



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1985

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NEW DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL APPOINTED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF SIR MARK HEATH AS DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, IN SUCCESSION TO SIR JOHN CURLE WHO IS RETIRING IN JUNE.

SIR MARK HEATH, KCVO, CMG, AGED 58, IS A MEMBER OF HER MAJESTY'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. HE FIRST JOINED THE (THEN) FOREIGN OFFICE IN 1950 AND HAS SINCE SERVED IN VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC POSTS, INCLUDING JAKARTA, COPENHAGEN, SOFIA, OTTAWA, AND OECD (PARIS). SINCE 1982, HE HAS BEEN HM AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE.

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SALE OF STANLEY SITE FURTHER POSTPONED
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THE SALE OF A SITE AT STANLEY MARKET ROAD ON WHICH AN OLD BANYAN TREE IS PERCHED HAS BEEN FURTHER DEFERRED.

THE 570-SQUARE METRE SITE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR AUCTION ON MARCH 1, BUT THE SALE WAS POSTPONED TO APRIL 18 FOR FURTHER STUDIES BECAUSE OF CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OVER THE FATE OF THE BANYAN TREE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID THE SECOND POSTPONEMENT WAS REQUIRED TO ALLOW TIME FOR A DETAILED RE-PLANNING STUDY. THE STUDY WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER, AND IF SO TO WHAT EXTENT, THE SITE COULD BE COMMERCIALY DEVELOPED WITHOUT FELLING THE BANYAN TREE. OTHER POSSIBLE USES OF THE SITE WOULD ALSO BE EXAMINED.

+RELEVANT ASPECTS WHICH WILL ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCLUDE THE PRESENT HEALTH OF THE TREE, THE PLANNED WIDENING OF STANLEY MARKET ROAD, THE LIKELY TIMING OF THIS IMPROVEMENT, AND DEMAND FROM DEVELOPERS FOR THIS TYPE OF SITE,+ HE SAID.

A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE ON CONCLUSION OF THE DETAILED STUDY.

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PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING PROJECT AWARDED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED THE FIRST PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL LOT IN MA ON SHAN, SHATIN, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME TO HOUSE A POPULATION OF 15 000.

THE 7.3 HECTARE SITE AT SCENIC TAI SHUI HANG VALLEY WAS AWARDED TO WILLOWGARTH COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$300 300 300.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDER THE SCHEME, WHICH IS THE LARGEST IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPRISE A TOTAL OF 3 960 UNITS IN 17 BLOCKS.

THE AWARD CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, SHA TIN, MR EDMUND FUNG AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY, MR CHOW YEI-CHING.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID OF THE TENDERS RECEIVED, THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY WILLOWGARTH WERE CONSIDERED THE BEST IN DESIGN TERMS BY THE SPECIAL TENDER BOARD AND THAT THE PREMIUM TENDERED WAS COMPETITIVE.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE SALES CONDITIONS, THE DEVELOPER WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WITH A MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 212 000 SQUARE METRES AS WELL AS ANCILLARY COMMERCIAL SPACE NOT EXCEEDING 4 500 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE WOULD INCLUDE A KINDERGARTEN WITH 13 CLASSROOMS, A NURSERY WITH AT LEAST 75 PLACES, A POLICE REPORTING CENTRE, A BUS TERMINUS, A MARKET AND A COVERED GAMES AREA, HE SAID.

THE SALEABLE AREAS OF THE UNITS RANGE FROM 39.7 SQUARE METRES TO 55 SQUARE METRES.

PHASE 1 OF THE DEVELOPMENT, COMPRISING 10 RESIDENTIAL TOWERS WITH 2 025 UNITS AND A COMMERCIAL CENTRE, IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN AUGUST 1987, WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHEME WILL BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER, 1988.

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INVESTIGATION INTO PERAK PIONEER LIMITED

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS APPOINTED INSPECTORS UNDER THE TERMS OF SECTION 143(1) (C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF PERAK PIONEER LIMITED AND REPORT TO HIM THEREON.

THE INSPECTORS APPOINTED ARE MR WILLIAM WAUNG, BARRISTER-AT-LAW= AND MR PAUL FREDERICK MARTEN SHEWEL, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, OF MESSRS COOPERS AND LYBRAND, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

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SECRETARY NAMED FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL

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A YOUNG LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IS TO TAKE OVER THE POST OF SECRETARY TO THE NEWLY FORMED PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

MRS PAMELA TAN, A BRITISH UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR PETER PELHAM ON APRIL 15.

SHE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1977 AS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEALING WITH LABOUR AND REHABILITATION MATTERS IN THE FORMER SOCIAL SERVICE BRANCH WHERE SHE SERVED FOR TWO YEARS. SHE WAS NEXT POSTED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BEFORE RETURNING TWO YEARS LATER TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AS FINANCE OFFICER IN THE FINANCE BRANCH.

MRS TAN, 29, SEES HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS SETTING UP THE SECRETARIAT TO SERVICE THE PRC WHICH WILL ADVISE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN APRIL 1986 AS AN INDEPENDENT BODY WITH STATUTORY FUNCTIONS AND FINANCIAL AUTONOMY.

+MY IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO GET THE PRC UNDERWAY AND IN PARTICULAR TO ASSIST IN DEVISING ITS INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND OPERATION. I HAVE TO SEE TO IT THAT THE PRC HAS THE MEANS TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS PROPERLY AS LAID DOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE,+ MRS TAN SAID.

DEPARTING SECRETARY MR PELHAM SAID DURING HIS SIX-MONTH TERM WITH THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL, HE HAD HELPED IN FORMULATING STANDING ORDERS OF THE PRC, ITS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, THE PLANNING AND PROVISIONING OF THE PRC'S CONFERENCE FACILITY, INTERPRETATION SERVICE AND OTHER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT SERVICES.

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BOARD TO HOLD FIRST MEETING
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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 3 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

THE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR CARRYING OUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, AND THE REVISION OF GUIDELINES ON VETTING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE WORK OF THE ICAC AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THERE WILL BE A CLOSED SESSION AT 2 PM DURING WHICH THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE ELECTED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 16TH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

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PLANTING SCHEME DRAWS OVER 3 000 PARTICIPANTS

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SOME 3 000 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE 1985 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BY PLANTING TREES AT SELECTED SITES IN SIX OF THE COUNTRY PARKS DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR K.C. IU SAID MORE THAN 3 600 TREES WERE PLANTED DURING THE FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD, BRINGING TO 4 500 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED SINCE THE SCHEME STARTED ON MARCH 29.

MR IU SAID APART FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ORGANISED GROUPS INCLUDING STUDENTS, SCOUTS, COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE +CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+ ALSO TOOK PART.

HE SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME WOULD END ON SUNDAY (APRIL 14) WHEN AT LEAST 2 000 YOUNG PEOPLE, MOSTLY STUDENTS FROM ORGANISED GROUPS, WERE EXPECTED TO TURN UP AT THE SIX DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS TO PLANT TREES.

HE ALSO REMINDED +CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+ PARTICIPANTS, WHO HAD NOT YET PLANTED TREES AS A REQUIREMENT FOR COMPLETING STAGE TWO OF THE SCHEME, TO DO SO ON SUNDAY.

TREE SEEDLINGS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FOR PLANTING AT SELECTED SITES AT TWISK, TAI MO SHAN; BRIDE'S POOL IN TAI PO; QUARRY BAY AND POK FU LAM ON HONG KONG ISLAND; NAM SHAN ON LANTAU AND PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG.

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TENDER FOR AP LEI CHAU HOUSING PROJECT APPROVED

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A LARGE TENDER WORTH OVER \$206 MILLION HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR MORE BLOCKS IN LEI TUNG ESTATE ON AP LEI CHAU TO HOUSE ANOTHER 15 000 PEOPLE.

+CONSTRUCTION WORKS WILL SOON BEGIN ON THE FOUR 35/38-STOREY TRIDENT BLOCKS UNDER THE SECOND PHASE OF THE HOUSING PROJECT,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THESE BLOCKS WERE READY BY 1987, THEY WOULD PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 3 248 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 15 000 PEOPLE.

/+THE BUILDING

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+THE BUILDING TENDER ALSO COVERS A PRIMARY SCHOOL, A SEVEN-STOREY COMMERCIAL AND CARPARK BLOCK AS WELL AS OTHER ASSOCIATED SERVICES AND EXTERNAL WORKS.

+LEI TUNG ESTATE IS BEING DEVELOPED IN THREE PHASES AND IS THE SECOND PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON AP LEI CHAU.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CONSTRUCTION WORKS WERE NOW UNDERWAY ON FOUR TRIDENT BLOCKS WITH 4 020 FLATS FOR 15 000 PEOPLE UNDER ITS FIRST PHASE.

+UPON FULL COMPLETION BY 1988, LEI TUNG ESTATE WILL BECOME A SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY WITH EIGHT RENTAL AND SEVEN HOME OWNERSHIP BLOCKS FOR 37 000 PEOPLE.+

THE TENDER WAS ACCEPTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE AT ITS LAST MEETING.

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ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING SCHEME OFFERED

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THE ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING BOARD INVITES EMPLOYERS TO JOIN THE ACCOUNTANCY TRAINEESHIP SCHEME BY OFFERING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING TO YOUNG EMPLOYEES WITH FORM 5 EDUCATION LEVEL.

THE SCHEME, IMPLEMENTED LAST YEAR BY THE ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, AIMS AT INTRODUCING ORGANISED TRAINING TO THE ACCOUNTING SECTOR.

+THE SCHEME INVOLVES THREE-YEAR PRACTICAL TRAINING AND TWO-YEAR COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES ON PART-TIME DAY RELEASE BASIS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST YEAR ACCOUNTING COURSE AT THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, TRAINEES WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM LEVEL I OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS.

TO JOIN THE SCHEME, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND HAVE IT REGISTERED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

EMPLOYERS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE COUNCIL TO RECRUIT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION.

FURTHER ENQUIRES ON THE SCHEME CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD ON 5-8932341 EXT. 259.

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NEW PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE FOR TUEN MUN

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A NEW PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICES CENTRE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO SERVE RESIDENTS AND VILLAGES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF TUEN MUN.

LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR IN SIU HONG COURT COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES AS HANDLING OF ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS, ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, DISTRIBUTING GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS, AND REFERRAL OF CLIENTS WHO REQUIRE FREE LEGAL ADVICE.

THE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN FROM 8.45 AM TO 1 PM IN THE MORNING, AND FROM 2 PM TO 5.15 PM IN THE AFTERNOON, FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS= AND FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS. THE CENTRE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 0-851925.

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ROAD CLOSED FOR FOOTBRIDGE WORK

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ELECTRIC ROAD BETWEEN BOAT STREET AND FUK YUEN STREET IN NORTH POINT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY (APRIL 12) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WORK ON A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, ELECTRIC ROAD BETWEEN FUK YUEN STREET AND POWER STREET WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS, WHILE POWER STREET WILL BECOME ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND. ALL VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT FROM OIL STREET INTO KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND, WHERE THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE SECTION BETWEEN OIL STREET AND POWER STREET.

VEHICLES HEADING FOR CITY GARDEN SHOULD PROCEED VIA OIL STREET, KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND, POWER STREET AND ELECTRIC ROAD. THOSE HEADING FOR FORTRESS HILL ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA OIL STREET, KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND, NORTH POINT ROAD, JAVA ROAD, TONG SHUI ROAD AND KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND.

THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE REPEATED FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (APRIL 13) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 12), ROAD P3 EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND ALL ITS SLIP ROADS LEADING TO TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONES.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, MOTORISTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS.

FROM THE SAME DAY AND TIME, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD OUTSIDE JAT MIN CHUEN, SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 57.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 336.032 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 418.087 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 71.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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URBCO OPENS DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES TO PUBLIC
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS OPENING UP ITS DOORS ON ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE MORE OPEN FORM OF GOVERNMENT NOW EVOLVING IN HONG KONG, SAID ITS CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MONTHLY MEETING TODAY.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT IN FUTURE THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD, AFTER COMPLETING ITS ROUTINE BUSINESS OF A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AND RESOLVING NECESSARY ALTERATIONS TO VARIOUS BY-LAWS IN OPEN MEETING, FORMALLY GO INTO COMMITTEE IN PUBLIC, TOO.

+WHAT WE WILL BE GOING ON TO DISCUSS, THEREFORE, IS SOME OF THE DAY-TO-DAY SUBJECTS THAT ARE NORMALLY THRASHED OUT AND DECIDED AT THE FORTNIGHTLY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

+BECAUSE THE COUNCIL PUTS GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE DOING RATHER THAN THE SAYING, IT HAS IN THE PAST MADE A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS AT THESE MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE HELD HERE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - NOT THAT ANY GREAT SECRETS WERE BEING DISCUSSED, RATHER SO THAT THE COUNCIL COULD PUSH AHEAD AS SWIFTLY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE WITH OUR MANY RESPONSIBILITIES,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL NOW HAS 12 SELECT COMMITTEES, NINE SUB-COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS OTHER BOARDS, WORKING PARTIES AND ADVISORY PANELS THAT ARE MEETING AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH IF NOT MORE OFTEN.

AND NEVER A WORKING DAY PASSES WITHOUT THE URBAN COUNCIL BEING INVOLVED IN IMPORTANT MEETINGS COVERING THE MULTIPLICITY OF CIVIC DUTIES IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR, HE ADDED.

+TODAY, HOWEVER, WE ARE LIVING IN A MORE -- SHALL I SAY -- POLITICAL CLIMATE. THE MAN IN THE STREET WANTS TO KNOW MORE AND MORE ABOUT THE MATTERS WHICH AFFECT HIS DAY TO DAY DOINGS, AND TO BE SURE THAT HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UPKEEP OF THIS GREAT CITY OF OURS IS BEING SPENT WISELY AND JUDICIOUSLY,+ MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

+THE COUNCIL, IN RESPONSE TO THIS DEVELOPING TREND, IS GLAD TO BRING OUT INTO THE OPEN THE, SHALL I SAY, NUTS AND BOLTS OF ADMINISTERING URBAN HONG KONG AND PROVIDING NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL SERVICES BUT ALSO -- ON A CULTURAL AND SPORTING FRONT -- THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE TO OUR 4.5 MILLION URBAN DWELLERS.+

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URBCO MEETS UNDER A NEW FORMAT
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ONLY A FEW WORKING DAYS AFTER BECOMING THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM THIS AFTERNOON FOUND HIMSELF IN CENTRE-STAGE AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETING.

THE COUNCIL WAS MEETING UNDER A NEW FORMAT, AND WENT INTO COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH FOUR IMPORTANT ITEMS NORMALLY DEALT WITH BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

MR CHUI JOINED THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, ON THE ROSTRUM -- AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOUND HIMSELF BEING ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION.

THE QUESTIONS COVERED SUCH POINTS AS THE NECESSITY FOR EXPENSIVE WORK ON UNDERGROUND DUCTS AT LEI CHENG UK SWIMMING POOL (TO ENABLE MODERN MAINTENANCE METHODS TO BE USED IN THEIR OVERHAUL) WHETHER IT WOULD BE CHEAPER FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONTRACT OUT ITS OWN MAINTENANCE WORK RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT (ON PAST EXPERIENCE, NO, BUT IT WOULD BE CLOSELY RE-EXAMINED) WHY A BEACH BUILDING AT STANLEY MAIN BEACH WAS TO BE DEMOLISHED AND REBUILT (IT IS USED EXTENSIVELY, AND HAS BEGUN TO DETERIORATE AND CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A SAFETY HAZARD) WHY THE COUNCIL SHOULD PAY HAWKERS' WATER BILLS AT A TEMPORARY MARKET IN CHAI WAN (THE HAWKERS WERE TO HAVE BEEN MOVED LATE LAST YEAR TO A PERMANENT MARKET, BUT THIS HAS BEEN DELAYED IN THE MEANTIME THE COUNCIL MUST HONOUR ITS PROMISE TO PAY THE WATER BILLS) WHY ARE SOME PROJECTS DELAYED (BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WITH CONTRACTORS, WHO THEMSELVES SOMETIMES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE WEATHER) WHY THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT LIAISE WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION PLANS (IT ALREADY DOES SO NEVERTHELESS A CRITICAL REVIEW IS NOW IN TRAIN).

NOT SURPRISINGLY, MR CHUI WAS WARMLY THANKED BY MR CHEONG-LEEN FOR HIS FRANK AND INFORMATIVE ANSWERS AFTER THE FOUR PAPERS HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED AND ULTIMATELY AGREED BY THE MEETING.

DURING HIS QUESTION-AND-ANSWER +GRILLING,+ MR CHUI MADE THE POINT SEVERAL TIMES THAT IN EVERYTHING IT DID, THE DEPARTMENT WAS HIGHLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO PLACE EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY FIRST, WHILE GETTING ON WITH THE JOB OF PROVIDING DAY-TO-DAY SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF URBAN HONG KONG.

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 1985-86 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR.

THE DECISION WAS REACHED AFTER DISCUSSIONS BY MEMBERS DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING TODAY.

THE TOTAL COST FOR THIS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE IS ESTIMATED AT \$22 MILLION.

SOME OF THE MAJOR WORKS INCLUDED ARE THE RENEWAL OF WATER PIPES AT VICTORIA PARK, THE RESURFACING OF THE CONCOURSE AND PARKING AREAS IN WHITFIELD DEPOT, THE RENEWAL OF FLOODLIGHTS OVER THE MAIN POOL AND THE ROOF OF THE PLANT ROOM IN MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL, THE CONSTRUCTION OF FURTHER DUCTING FOR UNDERGROUND WATER PIPES IN LEI CHENG UK SWIMMING POOL, THE RESURFACING OF A NUMBER OF TENNIS COURTS, AND THE RENEWAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SOME FLOODLIGHTING POLES AND FITTINGS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE URBAN AREAS.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO CLEAN UP CARGO AREAS

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THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS CALLED ON THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE TO USE THE REVENUE RAISED FROM PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS TO FUND BETTER CLEANSING SERVICES THERE.

DR RONALD LEUNG, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, TOLD THE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY THAT LANDS FENCED OFF AS PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ARE +RESTRICTED AREAS+ AND ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS MADE CLEAR AT THE CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 16 THIS YEAR AT WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SHUM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WAS PRESENT, HE SAID.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES OF VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED IN DETAIL OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE, DR LEUNG ADDED.

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BLITZ ON FOOD OPERATORS IN OPEN SPACES

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN OUT 225 PROSECUTIONS DURING THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AGAINST FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS USING PAVEMENTS OR OPEN SPACES OUTSIDE THEIR PREMISES FOR THE PREPARATION OR STORAGE OF OPEN FOOD.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR TONG KAM-BIU AT THE URBAN COUNCIL OPEN MEETING TODAY, MR WALTER SULKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, WARNED THAT SUCH A MALPRACTICE CONSTITUTED AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EXISTING FOOD BUSINESS BY-LAWS.

+THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THIS OFFENCE IS A FINE OF \$2 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

+DISTRICT HEALTH INSPECTORS PAY REGULAR INSPECTIONS TO ALL FOOD PREMISES AND TAKE OUT PROSECUTIONS WHEN THESE AND OTHER BREACHES OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS ARE NOTICED.+

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FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS ON VACANT SITES ARE ILLEGAL

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COOKED FOOD STALLS OR EATING ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING ON PRIVATE LAND OR VACANT BUILDING SITES ARE ILLEGAL.

THIS WAS STATED BY MR WALTER SULKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR TONG KAM-BIU AT THE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

MR SULKE SAID: +LOCATED AS THEY ARE ON PRIVATE LAND, THEY CANNOT BE LICENSED AS HAWKERS. NEITHER CAN THEY BE LICENSED AS FOOD BUSINESSES AS THEY CANNOT POSSIBLY MEET THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

+SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS ARE ILLEGAL AND ARE SUBJECT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION.+

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ROOF OVER JADE HAWKER BAZAAR BEING CONSIDERED
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THE URBAN COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING THE REQUEST BY THE JADE HAWKERS TO PUT UP A ROOF OVER THE JADE HAWKER BAZAAR AT RECLAMATION STREET AND KANSU STREET, SAID MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT, CHAIRPERSON OF THE MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR KWAN LIM-HO AT TODAY'S URBAN COUNCIL MEETING, MRS ELLIOTT SAID DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD BETWEEN THE JADE HAWKERS, THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS TO THE BEST MEANS OF PROVIDING THE ROOF, WHICH HAS TO COMPLY WITH ALL BUILDING AND SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING THE HAWKERS TO ERECT THE ROOF THEMSELVES IS BUT ONE OF THE OPTIONS BEING EXAMINED,+ SHE SAID.

+ONCE A PROPOSAL IS FINALISED, A SUBMISSION WILL BE MADE TO THE MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.+

EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL'S POLICY, MRS ELLIOTT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ROOFS ARE GENERALLY NOT PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL FOR HAWKER PITCHES, HAWKERS MAY BE PERMITTED TO ERECT SHADES AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

BUT THE COUNCIL MAY PROVIDE ROOFS IN THOSE HAWKER BAZAARS WHICH HAVE A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF MORE THAN 12 MONTHS, SHE ADDED.

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URBCO TO PAY WATER CHARGES FOR BAZAAR
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THE URBAN COUNCIL, AT ITS MONTHLY OPEN MEETING TODAY, AGREED TO PAY THE CHARGES FOR WATER CONSUMED BY HAWKERS AT THE CHAI WAN TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD BAZAAR.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL, A TEMPORARY COOKED FOOD BAZAAR WAS BUILT AT WAN TSUI ROAD, CHAI WAN, IN SEPTEMBER 1983 TO ACCOMMODATE 11 LICENSED COOKED FOOD STALLS FORMERLY OPERATING IN THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN BLOCKS 18 AND 20 OF THE CHAI WAN HOUSING ESTATE.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED THAT THE WATER CHARGES BE SETTLED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL BECAUSE THE CHAI WAN COOKED FOOD BAZAAR WAS ONLY TEMPORARY IN STATUS. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE BAZAAR WOULD BE DEMOLISHED BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST NEXT YEAR, IT WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICAL FOR THE HAWKERS TO INSTALL THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL WATER METERS AND INTERNAL PIPING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE WATER CHARGES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN OCTOBER 1983 AND NOVEMBER 1984 TOTALLED \$42 130.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1985

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KOWLOON HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME APPROVED
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AT ITS MONTHLY OPEN MEETING TODAY, THE URBAN COUNCIL APPROVED THE ALLOCATION OF \$840 000 TO FINANCE THE TWO-YEAR KOWLOON HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR 1985-87.

THE MONEY WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE COUNCIL'S MINOR PROJECTS BLOCK VOTE, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL.

UNDER THE 1985-87 PROGRAMME, SOME 45 200 PLANTS WILL BE PLANTED AT 14 SITES IN KOWLOON, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 11 PER CENT OVER THE 1983-85 FIGURE.

THESE SITES ARE LOCATED IN YAU MA TEI, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN AND KWUN TONG.

IN ADDITION TO THE PLANTING PROGRAMME AT THE 14 SITES, CONCRETE OR FIBRE-GLASS PLANTERS OF VARIOUS SIZES OR DESIGNS WOULD ALSO BE PLACED AT SUITABLE LOCATIONS TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME IN KOWLOON WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1979. UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS ARE PLANTED ALONG CENTRAL ROAD DIVIDERS, ROADSIDE VERGES OR BENEATH FLYOVERS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS WORK IS BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT WITH THE INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF LAND CREATED BY MAJOR HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENTS, HE ADDED.

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LIBRARY DESIGNATED IN SAU MAU PING
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AT ITS OPEN MEETING TODAY, THE URBAN COUNCIL APPROVED THE DESIGNATION OF UNITS NO. 104-109 ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SAU MING HOUSE IN SAU MAU PING ESTATE AS A LIBRARY.

COVERING AN AREA OF SOME 260 SQUARE METRES, IT WILL PROVIDE A BASIC STOCK OF ABOUT 22 000 BOOKS INCLUDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF REFERENCE MATERIALS.

THERE WILL BE LENDING LIBRARIES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN, A NEWSPAPER/PERIODICAL READING SECTION AND SPACE FOR FUTURE LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.

FITTING-OUT WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

AT PRESENT, SAU MAU PING IS SERVED BY REGULAR A MOBILE LIBRARY VAN AND A DISTRICT LIBRARY IN KWUN TONG.

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