



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONFRONTATION A THREAT TO AUTONOMY

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THE AUTONOMY PROMISED BY CHINA COULD BE IN JEOPARDY IF HONG KONG SHOWS ITSELF UNWORTHY BY PUTTING ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PEACE AND STABILITY AT RISK, THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE SUCCESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION DEPENDS ON A FOSTERING OF TRUST AND RESPECT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND CHINA,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

MRS CHOW WAS SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SHE DISPUTED THE CONTENTION THAT DEMOCRACY COULD ACT AS A BUFFER AGAINST COMMUNISM AND CRITICISED ADVOCATES OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST COMMUNISM FOR KNOWINGLY PITCHING HONG KONG AGAINST CHINA, AND ASSUMING CONFRONTATION AS A NECESSARY TACTIC.

+EVERY DAY THE SEED OF DOUBT AND SUSPICION IS CAST ON THE GOVERNMENT, ON CHINA, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAPPEN TO DISAGREE WITH THE PUSH FOR CHANGE,+ SAID MRS CHOW.

+THE PREVAILING DISTRUST CONSUMES MUCH OF THE ENERGY AND POSITIVE THINKING WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CHANNELLED INTO ENTERPRISE AND PRODUCTIVITY.

+WE ARE BEING LED TO ERODE OUR OWN RAISON D'ETRE,+ SHE ADDED.

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE COUNCIL YESTERDAY ABOUT THE MANY PROFESSIONALS LEAVING HONG KONG FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE OVERSEAS, MRS CHOW SAID THAT THEY DID SO BECAUSE THEY WERE MORE WORRIED THAT INTERNAL INSTABILITY WOULD SET IN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS SHOULD CONFRONTATION IN LOCAL POLITICS WOULD BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

+UNLIKE MR MARTIN LEE, THEY DO NOT SEE DIRECT ELECTION AS THE PANACEA. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY SEE THIS AS A THREAT TO THE VALUES THAT UNDERLINE THE UNIQUE HONG KONG SYSTEM, WHICH MAY BE UNDEMOCRATIC, BUT CERTAINLY POSSESSES THE RARE COMBINATION OF FREEDOM AND EFFICIENCY.

+HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS PRIDED ITSELF AS THE MOST PRAGMATIC OF SOCIETIES, COMING TO DECISION QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, WHILE CARRYING FOR THE MOST PART THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

+WE HAVE RISEN ABOVE THE SOUND AND FURY WHICH TEND TO CHARACTERISE FOREIGN PARLIAMENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME MANAGE TO GET THE JOB DONE,+ SHE SAID.

/REFERRING TO

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REFERRING TO THE COMMENT +GOVERNMENT OF THE RICH, FOR THE RICH, AND BY THE RICH+, MRS CHOW SAID THAT TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE HAVES AND HAVE NOTS AT THIS TIME WAS TO STRIKE AT THE VERY HEART OF HONG KONG.

+SUCH POLITICAL RHETORIC IS TO SAY THE LEAST IRRESPONSIBLE, UNFAIR, ILLOGICAL AND DIVISIVE AND RUNS THE RISK OF INCITING CLASS WAR,+ SHE SAID.

+WHATEVER OUR POLITICAL PERSUASIONS REGARDING THE FORM OF ELECTION, WE OWE IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS HONESTLY AND FEARLESSLY, SO THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO CHOOSE THE OPTION THEY PREFER RATIONALLY, INTELLIGENTLY AND WISELY,+ SHE SAID.

TURNING TO HOUSING, MRS CHOW WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING ITS PRODUCTION PROGRAMMES AND WOULD FORMULATE LONG-TERM STRATEGIES FOR THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

SHE REMINDED THE GOVERNMENT THAT A WAITING LIST OF 170 000 WAS UNACCEPTABLY HEAVY AND THAT TO BUILD AT A RATE TO MEET ALL OUTSTANDING DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING BY THE MID-1990'S WAS FAR TOO SLOW.

+IT APPEARS THAT BOTH THE RATIO AND AMOUNT OF FLATS SET ASIDE FOR WAITING LIST APPLICANTS SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED INTO A FAIRER DEAL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PATIENTLY WAITED IN THE QUEUE,+ SHE SAID.

SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME REQUIRED CLOSE SCRUTINY IN THE REVIEW, SAYING THAT THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE THE LINE NEEDED TO BE CAREFULLY DRAWN TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPLEMENTING AND NOT COMPETING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+THE RIGHT FORMULA OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR COULD MEAN QUICKER RELIEF TO THE PRESSURE ON THE HOUSING PROBLEM AS A WHOLE,+ SHE SAID.

TO FURTHER REDUCE THE LONG WAITING LIST, MRS CHOW SUGGESTED THAT HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS SHOULD BE USED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF OFFERING A HIGHER QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATION TO THOSE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WHO WERE LOOKING FOR SUCH UPGRADING.

SHE ADDED THAT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEMES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING TERMINATING THE TENANCY OF ALL THOSE TENANTS WITH THE MEANS TO BUY A HOME.

MRS CHOW ALSO SAID THAT TAX INCENTIVES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASERS BELOW A CERTAIN INCOME LEVEL.

/THIS WOULD

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THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR OUTPUT, RELEASE CURRENT HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS TAKEN BY THOSE WHITE FORM AND GREEN FORM APPLICANTS AND HELP THE SANDWICH SOCIETY.

ON EDUCATION, MRS CHOW APPLAUDED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE ABOLITION OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA).

+THE AMAZING CONSENSUS OF 70 SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS IN ARRIVING AT A METHOD SENSIBLE AND PRACTICABLE ENOUGH TO BRIDGE THE GAP LEFT OPEN BY THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE JSEA AND THE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PUBLIC PLACES BEYOND FORM 3 IN 1991 DESERVE NOT ONLY OUR SUPPORT BUT OUR APPLAUSE,+ SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THIS WAS ONLY THE START OF AN INVALUABLE PARTNERSHIP AND POINTED OUT THAT AN AREA WHICH COULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM SUCH CO-OPERATION WAS CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, WHERE UNOFFICIAL INPUT AND ADEQUATE RESOURCES WERE BADLY NEEDED.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHOULD BE CLOSELY AND URGENTLY STUDIED.

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TIME TO SET UP ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

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AN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE SHOULD BE SET UP FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF POSTGRADUATE STATUS OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AFTER 1997, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, DR CHIU SAID THAT AT PRESENT HONG KONG RELIED ON THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SUPERVISE AND OVERSEE THE STANDARD OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ON THE ROYAL COLLEGES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF POSTGRADUATE STATUS.

+THE EXISTING LINKAGE WITH THE BRITISH SYSTEM MIGHT BE WEAKENED IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997, AND CERTAINLY AFTER 1997,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT WE SHOULD SET UP A LOCAL AUTHORITY TO TAKE OVER THIS VERY IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES,+ HE ADDED.

/DR CHIU

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DR CHIU SAID THAT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING HAD BECOME A PREREQUISITE FOR ENSURING AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF MEDICAL CARE WAS PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THAT AN AUTHORITY SUCH AS AN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE COULD OVERSEE POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD FORMULATE PLANS FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF THE STANDARD OF SPECIALIST SERVICE AND TRAINING, AND ENSURE THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DOCTORS IN HONG KONG WOULD MEASURE UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

DR CHIU URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN ACADEMY BUT STRESSED THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD IN NO WAY COMPROMISE ITS STATUS OF AUTONOMY AND THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCORDED AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL FREEDOM.

IN THIS REGARD, HE INSISTED THAT THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS MUST BE MET: FIRST, THE ACADEMY SHOULD BE AN AUTONOMOUS AND STATUTORY BODY, COMPLETELY FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE; SECOND, ITS STANDARDS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOCAL MEDICAL PROFESSION AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES; AND THIRD, INTERNATIONAL LINKS WITH OVERSEAS MEDICAL CENTRES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES MUST BE PROMOTED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION.

+ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE MEDICAL ASPECTS WILL BE MET IN THE YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTICES AND MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, DR CHIU NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOW WORKING ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND EXISTING LAWS TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES AND TO MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE.

HE SAID THAT ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS AREA.

AT PRESENT, A NUMBER OF BODIES WITH THE MEDICAL PROFESSION WERE SEPARATELY EXERCISING THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATUTORY POWERS TO HANDLE THE CASES WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION, HE SAID.

HE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A CENTRAL STATUTORY BODY TO CO-ORDINATE THESE BOARDS AND COUNCILS AND TO STREAMLINE THE ENFORCEMENT OF VARIOUS ORDINANCES AGAINST ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT MORE ACTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROSECUTE OFFENDERS. A CENTRAL COMPLAINT SECTION COULD BE SET UP UNDER THE STATUTORY BODY TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTICES, UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS.

/DR CHIU

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DR CHIU ALSO URGED THAT DUE IMPORTANCE BE GIVEN TO THE ROLE OF PRIMARY CARE. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER INTEGRATING THE SERVICE INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, HE ADDED.

ON THE SUBJECT OF DIRECT ELECTION, DR CHIU SAID HE BELIEVED THAT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF EXPERIMENT WAS JUSTIFIED IN THIS AREA.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, HE SAID.

HE FELT THAT ANY POLITICAL REFORMS THAT TOOK PLACE WOULD PROBABLY BE CARRIED OVER TO 1997 AND AFTER.

+IF WE DO NOT GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY WHICH THE FORTHCOMING REVIEW OFFERS, TO INTRODUCE A REASONABLE POLITICAL REFORM IN A REASONABLE SCALE FOR A TRIAL, HISTORY WILL SOON PROVE THAT A RETROGRADE STEP IN THIS CRUCIAL TRANSITIONAL PERIOD HAS BEEN WRONGLY TAKEN BY US,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE BEST INTERESTS AND VIEWPOINTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE FORMULATING POLITICAL REFORMS.

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HIGHER PRIORITY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE NEEDED
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THE GOVERNMENT CAME IN FOR CRITICISM FOR +SWEEPING UNDER THE CARPET+ THOSE PROBLEMS CONCERNING SOCIAL WELFARE.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE HON HUI YIN-FAT ATTACKED THE +STEREO-TYPED+ ACCOUNT OF THE QUANTITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED WITHOUT MENTIONING THE QUALITY OF THESE SERVICES WHICH NEEDED EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT.

+INDEED, HONG KONG CAN NOW AFFORD TO AWARD HIGHER PRIORITY TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO SHOW MORE MAGNANIMITY TOWARDS SOCIAL WELFARE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH HAS BEEN FROZEN DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS,+ HE SAID.

DISAGREEING WITH THE GOVERNMENT STAND THAT SOCIAL WELFARE HAD TO BE TAILORED ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, MR HUI SAID THE MODERN PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL WELFARE ADVOCATED THAT SERVICE STANDARDS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR THE CLIENTS TO MAINTAIN A DECENT LEVEL OF LIVING IN A COMMUNITY.

/DESCRIBING SOCIAL

DESCRIBING SOCIAL SERVICE AS A +HELPING PROFESSION+, MR HUI SAID THAT IN ALMOST ALL KINDS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, THE LACK OF CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF HAMPERED THE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF SERVICES.

HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THAT ONLY 60 PER CENT OF PRIVATE HOMES MEASURED UP TO THE STANDARDS LAID DOWN BY THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATE OLD-AGE HOMES, WHICH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONSIDERED TO BE THE BASIC MINIMUM.

THE NEED FOR ONE ADDITIONAL WELFARE WORKER IN EACH OF THE ELDERLY HOMES AND HOSTELS TO DO OVERNIGHT SHIFTS HAD NOT BEEN MET, HE ADDED.

MR HUI SAID HONG KONG COULD NOT CLAIM TO BE A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY WHEN ITS SOCIAL SERVICES WERE ONLY WINDOW DRESSING= PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WAS STILL SET AT AN UNREALISTICALLY LOW LEVEL AND THERE WERE MANY HOUSEHOLDS LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.

TO PUT INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG, HE LISTED OUT VARIOUS STATISTICS ON INCREASING DIVORCE CASES, CHILD ABUSE AND BATTERED SPOUSE CASES AND THE RATE OF ELDERLY SUICIDES.

+IN VIEW OF THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF THE NATURE OF OUR SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SERVICES MUST BE OF A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH QUALITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF CRISIS INTERVENTION, PROBLEM SOLVING AND TOTAL REHABILITATION FOR THE CLIENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES WOULD BE FOUND TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, IF ONLY THE GOVERNMENT COULD APPRECIATE THAT THE WELL FUNCTIONING OF ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIAL STABILITY.

OF CRITICS WHO OPPOSED GIVING +FREE LUNCH+ TO THE POOR, MR HUI EXPLAINED THAT THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES WAS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO MUST FULFIL THIS RESPONSIBILITY BY PROVIDING CLIENTS WITH SERVICES OF DECENT STANDARDS.

ON THE PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF WELFARE CLIENTS, MR HUI NOTED THAT THE NEW SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL REGISTRATION SCHEME COULD ASSURE CLIENTS OF GETTING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FROM REGISTERED WORKERS.

+SINCE THE PROPOSED BOARD OF REGISTRATION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE COURSE OF A PROVEN CHARGE OF MISCONDUCT, THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM IS AIMED AT REGULATING SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE TO ENSURE BETTER CLIENT PROTECTION AS WELL AS RAISING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE.

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+WHEN THE FORMAL REGISTRY IS COMPLETED, INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKER SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY,+ HE ADDED.

TURNING TO OTHER ISSUES, MR HUI SAID DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURE WAS THE SPRINGBOARD FOR ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED ONLY WHEN HONG KONG HAD REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE TO SIT IN THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) GOVERNMENT COULD +HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG+. HE PRACTISED.

+AN SAR GOVERNMENT RETURNED BY DIRECT ELECTION GUARANTEES A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WITHOUT THE FEAR OF EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND INFLUENCE WHICH UNDERLINES THE MANY CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE,+ HE SAID.

DIRECT ELECTION, HE ADDED, NOT ONLY PROMISED POLITICAL REFORM IN ITS TRUE SENSE, IT WAS ALSO THE CORNERSTONE OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK BELIEF THAT AN EQUAL, CARING SOCIETY WAS BUILT ON ACTIVE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.

MR HUI SAID HE BELIEVED 1988 WAS THE TIME TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PERCENTAGE COULD BE 20 PER CENT AS A START.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE SETTING UP OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND.

HE SAID A CONTRIBUTORY CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME WITH AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION OF FIVE PER CENT OF AN EMPLOYEE'S SALARY MADE BY EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES COULD PROTECT THE LATTER IN TIMES OF RETIREMENT, INVALIDITY AND DEATH.

+THE MERIT OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME, ALLOWING TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FROM PRIVATE SCHEMES TO THE CENTRAL SCHEME, LIES IN UNIVERSAL COVERAGE WITHOUT STIGMATISING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION SUCH AS THE ELDERLY OR THE DISABLED.

+THE UNDUE WORRY OVER THE OPERATION, INVESTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME CAN BE SOLVED BY APPOINTING A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OR SETTING UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND ADMINISTRATION CORPORATION THROUGH LEGISLATION, AND WITH GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HUI SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A WISE, PROGRESSIVE DECISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A COURAGEOUS STEP FORWARD IN LAUNCHING THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE GENERATION.

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GOVT MUST PLAY MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN INDUSTRY

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY A MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN HELPING INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF THE FIERCE COMPETITION COMING FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, PROFESSOR THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, PROF POON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT STILL INSISTED IT MUST ADHERE TO ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION, HE FELT THAT IT COULD STILL PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE BY INVESTING IN FACILITIES WHICH ASSISTED INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THERE WAS SCOPE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN HELPING INDUSTRY TO GO INTO MAKING HIGH-TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND IN UPGRADING GOODS.

PROF POON SAID HE HOPED THAT THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, OF WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER, WOULD TAKE A BOLD STEP FORWARD AND PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AIMED AT HELPING LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO COMBAT THE SURGING TIDE OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTIONISM AND THE INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

HE ALSO REPEATED A PROPOSAL HE MADE LAST YEAR -- THAT A STERILISATION PLANT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND THUS STIMULATE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING STERILISED MEDICAL PLASTICS FOR LOCAL USE AND FOR EXPORT.

TURNING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THIRD UNIVERSITY, PROF POON SUGGESTED THAT WITH AN INCREASING TENDENCY TOWARDS SPECIALISATION AND CONSEQUENT RE-AMALGAMATION OF BASIC DISCIPLINES THE UNIVERSITY MIGHT CONSIDER ADOPTING A DIFFERENT STRUCTURE TO INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY CO-OPERATION.

HE SAID THE THIRD UNIVERSITY SHOULD STRIVE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STATUS, AND ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT THE BEST ACADEMIC STAFF, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE AND PLACE OF ORIGIN.

THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD AIM AT PRODUCING GRADUATES WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE AND EXPRESS THEIR KNOWLEDGE BOTH IN ENGLISH AND IN CHINESE TO MEET THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DEMANDS OF THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

SINCE THE THIRD UNIVERSITY WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE A STRONG BIAS TOWARDS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND PROFESSIONAL SUBJECTS, HE FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALISED INSTITUTES WITH RELATIVELY GREATER EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE INSTITUTES WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE THIRD UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF LONG-TERM MANPOWER PLANNING IN HONG KONG,+ PROF POON ADDED.

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CALL FOR MORE PERSONAL YOUTH SERVICES
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MORE PERSONAL SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CATER TO THEIR NEEDS, THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS TAM SAID THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAD BECOME MORE DIVERSIFIED FOLLOWING RAPID DEVELOPMENTS OF SOCIETY.

SHE IDENTIFIED IN DETAIL SOME OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST TEN YEARS AND OUTLINED THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS AND NEEDS FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.

SHE SAID SHE AGREED THAT CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES HAD THEIR PARTS TO PLAY IN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES BUT CONSIDERED THAT THEY SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP A SENSE OF INDIVIDUALITY AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS TO TACKLE THE MORE COMPLEX PROBLEMS IN LIFE.

SHE NOTED THAT IN THE PAST PERSONAL YOUTH SERVICE HAD BEEN CRITICISED AS COSTLY BUT ARGUED THAT IT WAS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF MEETING THE NEED OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND PROVIDED CONSTRUCTIVE ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

MRS TAM CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE DEMAND OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO SEE WHETHER THERE WAS AN EXCESSIVE SUPPLY OF CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THEM.

SHE SAID THIS WAS DONE IN THE HOPE THAT MORE RESOURCES COULD THEN BE ALLOCATED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR IT TO PRACTICALLY DEVELOP PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

SHE NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD IN FACT RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK IN ITS PROGRAMME PLAN RELEASED IN 1979 BUT HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FULLY DUE TO A LACK OF RESOURCES.

SHE POINT OUT THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO IMPROVE SUCH SERVICES AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE MORE RESOURCES TO THIS AREA.

MRS TAM SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO THE OVERALL PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION IN THE PROVISION OF PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES.

SHE SAID SHE BELIEVED THAT BEFORE ANY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WAS FORMULATED, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REDUCE THE RATIO OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS TO STUDENTS, TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK BETWEEN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND GUIDANCE TEACHERS.

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IN THE LONG RUN, SHE SAID SHE FELT THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD CAREFULLY WORK OUT HOW TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WAY.

MRS TAM ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK WAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK FOR THE YOUNG.

SHE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF OUTREACHING TEAMS HAD REMAINED AT 18 SINCE 1979 WHICH MEANT THAT MANY NEW TOWNS WERE DEPRIVED OF SUCH A SERVICE TO HELP THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS.

MRS TAM SAID THAT WITH HER OVER TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH SERVICES, SHE DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE WORK OF OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORKERS AND URGED GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL ITS PROMISE TO FULLY DEVELOP THE SERVICE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD SET UP SPECIAL COUNSELLING CENTRES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED DIRECTLY.

MRS TAM SAID THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY SOON TO FORMULATE AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

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POSTGRADUATE ROLE URGED FOR THIRD UNIVERSITY
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THE THIRD UNIVERSITY SHOULD PLACE MAJOR EMPHASIS ON POSTGRADUATE RATHER THAN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DR TSE WAS EXAMINING +THE UNIQUE MISSION+ OF THE THIRD UNIVERSITY WHEN SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

HE SAID IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE UNREALISTIC TO LIMIT THE NEW UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDING ONLY COURSES THAT WERE NOT BEING OFFERED ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE THERE WERE SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH ACADEMIC AREAS LEFT THAT THE NEW UNIVERSITY COULD BUILD ON.

DEVELOPING THE THIRD UNIVERSITY AS A GROUPING OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS STUDIES WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE IT UNIQUE, DR TSE ADDED.

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+UNIQUENESS OF A TERTIARY EDUCATION MUST BE CLAIMED ON THE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION IT CAN MAKE TO MEET AN IDENTIFIED NEED,+ HE SAID.

FOLLOWING THIS VIEW, HE FELT THAT THE GREATEST NEED IN HONG KONG'S TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE YEARS TO COME WOULD BE A STRONG, RESEARCH-BASED POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME.

DR TSE SAID THAT AT PRESENT LITTLE EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE HERE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. +BUT AS HONG KONG MOVES UP-MARKET IN ITS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, IT WILL SOON LOSE ITS COMPETITIVENESS IF IT CANNOT COME UP WITH ORIGINAL AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS OF ITS OWN THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE BY PROVIDING HIGH-LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS.

+TO THIS END, THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO BUILD THE THIRD UNIVERSITY INTO A PREDOMINANTLY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INSTITUTION WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS HELPING HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AS A WORLD CLASS INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE,+ MR TSE SAID.

HE DESCRIBED AS OUTDATED THE CONCEPT OF SOME PEOPLE THAT THE FIRST DEGREE WAS THE ALL-IMPORTANT ONE, SAYING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY FIELD HAD EXPANDED SO RAPIDLY IN THE LAST FEW DECADES THAT WHAT COULD BE LEARNT IN A DEGREE COURSE SIMPLY WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO EQUIP A PERSON FOR ORIGINAL AND INDEPENDENT RESEARCH WORK.

+THEREFORE, IF WE ARE TO PROMOTE ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE THE ULTIMATE SOLUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY, NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

TO THIS END, DR TSE PROPOSED THAT HALF OF THE PLANNED PROVISION OF PLACES IN THE THIRD UNIVERSITY BE DEVOTED TO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH-BASED HIGHER DEGREES.

HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD HAVE A POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND, IF NECESSARY, START A POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME FIRST AND WORK ITS WAY DOWN TO THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL.

/THIS SEQUENCE

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THIS SEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENT, AS DR TSE SAW IT, WOULD ALLOW THE UNIVERSITY TO RECRUIT RESEARCH SCIENTISTS WHO COULD BEGIN THEIR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ALMOST FROM DAY ONE, PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO OUTSTANDING GRADUATES AND ENABLE GRADUATES TO TAKE HIGHER DEGREE AND OTHER COURSES TO RE-EQUIP THEMSELVES FOR CHANGING CAREER NEEDS.

NOTING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INCREASE ITS PROVISION OF FIRST-YEAR PLACES TO 8 300 BY 1994-95, HE HOPED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXPANSION WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

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TIME TO SET UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND
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WITH THE FUTURE GUARANTEED BY THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, IT IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, THE HON HU FA-KUANG SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, HE SAID A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, IF PROPERLY SET UP AND ADMINISTERED, WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

ALTHOUGH PEOPLE OFTEN REMINDED THEMSELVES OF THE UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE OF THE SINGAPORE SCHEME AND THE DISASTROUS EFFECT IT HAD BROUGHT TO ITS ECONOMY, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE APPROACHED IN A MORE POSITIVE MANNER.

+FIRST, A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND COULD PROVIDE EMPLOYEES WITH BASIC FINANCIAL SECURITY UPON RETIREMENT AND FOR THEIR OLD AGE, THUS REDUCING TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM RESPONSIBILITY UNDER VARIOUS SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES.

+SECONDLY, DEPENDING ON HOW IT IS DESIGNED, THE FUND COULD ALSO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN HOMES AND TO MEET OTHER SOCIAL OR MEDICAL NEEDS.

+FURTHERMORE, THROUGH THE FUND, SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS COULD BE CREATED OVER THE YEARS, WHICH IF SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO CAPITAL FORMATION AND CREATIVE INVESTMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ MR HU SAID.

/TURNING TO

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TURNING TO THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE FUND, MR HU DID NOT DENY THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE BEING THAT IT WOULD INCREASE EMPLOYERS' FINANCIAL BURDENS AND WOULD REDUCE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS.

HE SAID HE AGREED THAT EMPLOYERS COULD ALSO BE UNDER PRESSURE TO INCREASE EMPLOYEES' SALARIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE LATTERS' TAKE-HOME PAY.

+THE MAIN CRITERION FOR THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE SCHEME DOES NOT LIE IN THE SCHEME ITSELF, BUT IN THE CONTRIBUTION RATE,+ HE SAID.

MR HU SUGGESTED THE INITIAL RATE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO FIVE PER CENT EACH FROM EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST, MR HU SAID IT SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE CONTRIBUTING PARTIES.

+IT COULD EITHER BE MANAGED BY A BODY STATUTORILY SET UP FOR THIS PURPOSE OR IT COULD BE ADMINISTERED BY A REPUTABLE PROFESSIONAL BODY AS AN AGENT FOR THE BEST BENEFIT OF ITS CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PUBLIC HOUSING ISSUE, MR HU SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING THE HOME OWNERSHIP HOUSING PRODUCTION PROGRAMMES AND TO FORMULATE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGIES FOR THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT PUBLIC RESOURCES SHOULD BE USED TO COMPLEMENT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT TO MEET THE OVERALL DEMAND FOR HOUSING COLLECTIVELY.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS ENTERING AN ERA OF FAIRLY EQUAL PROPORTION OF DIFFERENT INCOME GROUPS WHICH REQUIRED ACCOMMODATION IN THREE CATEGORIES OF HOUSING -- PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING, HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) AND PUBLIC SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS) AND PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION.

MR HU SAID LONG-TERM PLANNINGS SHOULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY, AND PROPOSED THAT IMPROVEMENTS ON RENTAL HOUSING AND HOS-PSPS FLATS SHOULD AIM AT DURABILITY AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE.

NOTING THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR COULD PRODUCE PSPS FLATS TO THE SAME STANDARD AS HOS FLATS CHEAPER AND FASTER WHILE GOVERNMENT COULD RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE PREMIUM ON PSPS BESIDES REDUCTION IN ADMINISTRATIVE COST, MR HU SAID THAT PSPS SHOULD REPLACE HOS GRADUALLY.

/AS MANUFACTURING

AS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS STILL THE BACKBONE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR HU SAID HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION OF WORKING THROUGH VARIOUS BODIES TO STIMULATE RESEARCH AND TO INTRODUCE NEW TECHNOLOGY TO INDUSTRIES.

HE SUGGESTED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED TO PERSUADE OVERSEAS INVESTORS WITH HIGH-TECHNOLOGY KNOW HOW TO SET UP MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN HONG KONG EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR JOINTLY WITH HONG KONG INVESTORS.

+IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE IF THE CHINESE PARTIES COULD BE BROUGHT INTO JOINT VENTURES AS IT COULD PROVIDE AN EASY ACCESS TO THE HUGE POTENTIAL MARKET IN CHINA.

+THE ADVANTAGE TO THE CHINESE PARTIES IS THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL TRANSFER AND TRAINING IN MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO ITS MODERNISATION PLAN,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROMOTION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION, MR HU SAID THAT MANY GOVERNING BODIES WERE STILL OPERATED AND MANAGED IN THE SAME WAY AS IN THE 50'S AND 60'S.

HE CALL ON THESE INSTITUTIONS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TO ALLOW NEW BLOOD TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND PREPARATION OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

MR HU SAID HE REGRETTED THAT LOCAL ATHLETES DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE DEDICATION IN THEIR FIELD DUE TO FINANCIAL REASONS, POOR CAREER PROSPECTS OR LACK OF EMPHASIS OF SPORTS AND RECREATION IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

+THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION SPORTS HAS SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF SPORTS WITHIN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AND A COMMITTEE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPORTS AID FOUNDATION TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

+CAREER PROSPECT NEEDS THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY WHOSE INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND WILL BE MOST BENEFICIAL IN THE PROMOTION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION,+ HE SAID.

MR HU EMPHASISED THAT THERE MUST BE CLOSE CO-ORDINATION AMONG THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS, UNBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE SO THAT AN OVERALL UNIFIED POLICY WITH CLEARLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH BODY COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

+THE AIM WILL BE MASS PARTICIPATION, PURSUIT FOR EXCELLENCE AND BETTER FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

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PRIVATE SECTOR CAN BUILD UP INFRASTRUCTURE
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THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS MUCH TO OFFER TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE, GIVEN ENCOURAGEMENT, FACILITATION AND A FIRM PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

THIS WAS STATED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP WHEN SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SHE SAID THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LAND WHICH HAD THE POTENTIAL FOR RE-DEVELOPMENT ON MODIFICATION OF THE LEASE CONDITIONS.

AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN LEASES GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE GRANTED BEFORE JULY 1, 1997 AT A PREMIUM, SHE NOTED.

THE PREMIUM IS EQUIVALENT TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VALUE OF THE LAND UNDER THE PREVIOUS CONDITIONS AND ITS VALUE UNDER THE MODIFIED CONDITIONS.

+THE QUESTION IS HOW TO PUT THIS THEORETICAL CALCULATION INTO PRACTICE AND ARRIVE AT A FAIR AND BALANCED PREMIUM SO AS TO CAUSE THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH POTENTIAL SITES.

+VERY OFTEN, THE EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE DEMAND FOR EXCESSIVE PREMIUM RARELY JUSTIFIES THE LANDLORD'S FINANCIAL OUTLAY TO DEMOLISH EXISTING BUILDINGS, COMPENSATE TENANTS AND PAY THE PREMIUM AS WELL AS BEAR THE RISK OF RISING BANK INTEREST AND AN UNCERTAIN MARKET,+ DR IP SAID.

SUCH SITES WERE THEREFORE ABANDONED BY THE LARGE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS, SHE ADDED.

DR IP SAID THAT FAILURE BOTH TO TAP THE POTENTIAL PREMIUM DUE TO UNREASONABLE TERMS AND TO DEVELOP SUCH LAND SPACE WAS A LOSS NOT ONLY TO THE LANDLORD, BUT ALSO TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE POTENTIAL FLAT OWNERS, THE NEIGHBOURS OF THESE DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AND ALSO THE TAXPAYER.

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INCREASE THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL TO COVER THE FAIR ASSESSMENT OF PREMIUM FOR LEASE MODIFICATION.

/DR IP

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DR IP OBSERVED THAT LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WERE RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE CUT-THROAT COMPETITION BOTH BETWEEN LOCAL COMPANIES THEMSELVES AND BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN COMPANIES.

THE COMPETITION, WHICH WAS SHOWN BY FALLING PROJECT TENDER PRICES, WAS MADE WORSE BY A FALL IN THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURE AND A DECLINE IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, SHE SAID.

+THIS COMPETITION HAS FORCED SOME COMPANIES INTO LIQUIDATION, SOME INTO SERIOUS DECLINES IN ANNUAL PROFITS, SOME INTO TENDERING AT A LOSS TO OFFSET FURTHER LOSSES IN OVERHEADS WHILE LYING IDLE,+ DR IP SAID.

SHE WONDERED FOR HOW LONG AND AT WHOSE EXPENSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS REAPING THE BENEFIT OF ARTIFICIALLY DEPRESSED TENDER PRICES.

+WHAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT IS THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES WHEREBY ONLY A HANDFUL OF COMPANIES ARE LEFT IN THE ARENA, TENDER PRICES WILL RISE AND MAY RISE EXPONENTIALLY,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WHICH DROPPED OUT OF TENDERING TO GO INTO SMALL-SCALE PRIVATE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF OLDER BUILDINGS WITH AN OFFER OF ATTRACTIVE PREMIUM PAYABLE FOR LEASE MODIFICATION SO THAT THEIR EXPERTISE COULD CONTINUE TO BENEFIT HONG KONG.

ON THE ISSUE OF PROCESSING NEW BUILDING PLAN SUBMISSIONS, DR IP NOTED THAT THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR PROCESSING WAS INCREASED FROM 28 DAYS TO 60 DAYS FROM JULY 1, 1973, BUT QUESTIONED WHY IT COULD NOT BE DONE MORE SWIFTLY.

SHE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A REVIEW COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE APPROVAL OF BUILDING PLANS.

TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, SHE FELT THAT IT WOULD NEVER BE RESOLVED AS LONG AS UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS AND GUILTY TENANTS WERE NOT PENALISED FOR THESE WORKS.

SHE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROPOSE NEW LEGISLATION AND TO CONSIDER APPLYING THE MAGISTRATES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE TO THE CONTROL OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

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UNFAIR DEAL FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS ECHOED
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THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHICH EXISTS ON ITS FAITH IN HONG KONG IS NOT GETTING A FAIR DEAL IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR CHENG SAID HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD BEEN INVADDED AND SWAMPED BY OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS OPERATING WITH SO MANY ADVANTAGES WHICH WAS UNFAIR TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS WHO WERE BEING PUSHED OUT OF BUSINESS.

HE ADDED THAT SOME OF THESE ADVANTAGES WERE OF HONG KONG'S OWN MAKING BECAUSE THE SAME STRINGENT TENDERING CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON LOCAL CONTRACTORS WERE NOT APPLIED TO OVERSEAS COMPANIES.

MR CHENG NOTED THAT OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS WERE ORIGINALLY WELCOMED TO HANDLE SPECIFIC PROJECTS WHICH CALLED FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY BUT THINGS HAD SINCE GONE OUT OF HAND.

QUOTING AS EXAMPLE, HE POINTED OUT THAT MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTRACTS HAD GONE TO OVERSEAS FIRMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

+WHILE APPRECIATING THE NECESSITY TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST SUITABLE TENDER, I FEEL WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET OUR LOCAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RUN DOWN IN THIS WAY,+ HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID HE AGREED IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE OVERSEAS FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SITUATION, BUT FELT THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE INEQUALITIES IN REGISTRATION AND CONTRACTING.

+ALL THAT THE LOCAL CONTRACTORS ARE ASKING FOR IS THAT THEY SHALL BE TREATED FAIRLY AND ON EQUAL TERMS WITH THE OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS AND THAT THE SAME CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS SHALL APPLY TO ALL,+ HE SAID.

MR CHENG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT JOINT VENTURES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED SO THAT NEW TECHNOLOGY WAS SHARED AND PASSED ON AS WAS INTENDED WHEN FOREIGN CONTRACTORS WERE FIRST BROUGHT IN.

+UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN, I FEAR THAT WE MAY FIND OURSELVES WITH LITTLE OR NO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LEFT IF AND WHEN THE OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS FIND IT MORE PROFITABLE TO RETURN HOME OR TO WORK ELSEWHERE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC HOUSING, MR CHENG CONGRATULATED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ON ITS IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT THIS YEAR.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO WELCOMED GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL HOUSING MIX STUDY, ESPECIALLY THE CONSIDERATION OF HOW PRIVATE SECTOR OUTPUT COULD BE ENCOURAGED, AND HOW PUBLIC RESOURCES COULD BEST BE USED TO COMPLEMENT THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MEET THE OVERALL DEMAND FOR HOUSING.

MR CHENG SAID HE BELIEVED THESE TWO ASPIRATIONS MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED BY ELIMINATING ANYTHING WHICH TENDED TO CREATE A SITUATION OF COMPETITION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

MR CHENG SAID THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO RULE OUT THE INCENTIVE FOR INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

+RATHER THAN CREATING A COMPETITIVE SITUATION, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT AS A MEANS OF ALLEVIATING THE GOVERNMENT'S BURDEN IN MEETING THE ENORMOUS NEED FOR HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

MR CHENG THEN TURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF PARKING PROVISION FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AT THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL.

REFERRING TO A REPRESENTATION HE RECEIVED RECENTLY, HE SAID DELAYS IN DELIVERIES AND COLLECTION OF CONTAINERS WERE CAUSED BY THE PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO ALLOCATE LAND NEAR TO THE TERMINAL AND TO BUILD MULTI-STOREY PARKING FACILITIES FOR THESE VEHICLES.

+A LARGE PROPORTION OF OUR ECONOMY IS DEPENDENT ON THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE TERMINAL AND IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT WE SHOULD ALLOW TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND THE LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES TO CAUSE ANY DISRUPTION,+ HE SAID.

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SCOPE FOR AN ENERGY COUNCIL
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THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MONITORING THE ENERGY UTILISATION STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG TO FOSTER A STABLE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, THE HON RICHARD LAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE POLICY DEBATE, MR LAI SAID HE BELIEVED A SOUND ENERGY POLICY COULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WOULD NOT BE STIFLED BY UNCERTAINTIES IN ENERGY COSTS AND SUPPLIES.

/IN THIS

IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID, THERE WAS A NEED TO ESTABLISH AN ENERGY COUNCIL.

MR LAI CALLED INTO QUESTION THE EXISTING POLICY GOVERNING THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL CONCERNING THE TWO ELECTRICITY COMPANIES.

HE SAID THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL DID NOT PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR THE POWER COMPANIES TO ADOPT MORE EFFICIENT USE OF GENERATING CAPACITY.

MR LAI SUGGESTED THAT THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL BE MODIFIED TO ENCOURAGE INCREASINGLY EFFICIENT USE OF THE POWER COMPANIES' INFRASTRUCTURE.

+THESE MEASURES AIMING AT MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THE PRESENT FACILITIES MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT IF THE GOVERNMENT SETS UP AN ENERGY COUNCIL,+ MR LAI SAID.

THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE TO OVERSEE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENERGY USE AND ENERGY NEEDS.

+THIS COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL THAT WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN FUTURE ENERGY GOALS, DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY ECONOMY SYSTEM, VARIOUS PLANS, INCLUDING AMENDING APPROPRIATE ORDINANCES SUCH AS THE BUILDING ORDINANCE, TO STIMULATE USERS' INTERESTS IN ENERGY ECONOMY.

+MOREOVER, IT MAY SERVE AS A CENTRAL MONITORING BODY WHEREBY THE PRESENT NEED OF OVERSEEING THE RETAIL OIL PRICES WHICH FALLS UPON THE SHOULDER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE REQUIREMENT TO SUPERVISE THE WORKING OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR PLANT WILL BE MET,+ HE SAID.

MR LAI ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING HONG KONG'S TECHNOLOGICAL BASE BY A CO-ORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, INCREASED FUNDING TO INDUSTRY SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS TO PROMOTE THE APPLICATION OF KEY TECHNOLOGIES, TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF MARKETING CAPABILITY AIMED AT INCREASING THE VALUE OF EXPORTS.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL REFORM, MR LAI SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD NOT LIVED UP TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.

HE BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE PRESENT SYSTEM WAS TO HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

+IT IS DISHEARTENING TO HEAR PROMINENT PEOPLE VOICING RESERVATIONS ABOUT OPENING UP THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

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+WE HAVE ATTAINED IN OUR POLITICAL MATURITY PROCESS THE WISDOM OF KNOWING WHAT WE WANT, THE JUDICIOUSNESS OF DISCERNING WHAT IS GOOD FOR US, AND THE WILL TO ACCOMPLISH OUR ASPIRATIONS.+

HE SAID THE DAY OF PARENTALISTIC DIRECTIVES HAD LONG GONE.

MR LAI SAID THAT THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY HONG KONG ENJOYED A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING TODAY.

THAT EFFECTIVENESS SHOULD BE PRESERVED IF POSSIBLE, BUT NOT AT ALL COSTS, AND CERTAINLY NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF DEMOCRACY.

HE CONSIDERED THAT AN ELECTED ELEMENT MUST BE SLOWLY EASED INTO THE COUNCIL TO EFFECT A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

MR LAI BELIEVED THAT PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WAS A POSITIVE WAY OF ENSURING THAT REPRESENTATIVES RETURNED BY DIRECT ELECTION WOULD BE OF HIGH INTEGRITY AND ABILITY, AND WILLING TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THE BETTERMENT OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, AND NOT JUST TO SMALL SECTORS OF PEOPLE WITH VESTED INTERESTS.

MR LAI ALSO ADVOCATED REPEALING THE CONTROL OF PUBLICATIONS (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE TO FULFIL THE GOAL OF AN OPEN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID A THREAT TO THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WAS EMBEDDED IN THE ORDINANCE.

+IF WE PRESERVE THE ORDINANCE WHICH MAY CURTAIL THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS TO REPORT WHAT IT SEES FIT AND SUBJECT IT TO THE THREAT OF CLOSURE, THE PRESS CAN NEVER BE AN EFFECTIVE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

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NEED FOR BALANCE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT POLICY
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICISED FOR ACTING AGAINST THE SPIRIT AND PRINCIPLES OF MAINTAINING A BALANCED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MULTIPLE FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE RETURNS AND INTERESTS OF RAIL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROHIBITED OTHER MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM DIRECT COMPETITION WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

+THERE IS NOTHING MUCH TO BE CRITICISED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT GIVING DUE ASSISTANCE AND CARE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE RAILWAY SYSTEMS.

+BUT IF SUCH CARE IS OVERDONE BY IMPOSING TOO MUCH RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, IT WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRAVENE THE PRINCIPLES OF A FREE ECONOMY, BUT WOULD ALSO HAMPER FAIR AND HEALTHY COMPETITION WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR POON SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD REJECTED, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR, REQUESTS BY DISTRICT BOARDS FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF EXPRESS BUS SERVICE FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES TO URBAN AREAS.

HE SAID HE FELT THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO MAKE MORE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND IMPROVE THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

HE SAID SUCH A SUPPRESSIVE POLICY WOULD RESULT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES LOSING CONFIDENCE AND INTEREST IN RE-INVESTMENT AND WOULD ALSO DEPRIVE COMMUTERS OF THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE A MORE DIRECT, MORE CONVENIENT AND CHEAPER FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MR POON URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE SOME GUIDELINES TO MONITOR AND ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG COULD ENJOY ADEQUATELY PROVIDED AND INEXPENSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

TURNING TO THE USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS, MR POON SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REINFORCE THE TRAINING OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF WRITING IN CHINESE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WITH A GOOD COMMAND OF CHINESE SHOULD BE DEPLOYED TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF DISTRICT BOARDS OR OTHER COMMITTEES WHENEVER POSSIBLE SO AS TO MINIMISE THE ARRANGING FOR THE SERVICE OF INTERPRETERS WHEN AN EXPATRIATE OFFICER WAS PRESENT.

AS FOR THE LOCALISATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR POON SAID THAT THE PROCESS SHOULD NOT BE TOO ABRUPT.

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACTIVELY SELECT CAPABLE LOCAL OFFICERS TO FILL SENIOR POSTS, SO AS TO RECTIFY THE UNBALANCED SITUATION AND TO BOOST THEIR MORALE.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE PROPOSED THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF EQUAL PAY AND EQUAL FRINGE BENEFITS FOR EQUAL WORK BEING ADOPTED FOR LOCAL AND EXPATRIATE DIRECTORATE OFFICERS SHOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED TO NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVANTS IN ORDER TO BE FAIR.

IN DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, MR POON SAID THAT +WE MUST BE PRAGMATIC AND PROCEED IN GRADUAL STEPS, WITHOUT BEING RADICAL OR HASTY+.

+AT THIS SENSITIVE MOMENT, GOVERNMENTAL REFORMS OR CHANGES IN HONG KONG DO NOT ALLOW ANY SERIOUS MISTAKE; OTHERWISE IT MIGHT PLACE HONG KONG IN AN IRREDEEMABLE SITUATION,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW TOWNS STILL HAVE PROBLEMS
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THE IDEA OF A BALANCED AND SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY IN THE NEW TOWNS HAS NOT BEEN REALISED.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THE NEW TOWN, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

+WHILE HONG KONG IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY ITS INDUSTRIES, IT REMAINS TRUE THAT THE MAJORITY OF INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG ARE LABOUR-INTENSIVE AND COMPARATIVELY SMALL IN SIZE,+ HE SAID.

+THE SITUATION THAT NOW EXISTS IS THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE WORK FORCE RESIDING IN OUR NEW TOWNS HAVE TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE URBAN AREA.

+HENCE, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT SYSTEMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO A NEW TOWN'S DEVELOPMENT.+

MR TAI WELCOMED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AS A BIG STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE TRANSPORT NETWORK OF THE REGION.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE LRT SYSTEM SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO LINK UP WITH THE REST OF THE TERRITORY TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND TO ENHANCE THE REGION'S INVESTMENT POTENTIAL.

+I APPRECIATE THAT BOTH THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCRC) AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS OF THEIR SYSTEMS AND I HOPE THAT PLANS TO SOLVE THE LONG-TERM TRANSPORT PROBLEM OF THE REGION WILL BE READY BEFORE LONG,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE OVERALL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TOWN PROJECTS, MR TAI SAID THERE WAS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

+AT PRESENT, TOWN PLANNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL ZONING AND PLANNING OF THE NEW TOWNS WHILE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANS IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL FROM THE FINANCE BRANCH.

+THE TIME LAG BETWEEN THE TWO HAS LED TO THE PHENOMENON WHERE SOME OF THE PROPOSED SPACES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES IN HOUSING ESTATES HAVE TO REMAIN EMPTY FOR SEVERAL YEARS WHILE WAITING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID PROGRESS ON ALL COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS SHOULD KEEP PACE WITH THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS.

MR TAI ALSO CALLED FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS SHORTAGES OF SCHOOL PLACES AND AN UPSURGE OF PETTY CRIME IN NEW TOWNS.

DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, MR TAI SAID NEW REGULATIONS TO CONTROL DUMPING OF ANIMAL WASTE INTO STREAMS AND WATER COURSES WOULD NOT ONLY JEOPARDISE THE LIVELIHOOD OF A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE RURAL AREAS BUT ALSO CAUSE ANOTHER SOCIAL PROBLEM - LARGE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED LIVESTOCK FARMERS WHO MIGHT NOT POSSESS THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO CHANGE TRADES.

+CONSTRUCTION SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP LIVESTOCK FARMING ZONES IN PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR BETTER UTILISATION OF WASTE LAND AND TO COPE WITH THE POLLUTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY ANIMAL WASTE.

+I SUGGEST THAT DUE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS PROPOSAL,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF DRAFTING LAWS IN CHINESE, MR TAI SAID THE PURPOSE WOULD NOT BE FULFILLED UNLESS SUITABLE LEGAL EXPERTS WERE AVAILABLE TO PRACTISE LAW IN CHINESE.

HE URGED THAT TRAINING OF BILINGUAL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS SHOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE THE NEWLY APPROVED LAW DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO BILINGUALISM.

ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, MR TAI SAID THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME IT WAS VITAL THAT THE SOCIETY SHOULD NOT BE POLARISED BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR.

+IF HONG KONG IS TO MASTER ITS OWN DESTINY, IT MUST PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER,+ HE SAID.

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+MINIMUM+ PENALTY SUGGESTED FOR CERTAIN CRIMES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO CONSIDER STIPULATING A +MINIMUM+ PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE LAW.

THE CALL CAME FROM THE HON CHEN SHOU-LUM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

MR CHEN SAID THE GREATEST DETERRENT FOR A CRIMINAL WAS THE PROSPECT OF BEING CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO A PUNISHMENT COMMENSURATE WITH HIS OFFENCE.

IN DETERMINING A SUITABLE LEVEL OF SANCTION, THE JUDICIARY SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COMMUNITY'S SENTIMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT SOCIAL FACTORS, AS WELL AS THE NEED TO GENERATE A DETERRENT EFFECT TO SHOW THE DETERMINATION OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TO WEED OUT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS THE COURTS HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE CONCERNED WITH THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS AND THUS SHOWED A GROWING RELUCTANCE TO IMPOSE A HIGH LEVEL OF SANCTION,+ HE SAID.

+AS A RESULT, THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES AGAINST DIFFERENT ACTS OF CRIME AS STIPULATED IN THE LAW WERE SELDOM, IF AT ALL, EXERCISED.+

/MR CHEN

MR CHEN CITED AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON THE SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR THREE REPRESENTATIVE OFFENCES IN 1985.

HE SAID THE AVERAGE DURATION OF IMPRISONMENT IMPOSED FOR THEFT, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR WHICH WAS 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT, WAS 0.66 YEARS.

ROBBERY AND RAPE, BOTH WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT, HAD FIGURES OF 4.3 YEARS AND NINE YEARS RESPECTIVELY, HE SAID.

+THE SENTENCES PASSED BY THE COURTS WERE, ON AVERAGE, SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THE MAXIMUM PENALTY,+ MR CHEN SAID.

+ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE THAT EACH CASE MIGHT HAVE ITS UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO ITS OWN MERITS, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE LAW, WHICH I BELIEVE WAS VERY LARGELY DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE MAXIMUM PENALTY, HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED.

+THIS IS PARTICULARLY THE CASE WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS AS IT WOULD CREATE A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT, WITH LITTLE OR NO PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD, THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH THEIR WRONGDOINGS BY SERVING A RELATIVELY LIGHT SENTENCE.+

MR CHEN SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE FRUSTRATING TO THE POLICE THAN TO SEE ALL THEIR EFFORTS LEADING TO THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMINALS GO ASTRAY AS A RESULT OF LENIENT SENTENCES HANDED DOWN BY THE COURTS.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO COUNTER THE TRIAD PROBLEM CITED THIS AS A +SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM+ IN RESPECT OF THE CONTROL OF TRIADS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON TRIADS ON JULY 9, SOME COUNCILLORS HAD URGED THE JUDICIARY TO IMPOSE HEAVIER PENALTIES ON CONVICTED TRIADS, HE ADDED.

MR CHEN SAID THE TIME WAS OPPORTUNE FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO STIPULATING A +MINIMUM+ PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES.

THERE MIGHT BE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, ONCE THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF MINIMUM PENALTY WAS ACCEPTED, THOSE TECHNICALITIES COULD BE RESOLVED.

HE SUGGESTED THAT AS A FIRST STEP, A FEW COMMON OFFENCES WHICH AFFECTED NORMAL DAILY LIFE COULD BE CHOSEN UNDER A PILOT SCHEME FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT EXERCISE.

+AFTER A PERIOD OF TRIAL, SAY FOR A FEW YEARS, IF THE CRIME RATE IS REDUCED AS A RESULT, THEN A FULL LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT EXERCISE COVERING MORE EXTENSIVE AREAS COULD BE MOUNTED,+ MR CHEN ADDED.

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LAW, ORDER AND SECURITY REMAIN VITAL

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LAW, ORDER AND SECURITY IS THE KEY TO STABILITY ON WHICH HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY DEPENDS, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR WONG SAID THAT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUANCE OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT +WE DID NOT NEGLECT THE MANY VITAL ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF LAW, ORDER AND SECURITY+.

ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, HE SAID THERE WERE REALISTICALLY ONLY TWO DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM -- RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM.

ALTHOUGH THE FIRST SOLUTION WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM, TO BE MORE GENEROUS IN THEIR QUOTAS FOR REFUGEES REMAINING IN HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID.

AS TO THE SECOND SOLUTION, WHICH REQUIRED DELICATE AND COMPLICATED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, HE NOTED THAT IT MIGHT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE INCREASING RESIDUE OF REFUGEES IN HONG KONG WHO, FOR WHATEVER REASON, COULD NOT BE RESETTLED IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

+IN THE LONG RUN IT MIGHT ALSO PROVE A FAR GREATER DETERRENT TO NEW REFUGEES THAN ANY MEASURES WE COULD TAKE WITHIN HONG KONG,+ MR WONG SAID.

IT WAS AN OPTION WHICH MUST BE SERIOUSLY EXPLORED AND PURSUED, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO LEGAL AID, MR WONG SAID IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR GOVERNMENT THROUGH ONE OF ITS DEPARTMENTS TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS IN LEGAL AID CASES, OR TO PROVIDE ONE OF ITS LAWYERS TO REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT.

HE SAID THAT LEGAL AID SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY WHICH WAS NOW A LARGE AND WELL-DISCIPLINED PROFESSION AND HAD PROVED ITSELF CAPABLE AND EFFICIENT IN ADMINISTERING THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME AND THE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME.

+INFORMED OPINION IS OPPOSED TO TURNING THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT INTO AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AND FOR THE RIGHT REASONS; THE COMMISSION WOULD STILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNOR, WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT,+ MR WONG SAID.

/ON REFORMING

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ON REFORMING OF THE PENAL SYSTEM, HE SAID A NUMBER OF EXCITING AND WORTHY SCHEMES WERE IN THE PIPELINE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS FULL PROVISION FOR REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS.

APART FROM THE SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER, MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OMELCO SECURITY PANEL HAD RECENTLY EXAMINED PROPOSALS FOR THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF PRISONERS UNDER SUPERVISION BEFORE THE FULL SENTENCE HAD BEEN SERVED.

THESE SCHEMES WERE DESIGNED TO ASSIST NON-VIOLENT PERSONS CONVICTED OF LESS SERIOUS OFFENCES AND ANY EARLY RELEASE WOULD POSE NO THREAT TO SOCIETY, HE SAID.

MR WONG FINALLY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE VARIOUS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE FOR ADOPTING VARIOUS MEASURES TO PREVENT CRIME, ADDING THAT GREATER EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

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ANTI-TRIAD STRATEGY NEEDED FOR SCHOOLS
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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD JOIN FORCES WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TO FORM A WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO SUPPRESS TRIADS AND OTHER CRIMINALS AND TO GUIDE STUDENTS AWAY FROM CRIME.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

DR HO ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE MASTER PLAN FORMULATED BY THE WORKING GROUP BE TRIED OUT IN A SELECTED DISTRICT AND IF EFFECTIVE ADAPTED TO OTHER DISTRICTS LATER.

HE SAID DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT UNITS, INCLUDING THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS HAD CARRIED OUT INVESTIGATIONS AND SURVEYS INTO THE PROBLEM OF TRIAD ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS.

+HOWEVER, THERE IS NO CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ABOUT THE EXTENT AND GRAVITY OF TRIAD PRESENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS IN THESE SURVEYS,+ HE NOTED.

/MOST GOVERNMENT

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MOST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TENDED TO TAKE A LEGALISTIC APPROACH IN THEIR ASSESSMENT AND DREW CONCLUSIONS STRICTLY ON THE STRENGTH OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE, HE SAID.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A LESS LEGALISTIC AND A MORE COMMON SENSE APPROACH IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AMONG THE STUDENT POPULATION IN ORDER TO FREE THEM FROM CRIMINAL AND TRIAD CONTAMINATION.

+THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR STUDENTS' ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND UNDERTAKINGS SHOULD WARRANT AS MUCH GOVERNMENT ATTENTION AND INTERVENTION AS TRIAD MEMBERSHIP BACKED UP BY EVIDENCE,+ HE SAID.

DR HO ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS AN UPWARD TREND IN SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD-RELATED ACTIVITIES AMONG STUDENTS AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 17, RISING FROM 250 TO 340 PER 100 000 STUDENTS, WHICH REPRESENTED A 36 PER CENT INCREASE.

HE SAID IT WAS RATHER DISTURBING TO LEARN THAT SECOND AND THIRD FORMERS WERE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO TRIAD AFFILIATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE STUDYING IN COMMERCIALY OPERATED SCHOOLS.

DR HO NOTED THAT SOME 50 SCHOOLS IN KOWLOON WERE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN PENETRATED BY MEMBERS FROM AT LEAST ONE TRIAD SOCIETY.

IN ONE SCHOOL, HE SAID, SIX SEPARATE TRIAD GANGS WERE REPORTED TO BE ACTIVE.

HE SAID THE REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION UNIT OF THE POLICE, WHEN INVESTIGATING THE MURDER OF A STUDENT IN KOWLOON, DISCOVERED IN INTERVIEWS THAT OUT OF SOME 70 STUDENTS FROM THE TWO SCHOOLS INVOLVED 40 HAD AFFILIATION TO VARIOUS TRIAD SOCIETIES.

WHILE NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM CURRENT RESEARCH THAT TRIADS HAD INFILTRATED HONG KONG'S SCHOOLS, DR HO SAID STUDENTS, IN PARTICULAR JUNIOR FORM STUDENTS, HAD BEEN INSIDIOUSLY EXPOSED TO THE INFLUENCE OF UNSCRUPULOUS AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF YOUTH GANGS, STREET GANGS, TRIAD GANGS AND OTHER CRIMINAL GANGS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BECAUSE THESE DIFFERENT GANGS WERE INTERLOCKING THROUGH OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP IN TWO OR MORE GROUPS.

ON THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, DR HO SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO HELP BY TAKING THE LEAD AGAIN IN ACCEPTING MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG.

/+THE INTERNATIONAL

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+THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT LOOKS TO BRITAIN TO SHOW THE WAY,+ HE SAID.

AN OFF-TAKE BY BRITAIN OF A FURTHER 500 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN SO GENEROUS IN THE PAST TO TAKE MORE, HE SAID.

+FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP WILL BOTH SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE BRITAIN'S CREDIBILITY IN HONG KONG AND COMPEL US TO RECONSIDER OUR GENEROUS POLICY OF FIRST ASYLUM,+ HE ADDED.

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EDUCATE YOUTHS TO COMBAT TRIADS
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THE TRIAD PROBLEM WAS DESCRIBED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN AS A VICIOUS DISEASE WHICH WOULD ERODE THE OVERALL STABILITY OF SOCIETY AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT IT.

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR YEUNG SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO INCREASING PENALTIES, THE MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO COMBAT TRIADS WAS TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ELIMINATE TOTALLY THEIR MISPLACED ADMIRATION FOR CHIVALRY.

+THIS IS BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN MISTAKE TRIAD MEMBERS FOR HEROES AND UNCONSCIOUSLY CHERISH A SENSE OF ADMIRATION FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLICE EMPHASISED THAT THE INFILTRATION OF TRIADS INTO SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS NOT THAT SERIOUS, THE POLICE MUST CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SCHOOLS AND ORGANISE MORE SEMINARS.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE MORE RESOURCES TO THE POLICE, SO THAT MORE STUDENTS COULD BECOME MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND MORE PROPER OR MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

AS THE TRIAD PROBLEM WAS CLOSELY RELATED WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM, MR YEUNG SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM GETTING INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING.

/+IN THIS

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+IN THIS RESPECT, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGNS, SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD GAIN A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVILS OF DRUGS AND THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

THE MASS MEDIA WAS ALSO ASKED TO EXPOSE THE EVIL OF DRUGS, SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD NOT MISTAKE DRUG ADDICTION AND PARTICIPATION IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES AS HEROIC ACTS.

TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE SOCIETY'S DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT, MR YEUNG ALSO ADVOCATED A COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER EDUCATION POLICY.

+I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXTEND COMPUTER EDUCATION TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND EVENTUALLY THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS.

+I ALSO HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER SETTING UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AT APPROPRIATE TIME A COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE SIMILAR TO THE ONE TO BE COMPLETED SHORTLY IN KOWLOON SO AS TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMANDS OF TEACHERS IN THIS RESPECT,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE, MR YEUNG CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE THE POLICE FORCE, TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTHY ORGANISATION OF THE FORCE AND TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF LAW AND ORDER WHICH WOULD AFFECT SOCIAL STABILITY.

HE ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPER TRAINING SCHOOL FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, SO AS TO FIT IN WITH ITS COMPREHENSIVE STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE APPLICATION OF ADVANCED EQUIPMENT.

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CALL TO FIGHT CRIME ON A DISTRICT BASIS
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BY ENFORCING COMPREHENSIVE LAWS AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS ON A DISTRICT BASIS WILL PROVIDE A FUNDAMENTAL FORCE TO THE POLICE AND FIGHT CRIMES COMMITTEES IN THEIR LONG-TERM BATTLE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND ERADICATE TRIAD ACTIVITIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM DURING THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

/TO FURTHER

TO FURTHER ENSURE LAW AND ORDER, HE MADE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

FIRST, HE SUGGESTED TO PROMPTLY ESTABLISH A FAIR STATUTE ON MUTUAL COVENANT SO THAT OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS COULD BE MANAGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS BASED ON A SET OF PRINCIPLES; AMEND THE EXISTING MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE SO THAT OWNERS INCORPORATIONS WERE ACCORDED EQUITABLE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND AMEND THE WATCHMEN ORDINANCE AND DEFINE THE MEANING OF +WATCHMEN+ AS WELL AS LAY DOWN HARD AND FAST RULES ON THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELEVANT PENALTIES.

SECOND, DISTRICT OFFICES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE TO MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

THIRD, THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROGRAMME WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL INITIALLY SHOULD BE FURTHER PROMOTED. IN ADDITION, AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE IN EACH DISTRICT TO ASSIST IN LINKING UP ALL MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WITHIN THE DISTRICT SO THAT THEY FORMED A BASIC SOCIAL GROUP AND PARTICIPATED IN CRIME PREVENTION UNDER POLICE SUPERVISION.

TO ENSURE SOCIAL STABILITY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, MR CHUNG SAID HE BELIEVED THAT CRIME PREVENTION SHOULD BE STEPPED UP AND ALL TRIAD AND GANG ACTIVITIES WHICH POSED A THREAT ON PUBLIC ORDER BE ROOTED OUT.

TURNING TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, MR CHUNG POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE WAS STILL GOVERNED BY EXTERNAL INFLUENCES.

+I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT IN REGARD TO OUR FREE ECONOMY AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT STICK TO THE SAME OLD PRINCIPLE OF POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM.

+RATHER, IT SHOULD IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES AS AND WHEN NECESSARY IN THE SAME WAY AS IT TACKLED PROBLEMS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR RECENTLY WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING A MOST FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

UNDER THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY INVESTMENT AND REINVESTMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ENCOURAGED IN REAL TERMS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE BANKING SECTOR TO SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO DEAL CENTRALLY WITH THE ADVANCEMENT, ON INSURANCE TERMS, OF LONG-TERM LOANS AT LOW INTEREST RATES TO MEDIUM AND SMALL-SIZED FACTORIES.

HAYE OUTLINES GOOD PROSPECTS FOR UK FIRMS
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NOW IS CLEARLY THE TIME FOR MORE BRITISH BUSINESSMEN TO INVEST IN HONG KONG AS ALL THE AUGURIES ARE GOOD.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE GIVEN BY HONG KONG'S COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR COLVYN HAYE, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE SEMINAR IN THE BRITISH CAPITAL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SEMINAR WAS ENTITLED +HONG KONG: THE BASE FOR CHINA TRADE+.

MR HAYE SAID THE TERRITORY HAD THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS, AND HE URGED BRITISH BUSINESSMEN TO FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO HAD ALREADY INVESTED IN HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ECONOMY WAS AGAIN ON THE UPTURN, WITH FORECASTS OF GROWTH IN EXCESS OF CAUTIOUS EXPECTATION, AND THERE WAS NEGLIGIBLE UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOW INFLATION.

HONG KONG COULD OFFER AN EDUCATED, INDUSTRIOUS AND HIGHLY MOBILE WORKFORCE, ENTERPRISING BUSINESSMEN, FIRST-RATE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND A FREE MARKET PLACE IN WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD INTERVENE ONLY IF THERE WAS NEED.

EXPLAINING WHY THERE WAS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, MR HAYE SPOKE OF THE SUCCESS WITH WHICH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED.

THE MACHINERY OF THE AGREEMENT -- THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE LAND COMMISSION, AND THE BASIC LAW COMMITTEES -- WAS WORKING CONSTRUCTIVELY.

SURVEYING THE PAST, MR HAYE SAID THE RISE OF HONG KONG FROM THE ASHES OF WORLD WAR II WAS A MIRACLE OF SURVIVAL AND OPPORTUNISM. HONG KONG HAD MADE A VIRTUE OF NECESSITY, CAPITALISED ON CRISES AND TURNED VICISSITUDE TO FINANCIAL GAIN.

REFERRING TO THE PRESENT DECADE, MR HAYE POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THE FINANCIAL LOW IN 1982 AMERICAN AND JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN HAD CONTINUED TO INVEST IN HONG KONG, AS THEY REALISED THE TERRITORY HAD THE DURABILITY AND RESILIENCE TO BOUNCE BACK, AS INDEED IT DID.

MR HAYE CITED VARIOUS BRITISH FIRMS AS EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES WHICH HAD TRADED SUCCESSFULLY IN HONG KONG OVER THE YEARS, AND EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR MORE.

GOOD BUSINESS COULD BE DONE IN THE IMMEDIATE YEARS AHEAD AND BEYOND THAT THE LONG-TERM PROSPECT FOR TRADING WITH CHINA OFFERED BETTER BUSINESS STILL, HE POINTED OUT.

YAXLEY EMPHASISES HK'S ROLE AS GATEWAY TO CHINA
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THE GROWING ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL PROVIDE NOT ONLY INCREASING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG AND FOREIGN INVESTORS BUT WILL ALSO HELP CHINA TO ACHIEVE ITS ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG AS A GATEWAY TO THE EXPANDING MARKET IN CHINA WAS UNDERLINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR JOHN YAXLEY, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE HONG KONG TRADE ADVISORY GROUP SEMINAR IN LONDON TODAY (THURSDAY).

+WHILE CHINA HAS ESTABLISHED AND STRENGTHENED DIRECT CONTACTS WITH MANY ECONOMIES IN RECENT YEARS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT HONG KONG, WITH ITS PROXIMITY TO CHINA AND ITS NATURE AS A HIGHLY EXTERNALLY ORIENTED ECONOMY, IS BEING INCREASINGLY USED BY CHINA AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR FACILITATING BUSINESS,+ MR YAXLEY SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PHENOMENAL UPSURGE IN HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA SINCE THE COUNTRY'S OPEN DOOR ECONOMIC POLICY BEGAN IN 1978, HAD ADDED A NEW IMPETUS TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WITH PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE PATH OF THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

CHINA'S SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN COVERING 1986-90 RECOGNISED THAT THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY IN ITS INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES WAS GENERALLY BACKWARD, AND THAT SIGNIFICANT BOTTLENECKS EXISTED IN SUCH AREAS AS ENERGY AND TRANSPORT WHICH WERE IMPOSING SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS ON CHINA'S ABILITY TO EXPORT AND ON ITS LONGER TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, VARIOUS MEASURES AND INCENTIVES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA. THE FIVE YEAR PLAN INDICATES THAT HEAVY INVESTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE RAILWAY NETWORK, THE ROAD SYSTEM, PORT FACILITIES AND POWER SUPPLIES,+ HE SAID.

A FEW OF THESE PROJECTS WERE IN THE FORM OF JOINT VENTURE WITH OUTSIDE INVESTORS.

EXAMPLES CLOSE TO HONG KONG WERE THE PROPOSED SHENZHEN - CANTON SUPERHIGHWAY, WHICH WAS TO BE FINANCED BY TOLLS, A COAL-FIRED POWER STATION AT SHA JIAO (NEAR SHENZHEN), AND THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT DAYA BAY, WHICH WAS MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF FRENCH AND BRITISH CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, HE ADDED.

ON FUTURE GROWTH IN TRADE WITH CHINA, MR YAXLEY SAID HE BELIEVED THE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS WERE GOOD BUT HE SOUNDED A NOTE OF CAUTION FOR THE SHORTER TERM.

/+THE VERY ...

+THE VERY HIGH GROWTH RATES SEEN IN THE PERIOD 1978 TO 1985 REPRESENTED LARGELY A RELEASING OF PENT-UP DEMAND AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATURAL LEVEL OF TRADING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND ITS ECONOMIC HINTERLAND. THUS, THE GROWTH RATES ACHIEVED WERE EXAGGERATED BY THE VERY LOW INITIAL BASE AND COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE LONG RUN,+ HE NOTED.

MR YAXLEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASED TARIFFS AND STRICT CONTROLS ON THE USE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE IMPOSED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF TRADE IMBALANCE HAD HAD THE EFFECT OF CHECKING SHARPLY THE INFLOW OF GOODS.

+DESPITE A SIMULTANEOUS EXPORT DRIVE AND SEVERAL DEPRECIATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE REMINBI, THE EFFECT HAS ONLY BEEN TO CHECK THE RATE OF DETERIORATION OF THE TRADE BALANCE. THUS, IN THE SHORT RUN, UNTIL THE PRESENT IMBALANCE IS CORRECTED, THE PROSPECTS FOR EXPORTS TO CHINA SEEM LIMITED,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT ONCE THE IMBALANCE WAS CORRECTED, THE NEEDS OF CHINA'S +FOUR MODERNISATIONS+ PROGRAMME AND ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY SHOULD RESULT IN GOOD GROWTH RATES OF EXPORTS TO CHINA WHICH SHOULD BE MORE SOUNDLY BASED AND THUS SUSTAINABLE.

+IN A WIDER CONTEXT, BECAUSE OF INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN CHINA AND BECAUSE HONG KONG WITH ITS SOPHISTICATED BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS AVAILABLE NEARBY, CHINA IS MAKING INCREASED USE OF HONG KONG. THUS HONG KONG IS FILLING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FACILITATING CHINA'S MODERNISATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

+SPECIFICALLY, LOCAL ENTERPRISES IN HONG KONG ARE ENJOYING INCREASED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHINA. FOREIGN ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING BRITISH ENTERPRISES, ARE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO ENTER THE CHINA MARKET, TO ESTABLISH LINKS, OR TO MAKE INVESTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

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TRADING IMAGE BEING PROTECTED

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HONG KONG HAS TAKEN PARTICULAR CARE TO PROTECT ITS INTERNATIONAL TRADING IMAGE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF ITS TRADING SYSTEM, THE HEAD OF THE CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR JOHN HOWARD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO A GROUP OF STUDENTS OF THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR HOWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT THE INFRINGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDERMINED INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE STRATEGY OF ATTACKING COUNTERFEITING AND COPYRIGHT PIRACY IN HONG KONG WAS DIRECTED AT ALL LEVELS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT GOODS AT ALL ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED COMPREHENSIVE LAWS COVERING TRADE MARKS, TRADE DESCRIPTIONS, COPYRIGHT, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND PATENTS AND COMMITTED SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO THE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF THESE LAWS.

+THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS OF HONG KONG ARE, IN FACT, MORE STRINGENT THAN THE LAWS AND PRACTICES OF MANY COUNTRIES, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR HOWARD SAID A TOTAL OF 874 SEIZURES WERE MADE FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, INVOLVING GOODS VALUED AT \$47.3 MILLION, UNDER THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE AND RESULTED IN PROSECUTION OF 535 PERSONS OR FIRMS.

OPERATIONS TAKEN IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS THIS YEAR UNDER THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE HAD LED TO 79 SEIZURES WITH GOODS VALUED AT \$1.09 MILLION AND A TOTAL OF 108 PROSECUTIONS.

MR HOWARD SAID THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD A SPECIAL TASK FORCE COMPRISING 150 INVESTIGATORS WITH WIDE-RANGING POWERS TO ENFORCE THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND COPYRIGHT ORDINANCES.

+IN ORDER TO PROTECT OWNERS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COVERING COMPUTERS AND THEIR ACCESSORIES, CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST OFFENCES INCLUDING THE FORGING OF TRADE MARKS IN BOTH COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AND, MORE RECENTLY, INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT IN SOFTWARE PROGRAMMES.

+OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, OPERATIONS AGAINST THE INFRINGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN COMPUTER PRODUCTS HAVE RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF GOODS VALUED AT \$2.56 MILLION. 106 TRADERS HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED UNDER THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE AND 45 AWAITS PROSECUTION ACTION,+ HE SAID.

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PRIVATE SECTOR URGED TO SPONSOR ARTS
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THERE IS A NEED TO CONSIDER AFRESH THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A HONG KONG BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP ASSOCIATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, MRS WONG SAID SHE HOPED THAT MORE COMPANIES WOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SPONSORING ARTISTIC VENTURES.

/+AT PRESENT

+AT PRESENT THERE IS AN INDICATION OF TOO GREAT A RELIANCE ON PUBLIC FUNDING,+ SHE SAID.

+IF WE EXCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, ONLY SOME THREE PER CENT OF THE FUNDING OF THE ARTS COMES FROM PRIVATE SECTORS. I THINK THE CUSHIONING PROVIDED BY PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP IS TOO THIN.

+IN ALL RESPECTS, PUBLIC FUNDING SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN EXCLUSIVE SOURCE OF INCOME. TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO REFLECT COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SPONSORSHIP HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.+

MRS WONG SAID THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE FORMED ALONG THE LINES OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA.

SHE SAID SUCH AN ORGANISATION COULD PROVIDE A SERVICE TO POTENTIAL SPONSORS BY SEEKING EVENTS FOR THEM. IT COULD ALSO ACT AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION FOR BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS WITH ARTS BODIES AND GROUPS.

+COULD I SUGGEST THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY BE THE DRIVING FORCE IN THIS VENTURE. IF IT THINKS THE FORMATION OF SUCH AN ASSOCIATION WOULD BE USEFUL, I AM SURE THE COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) WOULD EXPLORE WAYS OF GETTING IT UP AND RUNNING.

+IN SHARING WITH YOU THE ABOVE THOUGHTS, I MUST ALSO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH (MSB) IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING THE CFPA, THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVISORY BODY, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT CFPA WILL ADD TO THE IDEAS AND SEEK THE VIEWS OF INTERESTED PARTIES INVOLVED.+

MRS WONG, WHO SPOKE IN HER CAPACITY AS COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, SAID SHE FELT THAT IN THE FIELD OF THE ARTS, +WE SHOULD ALL WORK QUIETLY AHEAD, BUT IN THE MATTER OF EVOLVING A POLICY, WE SHOULD GIVE THE AREA THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATION.+

TO ASSIST IN LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF ENCOURAGING FREEDOM OF DEVELOPMENT, MRS WONG SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO EVOLVE A FUNDING POLICY.

SHE SAID FUNDING OF PERFORMING ARTS, AS SHE SAW IT, WAS PRINCIPALLY TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND ARTISTS, AND ALSO TO PROMOTE APPRECIATION OF, AND ACCESSIBILITY TO, THE PERFORMING ARTS.

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NEW AIRBUS SERVICE LAUNCHED
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT WELCOME THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY COACHES, AS THEY ARE RELATIVELY EFFICIENT USERS OF ROAD SPACE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF A NEW AIRBUS SERVICE OPERATED BY THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY, MR LEEDS SAID ABOUT 80 000 TRIPS TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT WERE MADE DAILY BY VISITORS INCLUDING AIRPORT AND AIRLINE STAFF.

+THIS VOLUME OF GROUND SIDE TRAFFIC, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE STEADILY, CREATES A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE LIMITED ROAD SPACE AVAILABLE AT KAI TAK,+ HE SAID.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TWO NEW DIRECT ROUTES, A2 AND A3, FROM THE AIRPORT TO CENTRAL AND CAUSEWAY BAY RESPECTIVELY WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ROUTE 200.

KMB ALSO OPERATES A THIRD ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT TO TSIM SHA TSUI.

MR LEEDS SAID IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AIRPORT COACH SERVICE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED GRADUALLY SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR.

IN DECEMBER, THE FIRST OF THE AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES BEGAN SERVICE ON ROUTE 200, AND THE SECOND BATCH OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES STARTED TO PLY THE TSIM SHA TSUI ROUTE IN APRIL.

MR LEEDS NOTED THAT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES AND OTHER MEASURES, PASSENGERS ON THE TWO ROUTES INCREASED BY ALMOST 60 PER CENT OVER THE PAST YEAR.

HE PREDICTED THAT PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE THREE ROUTES IN MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS AND THE NEW DISTINCTIVE BUS STOPS ALL HELP TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO USE THE AIRBUS SERVICE ON THEIR RETURN TRIP TO THE AIRPORT.

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REGULATIONS ON SAMPAN OPERATION CLARIFIED
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY CLARIFIED THAT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF SAMPANS WHICH HAD BEEN IN FORCE FOR MANY YEARS, HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT STRESSED THAT THESE REGULATIONS, DESIGNED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS, ALLOWED SAMPANS TO CARRY PASSENGERS INSIDE TYPHOON SHELTERS ONLY.

/+PASSENGER SAFETY

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+PASSENGER SAFETY MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED JUST FOR THE SAKE OF ALLOWING SAMPAN OPERATORS TO EARN MORE MONEY,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN WAS COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS THAT SAMPAN OPERATORS WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT WHAT THEY CLAIMED TO BE +LATEST RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR OPERATIONS+ WHICH TOOK EFFECT FROM SATURDAY.

HE SAID THESE SAMPANS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO CARRY PASSENGERS OUTSIDE TYPHOON SHELTERS. +IT IS DANGEROUS TO ALLOW THEM TO OPERATE OUTSIDE THE LIMITS.+

ADDITIONALLY, THE OPERATORS WERE NOT QUALIFIED TO OPERATE OUTSIDE SPECIFIC RESTRICTED AREAS SUCH AS TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SUCH ACTIONS WERE DANGEROUS. TWO RECENT FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVED UNDER-QUALIFIED OPERATORS.

+THE SAMPAN WHICH RECENTLY COLLIDED WITH THE CHINESE PASSENGER SHIP NEAR LEI-U-MUN WITH THE LOSS OF TWO CHILDREN WAS OPERATED BY A PERSON WHO WAS ONLY QUALIFIED TO OPERATE WITHIN A TYPHOON SHELTER.

+SIMILARLY A SMALL FISHING VESSEL CAPSIZED IN AUGUST NEAR TAP MUN WITH LOSS OF LIFE. THE OPERATOR WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO OPERATE IN THAT AREA BUT WAS RESTRICTED TO AN AREA NEAR TAI PO,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE REFUTED A SUGGESTION THAT THE REGULATIONS WOULD DEPRIVE PEOPLE OF A CONVENIENT TRANSPORT BETWEEN THE SHORE AND OTHER VESSELS.

THESE PEOPLE, SUCH AS CREWMEN AND EMPLOYERS OF BARGES, COULD AND SHOULD TAKE OTHER FORMS OF SEA TRANSPORT. WHEN TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF TYPHOON SHELTERS THEY SHOULD USE PROPERLY LICENSED PASSENGER CARRYING LAUNCHES WHICH ARE READILY AVAILABLE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IF SAMPAN OPERATORS WANTED TO CARRY PASSENGERS OUTSIDE THE TYPHOON SHELTER, THEY WOULD HAVE TO UPGRADE THEIR SAFETY STANDARD AND MEET THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS) REGULATIONS.

PASSENGER CARRYING SAMPANS LICENSED UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (MISCELLANEOUS CRAFT) REGULATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BANNED FROM WATERS OUTSIDE THE TYPHOON SHELTERS AND OUTSIDE MINOR PORTS.

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FORD VISITS WELFARE OFFICES

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR DAVID FORD, VISITED SEVERAL SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FIELD OFFICES TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SEE HOW WELFARE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS EVELYN DOE, HE FIRST CALLED AT THE MONG KOK FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE.

HE LEARNED THAT THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 22 SUCH CENTRES BEING OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. CASES HANDLED MAINLY INVOLVED DIFFICULTIES IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, ADJUSTMENT TO MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ARISING FROM UNEMPLOYMENT OR LOSS OF THE CHIEF BREAD-WINNER.

MR FORD THEN VISITED THE YAU MA TEI FIELD UNIT WHICH IS ONE OF THE 31 OFFICES RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF.

HE NEXT TOURED THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE AND SAW HOW PROGRAMMES WERE ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S GROUP WORK UNIT TO HELP PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG, TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF MUTUAL CO-OPERATION AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

AFTER VISITING THE FIELD OFFICES, MR FORD RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY TO MEET SENIOR OFFICERS AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR BUS ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN SELBY, TODAY (THURSDAY) APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC FOR DONATIONS TO HELP VICTIMS OF THE BUS ACCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED NEAR TAI HING ESTATE YESTERDAY.

MR SELBY MADE THE APPEAL WHEN HE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT, VISITED THOSE INJURED IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL THIS AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SEND CROSSED CHEQUES PAYABLE TO +TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE - PUBLIC DONATION ACCOUNT+.

THE ADDRESS IS THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

/+THE DISTRICT

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+THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ALLOCATE FUNDS TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE ACCOUNT UNLESS THE DONORS HAVE SPECIFIED RECIPIENTS,+ MR SELBY SAID.

DONORS SHOULD WRITE +AID TO TUEN MUN BUS ACCIDENT VICTIMS+ ON THE ENVELOPES AND ENCLOSE THEIR ADDRESSES AS THEY WILL BE GIVEN OFFICIAL RECEIPTS LATER.

THE PUBLIC IS ALSO WELCOME TO FORWARD CASH DONATIONS TO THE DISTRICT SECRETARY OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-4511151.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF KUWAIT PACIFIC FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986.

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FAMILIES OF FIRE VICTIMS TO RECEIVE DONATIONS
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THE DISTRICT BOARD GROUP THAT HAS BEEN RAISING FUNDS FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS FOLLOWING THE KWAI CHUNG FUR FACTORY FIRE ON OCTOBER 8 WILL MAKE AN INITIAL DONATION TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

CHEQUES WILL BE PRESENTED TO FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE. THREE MEMBERS OF THE FUND-RAISING GROUP, MR HO TUNG-CHING, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI AND MR LEE SHUN-SHIN, WILL PRESIDE.

THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

/THE EIGHT-MEMBER

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THE EIGHT-MEMBER FUND RAISING GROUP, WITH THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER AS ITS ADVISER, WAS SET UP UNDER THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE INJURED IN THE FIRE AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT 10.15 AM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES (NEXT TO KWAI HING MTR STATION) 166-174, HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON TO GO
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THE OCCUPANTS OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE MAIN ROOF OF 182, WOOSUNG STREET IN KOWLOON, WHO IGNORED A DEMOLITION ORDER ISSUED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE 18 MONTHS AGO, NOW FACE COURT ACTION.

NOTICES POSTED ON PROMINENT PARTS OF THE STRUCTURES SAID THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WOULD APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS AT KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 9.

THE AUTHORITY WISHES TO CLOSE THE STRUCTURES SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WOULD TAKE PLACE ONCE THE COURT MAKES THE CLOSURE ORDER.

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WONG TAI SIN TO HONOUR 56 CITIZENS
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THE NEIGHBOURLINESS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT DEMONSTRATED BY 56 PEOPLE IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT WILL BE RECOGNISED AT AN AWARD CEREMONY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE 12 OUTSTANDING CITIZENS AND 44 GOOD CITIZENS WERE CHOSEN UNDER A SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

/+WE HOPE

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+WE HOPE TO PROMOTE CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG RESIDENTS AFTER ESTABLISHING A WELL DEFINED IMAGE OF GOOD CITIZENS,+ SAID THE CONVENOR OF THE WORKING GROUP, MR ALBERT LI.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE MR LI, WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN MR MICHAEL CHENG, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MR CHAN CHOW-FAN AND MR LEE MAN-KWONG, AND WONG TAI SIN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (WEST), MR NG HON-WAH.

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8.15 PM AT FUNG MING HALL, WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BEGIN TOMORROW AT 8.15 PM AT FUNG MING HALL, WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

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TV PROGRAMME TO PORTRAY WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT
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A +GOOD MORNING WONG TAI SIN+ TELEVISION PROGRAMME PORTRAYING THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 8).

THE BROADCAST WILL BE MADE ON TVB JADE FROM 7 AM TO 9 AM, FROM THE WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

THE PROGRAMME IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE TWO-HOUR PROGRAMME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICHOLAS YEK, SAID THE PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING THE AUDIENCE, PARTICULARLY WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS, WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT.

THIS WOULD STIMULATE THEM TO SHARE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

IN WONG TAI SIN, A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE DISTRICT INTO A BETTER LIVING AREA.

/THE PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONTAIN DETAILS OF REDEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR HOUSING ESTATES AND FOR THE DIAMOND HILL AND TAI HOM AREAS WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING.

WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL CHENG, WILL REPORT ON THE WORKS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD DURING AN INTERVIEW IN THE PROGRAMME.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ZONING PLANS
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MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON THE OUTLINE ZONING PLANS FOR SHEK KIP MEI AND CHEUNG SHA WAN.

THE MEETING, WHICH WILL START AT 3 PM, WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AT 4 PM FOR DISCUSSION CONCERNING NINE OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND FIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

THESE OTHER MATTERS INCLUDE CLEARANCE OF HING WAH STREET SQUATTER AREA; DECKING OF TONKIN STREET NULLAH; FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HING WAH STREET NULLAH DECK; A PROPOSED SIGNBOARD RELOCATION OF UN CHAU STREET TEMPORARY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT; AND A PROPOSED RAIN SHELTER AT FIVE RINGS GARDENS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SITTING-OUT AREAS AND OPEN SPACE, THE HAWKER PROBLEM AT PEI HO STREET, AND ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN APLIU STREET WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING, THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL GO INTO SESSION AT 2 PM IN ORDER TO COMPLETE BUSINESS FROM ITS TENTH MEETING WHICH HAD TO BE ADJOURNED.

BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD AT 39 TONKIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER BOTH THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM AT 39 TONKIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

THE ADJOURNED DB MEETING WILL LAST FROM 2 PM TO 3 PM. ALL REPORTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL THEN BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE CONFERENCE ROOM SO THAT MEMBERS CAN DISCUSS PRIVATELY THE SHEK KIP MEI AND CHEUNG SHA WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

THE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AT 4 PM.

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+LAW FOR JOURNALISTS+ COURSE SEEKS APPLICATIONS
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JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A +LAW FOR JOURNALISTS+ COURSE ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC.

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD FOR 10 EVENINGS STARTING FROM DECEMBER 4, FROM 6.30 PM TO 9.30 PM. COURSE FEE IS \$900, BUT PARTICIPANTS SPONSORED BY EMPLOYERS PAY ONLY \$150, WHILE THE REST WILL BE BORNE BY THE COUNCIL.

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE INCLUDE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF LAW, CLASSIFICATIONS, SOURCES OF LAW, COURT STRUCTURE AND TRIBUNALS, CONTEMPT OF COURT, LAW OF TRADE SECRETS AND SO ON.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS NOVEMBER 21 AND ENROLMENT IS LIMITED TO 60.

THE PROGRAMME IS ONE OF 13 COURSES UNDER THE BASIC TRAINING SCHEME. JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 10 COURSES WITHIN FIVE YEARS WILL BE AWARDED A CERTIFICATE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD, ON 5-8932341 EXT. 283 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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49 FARE WELL AT PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS
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A FORMER ROBBER WHO ACHIEVED THE SECOND HIGHEST PLACE IN A PUBLIC EXAMINATION WAS AMONG A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES AT A PENAL INSTITUTION TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE GROUP OF 49, AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 21, RECEIVED CERTIFICATES FROM MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MR PETER C. WONG, AT A PRESENTATION AT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

THEY HAD SAT FOR 49 PAPERS IN FOUR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS -- THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (HIGHER ACCOUNTING), LCC INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS, LCC ELEMENTARY BOOK-KEEPING, AND PITMAN ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS -- BETWEEN LAST NOVEMBER AND MAY THIS YEAR WHILE SERVING SENTENCES IN THE INSTITUTION, AND PASSED WITH 25 DISTINCTIONS.

/THE 21-YEAR-OLD

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THE 21-YEAR-OLD EX-ROBBER CAME SECOND IN THE INTERNATIONAL LCC INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS. HE HAD BEEN AWARDED A BRONZE MEDAL BY THE LCC EXAMINATION BOARD EARLIER.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR WONG PRAISED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR PROVIDING INMATES WITH ACADEMIC TRAINING LEADING TO THEIR ACQUISITION OF ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS.

HE TOLD INMATES THAT THEY MIGHT AGAIN FACE DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE, BUT THE ATTENDANCE OF THEIR FAMILIES AT THE CEREMONY WAS AN INDICATION OF THEIR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR THEM.

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MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION, DR KEITH HALNAN, WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 4 PM.

DR HALNAN WILL SPEAK ON PLANS OF THE WORKING PARTY SET UP RECENTLY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE FUTURE ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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SPRING LAUNCH FOR NEW CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

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A NEW TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED LIVE ON TELEVISION IN MID-MAY NEXT YEAR IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.

THIS WAS ENDORSED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE JOINT URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MR W.M. SULKE AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICITY AND OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR NEXT YEAR.

AMONG OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED PUBLICITY PROGRAMME ARE A MUSIC VIDEO, A PARADE ON A MAIN THOROUGHFARE AND CARNIVALS IN AS MANY DISTRICTS AS POSSIBLE.

/THE CAMPAIGN

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THE CAMPAIGN STRATEGY HAD EARLIER BEEN ENDORSED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE AND MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY BOTH COUNCILS BEFORE PLANS ARE FINALISED.

AT TODAY'S MEETING THE STEERING COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED THE FEASIBILITY OF INVESTIGATING SUCCESSFUL ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGNS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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FOLK GROUP TO GIVE CONCERT
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A FOLK CONCERT FEATURING A POPULAR LOCAL GROUP, CRYSTAL NOTES, IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE CONCERT WOULD TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BUT IT WILL NOW BE HELD AT THE FRINGE CLUB, 2 LOWER ALBERT ROAD, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, STARTING AT 8 PM.

THE CRYSTAL NOTES GROUP WAS FORMED IN 1978, COMPRISING FOUR AMATEUR FOLK SINGERS. IT HAS WON A NUMBER OF AWARDS IN VARIOUS CONTESTS SUCH AS THE KWUN TONG MUSIC FESTIVAL COMPETITION IN 1978, THE AMATEUR TALENT SINGING CONTEST IN 1979 AND THE ANTI-NARCOTICS SINGING COMPETITION IN 1983.

POPULAR PIECES SUCH AS +TODAY+, +COUNTRY ROAD+ AND +JAMAICA FAREWELL+ WILL BE PLAYED ON NOVEMBER 28.

ADMISSION IS FREE. FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED ON 5-283257.

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TRAFFIC PLAN FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 9) WHEN A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE CENOTAPH IN CENTRAL.

THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC:

- * EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR, AND THE SECTION OF JACKSON ROAD BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO NOON.

/% CONNAUGHT ROAD

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- * CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE WEST AND EDINBURGH PLACE EAST WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10.50 AM TO 11.25 AM.
- * HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, THE SECTION OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND BETWEEN HARCOURT ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET, AND THE SECTION OF MURRAY ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10.30 AM TO NOON.
- * CHATER ROAD BETWEEN PEDDER STREET AND JACKSON ROAD, AND THE SECTION OF ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 7 AM TO NOON.

THE FOLLOWING DIVERSIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, BETWEEN 8 AM AND NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:

- * AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF JACKSON ROAD, VEHICLES ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CLUB STREET.
- * EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA EDINBURGH PLACE WEST, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH AND EDINBURGH PLACE EAST FROM 10.50 AM TO 11.25 AM. ALL BUSES AND HEAVY VEHICLES WILL USE THE NORTHERN LANE WHEN PASSING THROUGH THE QUEEN'S PIER CONCOURSE AREA.
- * WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON HARCOURT ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED SOUTH INTO COTTON TREE DRIVE. DRIVERS WISHING TO PROCEED FURTHER WEST WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE SLIP ROAD TO QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
- * EASTBOUND TRAFFIC FROM THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN SOUTH INTO TAMAR STREET AND THEN LEFT INTO QUEENSWAY.
- * AS SOON AS CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE WEST AND EDINBURGH PLACE EAST IS CLOSED, EDINBURGH PLACE CENTRAL WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND. VEHICLES LEAVING THE STAR FERRY MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA EDINBURGH PLACE CENTRAL, QUEEN'S PIER AND EDINBURGH PLACE EAST BETWEEN 10.50 AM AND 11.25 AM.

ALL PARKING SPACES IN JACKSON ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED THROUGHOUT SUNDAY WHILE MOTORCYCLE PARKING SPACES IN EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED TEMPORARILY BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND NOON.

/IN ADDITION,

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IN ADDITION, THE TAXI STANDS IN CHATER ROAD AND EDINBURGH PLACE WEST WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT AND FROM 10 AM TO 11.30 AM RESPECTIVELY. THE GREEN MINIBUS STAND AT EDINBURGH PLACE EAST WILL ALSO BE RE-SITED TEMPORARILY TO CONNAUGHT PLACE BETWEEN 10 AM AND NOON.

BUSES ON CMB ROUTES 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 15, 24, 61, 64, 70, 80, 81M, 99, 260, 780, CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 103, AND KMB ROUTE A2 WILL BE DIVERTED TO AVOID THE CLOSED OR RE-ROUTED ROADS BETWEEN 10.30 AM AND NOON. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, GREEN MINIBUSES ON ROUTES 1, 3A, 8, 9, 22 AND 28 WILL ALSO BE DIVERTED.

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RIGHT-TURN BAN IN KWAI CHUNG
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FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), RIGHT TURNS FROM KIN HONG STREET ONTO WO TONG TSUI STREET IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE BANNED.

THIS WILL ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE JUNCTION.

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