY LAM, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION; DR LAW CHI-LIM, GYNAECOLOGIST; AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH.

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RC SURPLUS BUDGET ADOPTED

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THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1988-89 WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) ADOPTED AT ITS FULL COUNCIL MEETING.

PRESIDED OVER BY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, THE MEETING WAS TOLD THAT ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR 1988-89 WOULD STAND AT $1,631 MILLION WHILE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE WOULD BE IN THE REGION OF $1,253 MILLION, RESULTING IN A BUDGETED SURPLUS OF ABOUT $378 MILLION.

AND THE COUNCIL'S RESERVE WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FURTHER FROM $254 MILLION TO $416 MILLION BY MARCH 31, 1988 AND TO $794 MILLION BY MARCH 31, 1989.

THE BUDGETED REVENUE FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR WOULD COME MAINLY FROM RATES AT ABOUT $1,168 MILLION.

THERE WOULD ALSO BE A GRANT OF $273.6 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT UNDER A NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT.

/THE BALANCE .....

THE BALANCE OF REVENUE WOULD COME FROM INTEREST OR BANK DEPOSITS, FEES AND CHARGES THE COUNCIL COLLECTED IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

EXPENDITURE WOULD MAINLY BE COVERED BY FOUR AREAS. FIRST OF ALL, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES WOULD BE GETTING THE BIGGEST SHARE, ESTIMATED TO BE $572 MILLION OR 45.7 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.

SERVICES IN THIS RESPECT INCLUDE PUBLIC CLEANSING, MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS, CONTROL OF HAWKERS AND MANAGING CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA.

SECOND ON THE LIST WAS THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES AT $422 MILLION, OR 33.6 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL SPENDING PLAN.

THE BUDGETED AMOUNT WOULD BE USED IN MANAGING RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES AND AMENITIES, PROMOTING AND PROVIDING RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES AND PROVIDING CULTURAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS WELL AS MUSEUM SERVICES.

ABOUT $114 MILLION OR 9.1 PER CENT OF THE EXPENDITURE BUDGET, HAD BEEN ALLOTED FOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMMES.

AS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL SUPPORT, SOME $145 MILLION OR 11.6 PER CENT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED FOR THE RUNNING OF DAY-TO-DAY COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT OPERATION.

DURING THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ESTIMATED A SURPLUS OF $162 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, SOME $97 MILLION HIGHER THAN THE ORIGINAL FORECAST.

BY THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR, THE COUNCIL'S TOTAL REVENUE WOULD BE $1,099.9 MILLION WHILE TOTAL EXPENDITURE WOULD BE $937.9 MILLION.

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RC POLICY ON COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP SPELT OUT

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THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S POLICY ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP FOR ITS PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) SPELT OUT AND ADOPTED AT THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETING.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, SPONSORSHIP WOULD ONLY BE ACCEPTED WHEN THE COUNCIL'S IMAGE AS A PUBLIC BODY OF INTEGRITY WAS NOT IN ANY WAY JEOPARDISED BECAUSE OF THE SPONSORSHIP.

IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY, SPONSORSHIP BY COMPANIES WHOSE PRODUCTS INCLUDED TOBACCO PRODUCTS WAS NOT ALLOWED, MEMBERS NOTED.

/IT WAS .....

IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE BACKGROUND, GENERAL REPUTATION AND RESPECTABILITY OF THE DONOR OR SPONSOR SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BEFORE ACCEPTING SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS.

SPONSORSHIP WITH COMMERCIAL OR ADVERTISING CONNOTATIONS WAS ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED IT WAS IN GOOD TASTE, JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE SOCIAL NORMS WHEN PREVAILING.

IN CASE OF DONATION IN KIND, SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF SOUVENIRS AND PRIZES FOR A FUN FAIR BY A TOYS MANUFACTURER, THE COUNCIL RETAINED THE RIGHT TO REMOVE, RESITE OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF THE GIFT.

THESE WERE THE MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF POLICY WHEN THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED A SPONSORSHIP IN CASH OR IN KIND BY COMMERCIAL FIRMS, ORGANISATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS, WHICH MET PART OR THE ENTIRE BUDGET OF CERTAIN EXPENDITURE ITEMS OF AN EVENT, SUCH AS THE PRINTING OF POSTER OR PAYMENT FOR A FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

THE POLICY WOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO POTENTIAL SPONSORS AND TO ORGANISATIONS WHO SOUGHT COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP FOR ACTIVITIES JOINTLY PRESENTED WITH THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

TODAY'S MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

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LIVESTOCK WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE

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LIVESTOCK WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN TOLO HARBOUR AND TOLO CHANNEL AREA (AREA NUMBER 11), TIU YUE WAN (ANGLER'S BEACH) AND ENVIRONS (AREA NUMBER 11A), AND MUI WO ENVIRONS (AREA NUMBER 11B).

THE SERVICE IS PROVIDED FREE BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO ADOPT THE "DRY MUCK-OUT" METHOD IN DISPOSING OF LIVESTOCK WASTES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID THAT "DRY MUCK-OUT" WAS ONE OF THE PRACTICES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL FARMERS AND WAS THE METHOD APPROPRIATE FOR MOST FARMS BECAUSE IT WAS SIMPLE AND CHEAP TO OPERATE.

IT INVOLVES THE REMOVAL OF THE MANURE SOLIDS WHICH ARE THEN PLACED IN BINS. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY HOSING DOWN THE LIVESTOCK SHEDS WITH THE WASTEWATER FLOWING TO A SOAKAWAY.

/THE WASTE .....

THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR. UNDER THIS ORDINANCE, A LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED AREAS AS FROM JUNE 24 NEXT YEAR, AND IN OTHER AREAS AT A LATER DATE, SUBJECT TO THE PASSING OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

TO ASSIST FARMERS IN PREPARING FOR AND COMPLYING WITH THE CONTROL SCHEME, EPD WILL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS TO INDIVIDUAL FARMS.

THE EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE ORDINANCE, LIVESTOCK KEEPING WOULD BE PROHIBITED ENTIRELY IN URBAN AREAS AND IN PARTS OF THE NEW TOWNS AS FROM JUNE 24 NEXT YEAR.

LIVESTOCK FARMERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE COLLECTION SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO DRY MUCK-OUT THE LIVESTOCK WASTES AND PLACE THEM IN COVERED PLASTIC BINS. THE BINS SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO DESIGNATED COLLECTION POINTS WHERE THE WASTES SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE LIVESTOCK WASTE BINS PROVIDED BY EPD.

ENQUIRIES ON THE COLLECTION SERVICE CAN BE DIRECTED TO EPD OFFICER, MR WAI CHO-ON, ON 0-902234..

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WARNING ON ILLEGAL ANIMAL, PLANT IMPORT

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THE PUBLIC WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) ADVISED NOT TO BRING BACK ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS OR PLANTS ON THEIR RETURN FROM TRIPS ABROAD UNLESS THEY HAVE PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR DOING SO.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR M.K. CHEUNG, SAID: "DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, CONTROL MEASURES AT ALL IMMIGRATION POINTS WILL BE STEPPED UP TO CHECK ON TRAVELLERS WHO MAY CONTRAVENE THE LAW BY ILLEGALLY BRINGING IN ANY SUCH SPECIES INCLUDING LIVE AND STUFFED SPECIMENS AS WELL AS PARTS OR DERIVATIVES.

"WE TAKE SUCH OFFENCES SERIOUSLY AND OFFENDERS WILL FACE PROSECUTIONS, HEAVY FINES AND FORFEITURE OF THE SPECIMENS."

SO FAR THIS YEAR, MR CHEUNG SAID, THERE WERE SOME 380 CASES IN BREACH OF THE IMPORTATION RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, INVOLVING LIVE AND STUFFED SPECIMENS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES. THERE WERE 400 CASES IN 1986 AND 300 CASES IN 1985.

"AMONG THE CASES IN RECENT MONTHS, SOME INVOLVED SUCH HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES AS GIANT SALAMANDERS, PANGOLINS AND OWLS.

/THE REMAINDER .....

THE REMAINDER OF THE CASES INVOLVED EAGLES, PARROTS AND STUFFED SPECIMENS OF SEA TURTLES AND CROCODILES," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG REITERATED THAT THE IMPORT, EXPORT AND POSSESSION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ARE STRICTLY RESTRICTED AND LICENCES MUST BE APPLIED FOR AND OBTAINED IN ADVANCE FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

VIOLATION OF THE LAW MAY RESULT IN A MAXIMUM FINE OF $5,000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND $10,000 AND SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE. IN ADDITION, THE SPECIMEN INTERCEPTED WILL BE CONFISCATED, MR CHEUNG WARNED.

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ENROLMENT BEGINS FOR TOURISM COURSE

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TOURISM STAFF ARE BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR A COURSE ON MARKETING SKILLS TO BE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

"THE COURSE ON EFFECTIVE MARKETING SKILLS" WILL COVER TOPICS ON MARKETING CONCEPT OVERVIEW, RESEARCH, PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION, PROFESSIONAL SELLING, PRICING AND DISTRIBUTION AS WELL AS SALES MANAGEMENT.

THE COURSE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 14 AND 15 AND COURSE FEE IS $800.

PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED 80 PER CENT OF THE CLASS MEETINGS WILL BE REIMBURSED HALF OF THE FEE AND AWARDED AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE BY VTC UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS JANUARY 5. FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, CONTACT THE SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING BOARD ON 5-8932341 EXT. 282.

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POSTER DESIGNS INVITED FOR COURTESY CAMPAIGN

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RESIDENTS OF NORTH DISTRICT WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEIR TALENTS AND HELP PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION BY JOINING A POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION FOR A COURTESY CAMPAIGN.

ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, THE COURTESY CAMPAIGN IS AIMED AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO BE CONSIDERATE AND COURTEOUS, AND TO OBSERVE RULES WHEN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ESCALATORS.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING RAILWAY STATIONS IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

A PUBLICITY TEAM OF ABOUT 50 PEOPLE FROM SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS WILL BE FORMED TO GIVE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE AT THE TWO STATIONS.

ENTRIES TO THE POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION SHOULD INCLUDE A SLOGAN WRITTEN IN CHINESE TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE OF COURTESY. THREE BEST ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED AND AWARDED PRIZES.

ENTRY FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 31, 1987.

ENQUIRIES ON THE COMPETITION CAN BE MADE ON 0-901358.

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WORK ON HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION PHASE II SOON

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WORK TO RECLAIM 26.5 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AT HUNG HOM BAY FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES WILL COMMENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR AFTER THE HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION - PHASE II WAS APPROVED, WITH MODIFICATION, BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

RECLAMATION WILL START NEXT MARCH OR APRIL TO PROVIDE 23.2 HECTARES OF LAND FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT; GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES; OPEN SPACE AND REPROVISIONING OF THE EXISTING HUNG HOM FERRY PIERS AND FERRY CONCOURSE.

THE BALANCE OF 3.3 HECTARES WILL BE USED FOR SEAWALL AND PIER FOUNDATION.

THE WORK, WHICH WILL BE LET BY TENDER SHORTLY AND SUPERVISED BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT FIVE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

/THE EXTENT .....

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE DECEMBER 17, 1988.

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SALT WATER INTAKE PIPELINE FOR CHAI WAN

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SALT WATER INTAKE PIPELINE MEASURING ABOUT 150 METRES WILL BE LAID IN CHAI WAN TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS AND SATISFACTORY SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER TO THE AREA.

THE INTAKE PIPELINE, MEASURING ABOUT 900 MILLIMETRES IN DIAMETER, WILL BE INSTALLED UNDERWATER FROM THE EXISTING CHAI WAN SALT WATER PUMPING STATION TO A NEW SEAWALL TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER SEPARATE SITE FORMATION CONTRACT AT SIU CHAI WAN.

WITH THE LAYING OF THE SALT WATER INTAKE PIPELINE, THE OPERATION OF THE EXISTING SALT WATER PUMPING STATION WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE SITE FORMATION WORK.

THE LAYING WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS.

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT. THE DEADLINE IS NOON ON JANUARY 8, NEXT YEAR.

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BUS ROUTE ON TUEN MUN COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO RE-ROUTE BUS NO. 67M FROM SIU HONG COURT TO WALDORF GARDEN VIA TUEN MUN ROAD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN PRIME VIEW GARDEN; SAFETY PROBLEM OF WONG CHU ROAD BRIDGE; TRAFFIC FACILITIES AT THE SECTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD NEAR TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA, AND NIGHT-TIME PARKING SPACES FOR COACHES AND LORRIES IN TUEN MUN.

/THE REPORT .....

THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND REPORT ON TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN AREAS 9 AND 12 (INDUSTRIAL AREAS) WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO.1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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KWUN TONG DB MEMBERS TO SING CAROLS

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SENIOR RESIDENTS AND THE DISABLED IN KWUN TONG WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY CHRISTMAS CAROLS SUNG BY MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD DURING A GOODWILL VISIT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS WILL VISIT FOUR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS, NAMELY, PO LEUNG KUK LOK WAH SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG - KWUN TONG SHELTERED WORKSHOP, HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE SHUN LEE HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY, AND THE SALVATION ARMY YAU TONG HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY.

/THEY WILL .....

THEY WILL ALSO DISTRIBUTE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS TO RESIDENTS OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE VISIT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN ROOM 105, KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE IN TUNG YAN STREET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 2 PM. INFORMATION OFFICER, MISS IRENE LAU, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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STAMPS FOR YEAR OF DRAGON

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STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE DRAGON WILL BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 27, 1988, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS IS THE SECOND SERIES OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES WHICH COMMENCED IN 1987 WITH THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT.

THE ISSUE COMPRISES FOUR DENOMINATIONS (THAT IS 50 CENTS, $1.30, $1.70 AND $5) AND THE DESIGN FEATURES VARIOUS POSTURES OF THE DRAGON IN AN EMBROIDERY STYLE.

A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING A SET OF THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AT $8.50 EACH.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR KAN TAI-KEUNG AND WERE PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA BY CPE AUSTRALIA LTD.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AT 50 CENTS EACH WILL BE PLACED ON SALE ON JANUARY 13, 1988. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE DATE OF ISSUE.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY (DECEMBER 25), BUT WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 26.

THE EIGHT CLINICS WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KENNEDY TOWN

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN KENNEDY TOWN FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 25) FOR ROAD WORKS.

KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SAI CHEUNG STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, AND THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HOLLAND STREET WILL BE MADE DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES ROUND THE CLOCK.

MEANWHILE, SAI CHEUNG STREET, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BELCHER'S STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 7 AND 15, AND THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BELCHER'S STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 14 AND 16, WILL BECOME 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES. SAI CHEUNG STREET WILL ALSO BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, BUS TERMINAL FOR CMB ROUTE NO. 77 WILL BE RESITED TO SAI CHEUNG STREET. CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES NO. 105 AND 113 ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO SANDS STREET WILL TRAVEL VIA SAI CHEUNG STREET AND KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA TO REJOIN SANDS STREET.

THE PARKING METERS ON SAI CHEUNG STREET AND HOLLAND STREET WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM THE SAME TIME:

* HOLLAND STREET WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A CUL-DE-SAC;

* ACCESS TO HOLLAND STREET WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED FROM KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA; AND

* GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 23 BOUND FOR HOLLAND STREET WILL TRAVEL VIA BELCHER'S STREET EASTBOUND, SAI CHEUNG STREET AND KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA WESTBOUND.

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DTC LICENCE REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF STEPHIL FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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