



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PNEUMOCONIOSIS LEVY RATE TO BE REDUCED

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A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE A LEVY WHICH FINANCES COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, A BILL TO ALLOW THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF UP TO \$20,000 TO THE VICTIMS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE AND THEIR DEPENDANTS WAS READ A SECOND TIME.

PNEUMOCONIOSIS IS CAUSED BY INHALING SILICA OR ASBESTOS AND MAINLY AFFECTS CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY WORKERS.

IN MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS OF THE LEVY ON THE VALUE OF QUARRY PRODUCTS AND ON CONSTRUCTION WORKS HAD REACHED \$111 MILLION BY THE END OF FEBRUARY DESPITE REDUCTIONS IN THE LEVY RATE.

HE SAID THE LEVY WAS ORIGINALLY SET AT 0.2 PER CENT BUT WAS CUT TO 0.15 PER CENT IN 1986 AND TO 0.05 PER CENT IN JANUARY LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESS IN REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF THE DISEASE.

DESPITE THE SHARP CUTS IN THE RATE OF LEVY AND DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN 1987 TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO INCLUDE PREVENTIVE WORKS SUCH AS RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS HAD CONTINUED TO INCREASE, HE SAID.

"THE FUND BOARD HAS THEREFORE REVIEWED THE SITUATION YET AGAIN AND HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CURRENT 0.05 PER CENT RATE OF LEVY SHOULD BE REDUCED STILL FURTHER TO 0.02 PER CENT," MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED.

"THIS IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE THE SURPLUS TO ABOUT \$77 MILLION BY 1993. THIS WOULD STILL BE ABOUT THREE TIMES ANNUAL EXPENDITURE, BUT THIS WILL, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON THE FORTUNES OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DURING THIS PERIOD."

THE REVISED RATE OF LEVY WOULD TAKE EFFECT 30 DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE GAZETTE, WHICH WOULD BE ON JUNE 27.

/MR BEIDGE

MR BRIDGE ADDED THAT THE TREND OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND THE LEVEL OF RESERVES WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW AND, IF NECESSARY, FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS WOULD BE RECOMMENDED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES WHICH WERE REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD.

"THE FUND BOARD CONSIDERS THAT THE OPTIMUM LEVEL OF RESERVES SHOULD BE ABOUT 18 MONTHS EXPENDITURE AND HAS SET ITSELF THIS TARGET FOR THE LONG TERM," HE SAID.

GIVING BACKGROUND DETAILS, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT IN 1979 OVER 1,600 WORKERS WERE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE WAS THEREFORE ENACTED TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS.

FOR MANY YEARS NOW THERE HAD BEEN REGULATIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WHICH OBLIGED EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VENTILATION IN WORKING PLACES AND TO TAKE ADEQUATE MEASURES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES FROM INHALING DUST.

"IN 1986 WE INTRODUCED FURTHER REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ASBESTOS IS USED AND PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF APPROVED BREATHING APPARATUS," HE SAID.

THE RESULT OF ALL THESE MEASURES HAD BEEN A VERY ENCOURAGING REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS FOUND TO SUFFER FROM THE DISEASE AND SO QUALIFYING FOR COMPENSATION.

THE NUMBER HAD DROPPED FROM 472 IN 1982 TO 166 LAST YEAR.

IN INTRODUCING THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, MR BRIDGE SAID THIS WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF UP TO \$20,000 TO VICTIMS OF THE DISEASE OR THEIR DEPENDANTS.

HE SAID THE BOARD'S POWER TO MAKE SUCH PAYMENTS WAS AT PRESENT NOT EXPRESSLY STATED AND A SECTION IN THE ORDINANCE LIMITED ANY SUCH PAYMENTS TO ONLY \$1,000 WHICH WAS OF LITTLE HELP TO THE VICTIMS.

"THE POWER TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF UP TO \$20,000 WILL ENABLE THE BOARD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE EARLIER THAN IS POSSIBLE AT PRESENT," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"ANY SUMS PAID IN ADVANCE MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FINALLY ASSESSED."

THE BILL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MORE FUNDS FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS PREVENTION URGED

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PNEUMOCONIOSIS IS A CHRONIC AND PAINFUL DISEASE, AND PREVENTION OF IT IS MOST IMPORTANT, THE HON HO SAI-CHU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE RATE OF LEVY UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE, MR HO NOTED THAT WITH A DECREASING NUMBER OF CLAIMS THE SIZE OF THE FUND HAD INCREASED TO \$111 MILLION IN FEBRUARY.

HE URGED THAT GOOD USE BE MADE OF THIS IN PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE.

"THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IN OCTOBER 1987 TO EXTEND THE USE OF THE FUND TOWARDS RESEARCH, PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, THE ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF \$1 MILLION IN THIS RESPECT REPRESENTS ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE PRESENT ACCUMULATED FUND," HE SAID.

THE SCOPE OF THE FUND SHOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED TO COVER MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES.

THESE WOULD INCLUDE STEPPING UP INSPECTION OF THE VENTILATION FACILITIES IN WORKPLACES; AND SUBSIDISING THE INSTALLATION OF INHALERS AND MONITORING THE USE OF SUCH APPARATUS.

FREE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAD JUST CONTRACTED THE DISEASE AND WISHED TO CHANGE JOBS.

THEY COULD ALSO BE GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE SUBSIDY TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR LOSS IN WAGES DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD.

"WITH THIS POSITIVE APPROACH IN MIND, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IN A FEW YEARS' TIME, WHEN THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS FROM THE FUND BECOMES INSIGNIFICANT, THE LEVY SHOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY.

"THE RECURRENT PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND SHOULD BE COVERED BY EARNINGS FROM PRUDENT INVESTMENT OF THE EXISTING FUNDS," MR HO SAID.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID HE SHARED THE ENTHUSIASM OF MR HO AND THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG FOR PREVENTION, AND HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER MEASURES.

HOWEVER, HE DID NOT HIMSELF THINK IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE INCIDENCE OF THE DISEASE WOULD INCREASE IN FUTURE.

/THE PREVENTIVE

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THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN HAD MET WITH MOST ENCOURAGING SUCCESS AND ALL THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTED THAT THE INCIDENCE WAS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO FALL.

"EVEN WITH THE REDUCTION IN LEVY WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE AMPLE FUNDS FOR ANY WORTHWHILE PREVENTIVE MEASURES WE CAN DEVISE," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IF OUR FORECASTS DO TURN OUT TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC, I DO NOT MYSELF SEE ANY PROBLEM IN REVIEWING THE LEVY AND, IF NECESSARY, INCREASING IT LATER.

"THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHOW THAT LEVIES CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP ACTUALLY MAKES EMPLOYERS MORE WILLING TO PAY RATHER THAN LESS."

"THIS IS BECAUSE EMPLOYER RESISTANCE TO LEVIES IS LARGELY DUE TO FEARS OF THE SO CALLED 'RATCHET EFFECT', THE FEAR THAT LEVIES CAN ONLY GO UP, NEVER DOWN.

"BY SHOWING THAT THE BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE GENUINELY NEUTRAL AND OBJECTIVE ON THIS ISSUE WE HAVE GREATLY REDUCED EMPLOYER RESISTANCE TO THE SCHEME."

MR BRIDGE SAID THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAS NOW VERY SUPPORTIVE AND HAD ITSELF TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN RECOMMENDING EXPENDITURE FROM THE FUND ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE INDUSTRY WAS VERY ENCOURAGING.

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CUT IN LEVY FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS FUND OPPOSED

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A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE RATE OF THE LEVY THAT FINANCES THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND WAS OPPOSED BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TAM SAID THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR LOWERING THE RATE OF LEVY FROM 0.05 PER CENT TO 0.02 PER CENT WERE UNSOUND.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO HAVE TOO VAST A RESERVE IN THE FUND BECAUSE FUND INCOME HAD BEEN STABLE WHILE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FROM IT HAD NOT SHOWN ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE.

/BUT THE

BUT THE INCUBATION PERIOD FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS COULD BE AS LONG AS 10 OR EVEN 40 YEARS, MR TAM SAID.

SO IT WOULD BE TOO OPTIMISTIC TO SET THE TREND OF THE FUND'S EXPENDITURE ON THE BASIS OF THE APPARENT NUMBER OF CASES AND THE TREND OF COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.

"A VAST RESERVE IN THE FUND SHOULD BE THE BEST HEDGE AGAINST A FUTURE RAINY DAY," HE SAID.

HE ALSO DISAGREED WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE RATE OF LEVY COULD BE RAISED IN THE FUTURE, IF AND WHEN NECESSARY.

IT WAS ALL TOO NATURAL THAT REDUCTION IN CHARGES WAS EASILY ACCEPTABLE WHILE ANY INCREASES WERE BOUND TO BE DIFFICULT TO INTRODUCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY INVOLVED CONTRIBUTION FROM EMPLOYERS, HE SAID.

MR TAM ALSO SAID THAT THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER HAD BEEN MISLEADING IN SAYING THAT DESPITE THE SHARP CUTS IN THE RATE OF LEVY IN THE PAST AND DESPITE THE EXTENSION OF THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO INCLUDE PREVENTIVE WORK SUCH AS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS HAD CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

THIS ARGUMENT WAS MISLEADING BECAUSE THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE THAT HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD WAS STILL IN A PREPARATORY STAGE ONLY.

WHEN RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY WORK HAD ACTUALLY STARTED, THE EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND WOULD INCREASE, SUBSTANTIALLY HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, EXPENDITURE WOULD RISE IF THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE COULD BE GIVEN A BETTER DEAL, SUCH AS A LONG-TERM PAYMENT IN ADDITION TO A LUMP SUM, AND AN ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK WAS PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO WERE MORE VULNERABLE TO THE DISEASE.

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PROVISION FOR REVIEW OF DECISION

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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WHICH CONCERNS PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, EXPLAINED THE PURPOSES OF THE BILL IN MOVING ITS SECOND READING.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR THE REVIEW BY A TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL OF DECISIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE.

A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE HOLDER TO OPERATE A NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS SERVICE, A PRIVATE BUS SERVICE OR A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICE.

UNDER THE PRESENT ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, THE COMMISSIONER MUST OBTAIN THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE LICENSEE BEFORE HE COULD AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE, MR LEUNG SAID.

IF THE LICENSEE WITHHELD HIS CONSENT, THE COMMISSIONER COULD NOT INTRODUCE ANY CHANGES UNTIL THE LICENCE EXPIRED.

THIS LIMITED HIS ABILITY TO MEET PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDS PROMPTLY AND MIGHT, IN SOME CASES, SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT TO ALLOW THE COMMISSIONER GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING THE SERVICES UNDER A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE TO MEET CHANGING TRANSPORT NEEDS, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS WOULD BE AMENDED TO EMPOWER HIM TO ALTER THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE AFTER CONSULTING THE LICENSEE.

BUT TO PROTECT HIS INTERESTS, THE LICENSEE WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL FOR A REVIEW OF THE COMMISSIONER'S DECISION.

THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED IN THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR SUCH A REVIEW.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FIVE BILLS PASSED
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FOUR BUDGET-RELATED BILLS WERE AMONG THE FIVE BILLS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

/THE SOCIETIES

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THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS ALSO PASSED AT THE MEETING.

TWO OTHER BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THESE BILLS WERE THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED A RESOLUTION, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE.

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POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 1987 RELEASED

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THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SET UP IN EARLY 1986 TO TAKE OVER THE WORK PREVIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE FORMER UMELCO POLICE GROUP (UPG), HAS RELEASED ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987.

TABLING THE REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SAID THAT DURING 1987 THE COMMITTEE HAD EXAMINED IN DETAIL 3,997 COMPLAINT CASES, EMBRACING 6,117 ALLEGATIONS, PROCESSED BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE (CAPO) OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

THE REPORT STATES THAT, SIMILAR TO 1986, THE LARGEST SINGLE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT WAS ABOUT OVERBEARING, IMPOLITE CONDUCT OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OF POLICE OFFICERS (25.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS).

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY NEGLECT OF DUTY OR IMPROPER ACTION (24.6 PER CENT), ASSAULT (18.7 PER CENT), UNNECESSARY USE OF AUTHORITY (15.0 PER CENT) AND FABRICATION OF EVIDENCE (10.1 PER CENT).

IN ADDITION, THE REPORT STATES THAT AS A RESULT OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO COMPLAINTS CARRIED OUT BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE CAPO AND MONITORED BY THE COMMITTEE, APPROPRIATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS OR DISCIPLINARY/INTERNAL ACTIONS WERE TAKEN AGAINST 1,417 POLICE OFFICERS DURING THE YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE FIGURES FOR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND VARIOUS FORMS OF LEGAL, DISCIPLINARY OR INTERNAL ACTION TAKEN AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULT AND FRONT-LINE NATURE OF POLICE WORK.

/THEY SHOULD

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THEY SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL POLICE-PUBLIC CONFRONTATION SITUATIONS DURING THE YEAR, INCLUDING TWO MILLION PERSONS STOPPED AND CHECKED THROUGH THE POLICE OPERATIONAL NOMINAL INDEX COMPUTER SYSTEM (PONICS) AND 1.3 MILLION TRAFFIC SUMMONSES AND TICKETS ISSUED.

DR TSE ALSO SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE, THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT, HAD BEEN ABLE TO VET IN DETAIL EVERY COMPLAINT CASE PROCESSED BY THE CAPO.

IN THE PROCESS OF VETTING THE COMPLAINT CASES, THE COMMITTEE HAD ALSO PROPOSED, DURING THE YEAR, A NUMBER OF REVIEWS OF, AND CHANGES TO, POLICE PRACTICES, PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING UPON THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM AND ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN MINIMISING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE.

SOME OF THE STUDIES AND CHANGES INITIATED BY THE COMMITTEE INCLUDED:

- (A) IMPROVEMENTS ON REPLY LETTERS TO COMPLAINANTS;
- (B) A REVIEW OF THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE ON PHOTOGRAPHING OF SUSPECTS AND THE PROPER USE OF SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS;
- (C) THE BRINGING TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE COURT PROSECUTOR ANY FACTS OR INFORMATION DISCOVERED DURING THE COURSE OF CAPO INVESTIGATIONS WHICH MAY BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO A DEFENDANT AND WHICH MAY BE PERTINENT TO THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE;
- (D) A STUDY ON THE ISSUE OF FORCE-WIDE GUIDELINES ON "STRIP SEARCH" WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH SUCH A SEARCH WAS TO BE CONDUCTED;
- (E) AN AMENDMENT TO THE RELEVANT POLICE GENERAL ORDERS TO INCORPORATE THE REQUIREMENT OF REQUESTING THE OWNER/OCCUPIER OF THE PREMISES, OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE, TO SIGN IN THE NOTEBOOK OF THE POLICE OFFICER CONCERNED THAT THINGS ARE IN ORDER OR OTHERWISE AT THE CONCLUSION OF A HOUSE SEARCH;
- (F) THE ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIEF POLICE OFFICERS CONCERNED THAT BEFORE TAKING A STATEMENT FROM A COMPLAINANT, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CAUTION HIM IF HE IS A DEFENDANT IN A CRIMINAL CASE;

/(G) THE ISSUE

- (G) THE ISSUE OF REMINDERS IN WHICH FORCE-WIDE ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE RELEVANT POLICE GENERAL ORDERS GOVERNING THE SITUATIONS UNDER WHICH HANDCUFFS ARE USE AND ALSO TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORD IN POLICE NOTEBOOKS;
- (H) THE RE-BRIEFING OF ALL POLICE UNITS CONCERNED TO ASK MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IN THE DISCHARGE OF CONSTABULARY DUTIES, ONLY FOR INFORMATION WHICH WAS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL AND RELEVANT TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT A TOTAL OF 3,885 NEW CASES WERE REGISTERED BY THE CAPO IN 1987, WHICH SHOWED A DECREASE OF 14.5 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURE (4,544) IN 1986. AS IN 1986, A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE NEW CASES (91.5 PER CENT) WERE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE FORCE.

THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE IS AN INDEPENDENT MONITORING GROUP COMPRISING THE CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN, ALL DRAWN FROM OMELCO, AND NINE MEMBERS WHO ARE ALL ACTIVE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE.

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OUT-OF-REGION TRAVEL BY STUDENTS BEING MINIMISED

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EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO MINIMISE OUT-OF-REGION TRAVEL BY SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID THIS WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT THE VARIOUS MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO TACKLE THE REGIONAL SHORTFALL IN SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN SHA TIN, TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICTS HAD BEEN DETAILED IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION IN THE COUNCIL ON JUNE 3 LAST YEAR.

/THEY INCLUDED

THEY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- * ADDING SEVEN MORE SCHOOLS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME, FOR COMPLETION BY SEPTEMBER 1991;
- * ADVANCING THE COMPLETION DATES OF NEW SCHOOLS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT THAT SITE CONSTRAINTS ALLOW;
- * ADVANCING THE OPENING OF NEW SCHOOLS BY HAVING TWO SCHOOLS SHARE A NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDING IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION;
- * REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DISCRETIONARY PLACES FROM 10 PER CENT TO 5 PER CENT AND LIMITING THEM TO STUDENTS FROM THE SAME DISTRICT;
- * ADDING ONE EXTRA FLOATING CLASS TO ALL EXISTING SCHOOL AND ADOPTING A MODIFIED CLASS STRUCTURE FOR NEW SCHOOLS.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE MEASURES CAN BE JUDGED FROM THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL SECONDARY 1 PLACES THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"IF NO SPECIAL MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN, THEN IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR ALMOST 4,000 CHILDREN, AND IN EACH YEAR FROM 1989 MORE THAN 5,000 CHILDREN, WOULD BE TRAVELLING OUT OF THE REGION TO ATTEND SECONDARY 1 CLASSES.

"BY INTRODUCING ALL THESE REMEDIAL MEASURES WE HAVE PROVIDED ALMOST 1,000 EXTRA SECONDARY 1 PLACES FOR THE COMING SEPTEMBER, AND ALMOST 4,500 EXTRA PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 1989."

IN 1990 AND 1991, ASSUMING THAT BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS WERE ACCURATE, A SLIGHT SURPLUS OF SECONDARY 1 PLACES IN THE REGION, INSTEAD OF SHORTFALLS OF FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND PLACES, COULD NOW BE FORESEEN.

THE SITUATION IN 1992 AND BEYOND WAS BEING REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF UPDATED POPULATION PROJECTIONS, BASED ON THE 1986 BY-CENSUS, WHICH HAD RECENTLY BECOME AVAILABLE.

"IF THESE PROJECTIONS INDICATED A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS, THEN I SHALL DO MY BEST TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE PROVIDED.

"WHILE SOME OF THESE MEASURES DO MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED AND THEIR TEACHERS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION RECEIVED BY THE CHILDREN IN THE REGION WILL NOT BE AFFECTED," MR BRIDGE SAID.

CIVIL SERVICE RESIGNATIONS REMAIN SMALL

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THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS RESIGNING HAS REMAINED SMALL AND HAS BEEN MADE UP MAINLY OF OFFICERS IN LOWER RANK, THAT IS, BELOW THE SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"OUR JUDGEMENT IS THAT THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN AFFECTED BY THESE RESIGNATIONS TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT," HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, SIR DAVID SAID: "BY AND LARGE, THE VACANCIES CREATED HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY FILLED BY SUITABLE CANDIDATES.

"AS IN ANY LARGE ORGANISATION, WE MONITOR VERY CLOSELY OUR WASTAGE AND RESIGNATION RATES."

IN 1985-86, 2,701 CIVIL SERVANTS RESIGNED FROM THE SERVICE, WHILE THE FIGURE FOR 1986-87 WAS 2,494 AND FOR 1987-88 IT WAS 4,065, HE SAID.

"BETWEEN 1985-86 AND 1986-87 IT FELL, WHILE IN 1987-88 IT ROSE. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEREFORE TO PREDICT WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR."

NOTING THAT FIGURES AT THE DIRECTORATE AND SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LEVELS WERE OF INTEREST, SIR DAVID SAID THE PRESENT DIRECTORATE STRENGTH STOOD AT 1,024 AND THE NUMBER OF RESIGNATIONS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS WAS 13 IN 1985-86, THREE IN 1986-87 AND SEVEN IN 1987-88.

AT THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT/SENIOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, THE PRESENT TOTAL STRENGTH WAS 1,837. THE RESIGNATION FIGURES WERE : 24 FOR 1985-86, 18 FOR 1986-87 AND 28 FOR 1987-88.

TO SEE THE SITUATION IN THE OVERAL CONTEXT, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS USEFUL TO LOOK AT THE FIGURES IN TERMS OF THE PERCENTAGE OF RESIGNATIONS TO TOTAL STRENGTH.

ON THIS BASIS, THE AVERAGE RESIGNATION RATE SINCE 1981-82 HAD BEEN SOME 2.2 PER CENT OF TOTAL STRENGTH, HE SAID.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS HAD BEEN 1.5 PER CENT, 1.4 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT.

"THESE FIGURES REMAIN LOW WHEN COMPARED WITH MANY LARGE COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHERE I UNDERSTAND CERTAIN RATES OF AROUND 10 PER CENT ARE NOT UNCOMMON," SIR DAVID SAID.

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PUBLICITY ON HILL 'BLACKSPOTS' NOT ADVANTAGEOUS
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MOUNTAINEERS BY NATURE SEEK NEW CHALLENGES AND GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY ON SPECIFIC ROCK CLIMBING "BLACKSPOTS" WOULD NOT DETER EXPERIENCED CLIMBERS AND MIGHT ALSO HAVE AN UNDESIRABLE EFFECT OF ATTRACTING LESS EXPERIENCED CLIMBERS TO SUCH LOCATIONS.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT HAD A COMMITTEE DEALING WITH SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS, AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND FILMS ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AS PART OF ITS ON-GOING "PLAY SAFE" CAMPAIGN, MR LIAO SAID.

DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAD ONLY BEEN ONE FATAL CASE AND TWO INJURY CASES ARISING FROM ROCK CLIMBING IN HONG KONG.

THE FORMER INVOLVED A YOUNG MAN CLIMBING UNACCOMPANIED AND ILL-EQUIPPED ON THE LION ROCK MAIN CRAG IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE HAD BEEN THREE DEATHS AND 32 INCIDENTS INVOLVING 115 HIKERS OR HILLWALKERS, MOSTLY OCCURRING WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS BUT NOT AT ANY PARTICULAR SPOTS.

"IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT IN MOST CASES, THE ACCIDENTS WERE THE RESULT OF A PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL FACTOR OR CONDITIONS SUCH AS SUNSTROKE OR DEHYDRATION AND DID NOT INVOLVE FALLS OR OTHER MISHAPS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE ACTIVITY ITSELF," MR LIAO SAID.

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FEASIBILITY OF EXPO IN HK UNDER STUDY
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THE FEASIBILITY OF HONG KONG HOSTING A WORLD EXPOSITION IS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG, MR TSAO SAID IT WAS A COMPLEX MATTER WHICH INVOLVED A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D'EXPOSITIONS (BIE) WAS ALREADY AWARE OF HONG KONG'S INTEREST IN HOLDING AN EXPO IN 1997, AND NO FURTHER NOTIFICATION OF INTEREST WAS REQUIRED AT THIS STAGE.

/MR TSAO

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MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS SUFFICIENT TIME UNTIL 1991 IN WHICH TO EXAMINE IN DEPTH THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL.

"THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IT IS IN HONG KONG'S BEST INTEREST TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY," HE SAID.

A TIMETABLE FOR FINALISATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY COULD NOT BE PROVIDED AT THIS STAGE, MR TSAO SAID.

BUT HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT "WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A CONCLUSION ON THE FEASIBILITY OF HONG KONG UNDERTAKING THIS VENTURE, A DECISION WILL BE MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO REGISTER A FORMAL BID FOR HONG KONG TO HOST A WORLD EXHIBITION IN 1997".

MR TSAO PREFACED HIS ANSWER BY GIVING A CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE WAY THE BIE OPERATES.

HE SAID: "THE RULES UNDER WHICH THE BIE OPERATES PROVIDE THAT A BID TO HOST AN EXHIBITION OF THIS NATURE MUST BE REGISTERED SIX YEARS BEFORE THE EVENT.

"A BID CAN ALSO BE REGISTERED AT ANY TIME BEFORE THAT DATE BUT THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO DO SO.

"THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU ON MAY 31 IS SIMPLY THE BIE'S REGULAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THIS DATE, THEREFORE, IN NO WAY REPRESENTS A DEADLINE."

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DEGREE PROGRAMME IN LINE WITH RECOMMENDATION

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THE INTRODUCTION OF A FOUR-YEAR PART-TIME BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY EDUCATION BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR IS IN LINE WITH A RECOMMENDATION BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION TO PROMOTE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGERIAL ABILITY IN PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BRIDGE SAID SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE COURSE WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

/HOWEVER, IT

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HOWEVER, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO SCHOOL HEADS AND SENIOR TEACHERS BECAUSE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE.

ON WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO THE CAREER STRUCTURE OF THOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADS, SENIOR TEACHERS AND TEACHERS WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE COURSE, MR BRIDGE SAID:

"WE PROPOSE TO REGRADE HEADSHIP POSTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH 17 OR MORE CLASSES IN 1992, WHEN THE FIRST GROUP GRADUATES FROM THE COURSE.

"SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH 24 OR MORE CLASSES WILL THEN BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MAXIMUM SALARY THREE POINTS HIGHER THAN THEIR PRESENT MAXIMUM, BUT THESE THREE NEW SALARY POINTS WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE HEADS WHO HAVE OBTAINED THE NEW QUALIFICATION."

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PLANS TO UPGRADE COMMUNITY CENTRES IN PIPELINE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE BETTER FACILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRES AND TO PROMOTE THEIR USAGE, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ON THE LOW UTILISATION RATE OF SOME CENTRES, MR LIAO SAID A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR INDICATED THAT THE OVERALL UTILISATION RATE OF THE 44 COMMUNITY CENTRES WAS 73 PER CENT.

"WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED TO INSTALL AIR-CONDITIONING IN ALL THE CENTRES AND REQUESTS FOR FUNDS TO UPGRADE THE EQUIPMENT IN THESE CENTRES WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY TO THE FINANCE BRANCH," HE SAID.

CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO REPROVISIONING SOME OF THE OLDER CENTRES, THE USAGE OF WHICH WAS BEING AFFECTED BY POOR DESIGN, HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS 10 COMMUNITY CENTRES WHICH HAD A DAILY AVERAGE UTILISATION RATE OF BELOW 50 PER CENT, MR LIAO SAID EIGHT OF THEM WERE NOT PROVIDED WITH AIR-CONDITIONING WHILE TWO WERE PARTIALLY CLOSED AS WORK TO INSTALL AIR-CONDITIONING WAS IN PROGRESS.

/OF THESE

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OF THESE 10 CENTRES, SIX WERE BUILT BEFORE 1970. THEIR DESIGNS WERE OUT-OF-DATE AND THE HALLS WERE TOO SMALL OR NOT SUITABLE FOR SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

ANOTHER TWO WERE COMMISSIONED JUST BEFORE THE SURVEY AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ACCOMMODATED IN THE WELFARE BLOCKS HAD NOT COME INTO FULL OPERATION.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, THE RELATIVELY LOW UTILISATION RATES OF THE 10 CENTRES WERE ONLY CONFINED TO THE MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS.

"IN THE EVENING, THE UTILISATION RATES OF THESE CENTRES VARIED FROM 50 TO 96 PER CENT, OR AN AVERAGE UTILISATION RATE OF 75 PER CENT," MR LIAO SAID.

IN ADDITION, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND DISTRICT BOARDS WERE BEING ENCOURAGED TO MAKE MORE USE OF THE CENTRES FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES, HE ADDED.

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AMENDMENTS TO LONG-SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE NEXT MONTH AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME FOR WORKERS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR BRIDGE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION NEXT MONTH TO ESTABLISH AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME WILL PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH, OLD AGE, OR ON THE DEATH OF THE EMPLOYEE," HE SAID.

"DRAFTING HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY IN GENERAL, EXCEPT THAT IT HAS PROVED RATHER COMPLICATED TO SET OUT IN LEGAL LANGUAGE THE PROVISIONS FOR PAYMENT UPON THE DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PAYMENT WENT TO THE RIGHT PERSON.

/"AFTER CAREFUL

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"AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND FOUR DRAFTS OF THE BILL WE ARE NOW SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE GOT IT RIGHT."

TURNING TO THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, MR BRIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL WAS TO BE FUNDED BY A LEVY ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA.

"THE MECHANISM FOR COLLECTING THE LEVY HAS REQUIRED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH THOSE CONCERNED, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY REACHED," HE SAID.

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DISABLED PEOPLE FIND EMPLOYMENT

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LATEST STATISTICS SHOW THAT ABOUT 36 PER CENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 60 ARE IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT AND, OF THESE, 58 PER CENT ARE IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FIGURES WERE OBTAINED FROM A SURVEY CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1986 AND THE RESULTS WERE PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

"THE SURVEY WAS BASED ON A SAMPLE OF 3,415 PEOPLE CHOSEN AT RANDOM FROM OUR CENTRAL REGISTRY OF THE DISABLED," MR BRIDGE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT.

"THIS PERCENTAGE IS CLOSE TO THAT ALSO INDICATED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT FIGURES."

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE PLACED IN JOBS BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE HAD INCREASED FROM 113 IN 1980 WHEN THE SERVICE STARTED, TO 1,033 LAST YEAR.

/OF THESE,

OF THESE, ABOUT 60 PER CENT FOUND JOBS IN PRODUCTION RELATED WORK.

"BY APPLYING THESE PERCENTAGES TO OUR ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE, WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 34,000 DISABLED PEOPLE IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT, OF WHOM ABOUT 20,000 WORK IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT MOST OF THEM ARE ENGAGED IN LIGHT INDUSTRIAL WORK SUCH AS GARMENT-MAKING, TOY-MAKING, ELECTRONICS, PLASTICS AND PRINTING."

TURNING TO THE MATTER OF PUBLICITY, MR BRIDGE SAID A YEAR-LONG REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED CAMPAIGN WOULD BE LAUNCHED IN AUGUST TO PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS.

"THESE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE DIRECTED AT EMPLOYERS IN THESE SECTORS, AT DISABLED PEOPLE TO BRING HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND AT THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TO BRING HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE," HE EXPLAINED.

"PUBLICITY WILL MAINLY TAKE THE FORM OF TELEVISION API'S (ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST), RADIO API'S, POSTER DISPLAYS AT SELECTED SITES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, AND A COMPREHENSIVE LEAFLET IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ON SERVICES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE.

"IN ADDITION, REGULAR VISITS WILL BE PAID BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED PEOPLE AND TO SECURE SUITABLE JOB VACANCIES."

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EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEDIA

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THE BASIC POLICY OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS TO TREAT THE PRESS AND THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA EQUALLY, HAVING REGARD TO THEIR DIFFERENT OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND REQUIREMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR TSAO SAID INFORMATION WAS NORMALLY DISSEMINATED VIA THE TELEPRINTER AND FACSIMILE NETWORK WHICH LINKED THE DEPARTMENT WITH ALL PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA ORGANISATIONS.

/ "THUS BOTH

"THUS BOTH THE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA RECEIVE THE SAME NEWS ITEMS IN BOTH LANGUAGES AT THE SAME TIME," HE SAID.

PRESS CONFERENCES HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE OPEN TO ALL MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON, AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE FOR TV AND RADIO STATIONS TO TAPE A SHORT SEPARATE INTERVIEW WITH THE HOST IN ORDER TO BOLSTER PRESENTATIONAL IMPACT OF THE NEWS ITEM.

"IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT WHERE A PARTICULAR ITEM DOES NOT WARRANT A FULL SCALE PRESS CONFERENCE, AND A PRESS RELEASE IS ISSUED, A RADIO OR TV STATION MAY REQUEST AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SUBJECT OFFICER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOUND AND VISUAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEWS," HE SAID.

"DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE, SUCH REQUESTS MAY BE GRANTED. BUT WHAT AN OFFICIAL SAYS IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA OR ON THE TAPE RECORDER IS BASED ON THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED TO ALL THE MEDIA," HE ADDED.

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REVIEW OF NT ORDINANCE COMPLETED

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THE WORKING GROUP ON THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED ITS REVIEW, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH ON THE PROGRESS IN THE REVIEW OF MATTERS RELATING TO TSO AND TONG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR LIAO SAID THE WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES) IN OCTOBER 1986 AND ITS REVIEW COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF AREAS WHICH INCLUDED TSOS AND TONGS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAD MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION IS ABLE TO TAKE A VIEW ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, CONSULTATION WITH BODIES LIKE THE HEUNG YEE KUK WILL BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE ANY MAJOR CHANGES ARE TO BE PROPOSED," HE SAID.

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FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT RELEASED

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IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, EXPORT GROWTH CONTINUED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL GROWTH OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY. HOWEVER, RE-EXPORTS FEATURED MORE PROMINENTLY THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE RECENT PATTERN OF EXTERNAL TRADE.

THIS IS SHOWN BY THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THIS REPORT, THE BRANCH RECEIVED USEFUL COMMENTS AND ADVICE FROM THE ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAS SLOWED DOWN SINCE THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987. IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF THE LARGE MANUFACTURERS AND ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SUGGESTS THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS WILL PROBABLY GROW MORE MODERATELY IN THE COMING MONTHS.

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC DEMAND, THE LATEST FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES INDICATE THAT CONSUMER EXPENDITURE REMAINED STRONG IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, RETAINED IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS AND OF CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY ABOUT 6 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS.

PROBABLY REFLECTING DELIVERIES FROM ORDERS PLACED EARLIER, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR. OF THESE, RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY ABOUT 19 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

CONTINUED CAPITAL INVESTMENT GROWTH, PARTICULARLY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WAS APPARENTLY PROMPTED AT LEAST IN PART BY WIDESPREAD LABOUR SHORTAGES.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 WAS AT AN HISTORIC LOW OF 1.6 PER CENT. HOWEVER, THIS WAS PARTLY DISTORTED BY A REDUCED LABOUR SUPPLY DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, AS SOME JOB SEEKERS TEMPORARILY DROPPED OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE. THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT.

LABOUR SHORTAGES WERE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE OF 6.8 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE OF 5.6 PER CENT AND 6.7 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS.

THE PRESSURE OF DEMAND RELATIVE TO SUPPLY WITHIN THE ECONOMY, THE RAPID MONETARY AND CREDIT EXPANSION DURING 1987, LOW LOCAL INTEREST RATES, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN THE RECENT PAST, AND THE RECENT INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF GOODS IMPORTED FROM CHINA ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE CURRENT RATE OF INFLATION.

BETWEEN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 AND THE FIRST QUARTER 1988, THE CPI(B) AND THE HANG SENG CPI ROSE BY 6.7 PER CENT AND 7.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 UPDATES THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE 1987 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. APART FROM PROVIDING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS, AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 WERE SLOWER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, IN PARTICULAR, RECORDED A 1 PER CENT DECLINE IN REAL TERMS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA GREW BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THIS GROWTH WAS ATTRIBUTABLE PARTLY TO INCREASED OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE AND PARTLY TO A GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR IMPORTS FOR USE IN CHINA.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY GREW BY ABOUT 17 PER CENT, 16 PER CENT AND 12 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, RE-EXPORTS WERE 40 PER CENT HIGHER IN REAL TERMS THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987, DUE MAINLY TO A CONTINUED SURGE IN THE RE-EXPORT TRADE WITH CHINA. AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED TO SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, BUT RETAINED IMPORTS ROSE MUCH MORE SLOWLY, AT ONLY ABOUT 4 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

/THE REPORT

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THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

AS A RESULT, A SMALLER VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$1,829 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.9 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$3,353 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS.

FIRST, THE SPECULATIVE INFLOW OF FUNDS INTO THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, WHICH PUSHED THE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE OF THE LOCAL CURRENCY ABOVE THE LINKED RATE IN LATE 1987 AND AT THE BEGINNING OF 1988, LARGELY SUBSIDED TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY.

MAINLY REFLECTING THIS, THE GROWTH IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY SLOWED DOWN MARKEDLY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER.

SECONDLY, LOCAL INTEREST RATES EDGED UP GRADUALLY, REDUCING THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE U.S. DOLLAR INTEREST RATES.

THIRDLY, THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET WAS GENERALLY STABLE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, WITH A MODEST RALLY IN MARCH. TRADING WAS STILL SUBDUED COMPARED WITH THE LEVEL BEFORE OCTOBER 1987.

FOURTHLY, THE CAPITAL MARKET SAW A SURGE IN ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AS THE LOW LOCAL INTEREST RATES PROVIDED A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ISSUE OF FIXED-RATE DEBT INSTRUMENTS.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1986 AND DECEMBER 1987, EMPLOYMENT IN FINANCIAL AND RELATED BUSINESS SERVICES, IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, AND IN TRANSPORT SERVICES RELATED TO EXTERNAL TRADE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO SHOWED SOME INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

REFLECTING TIGHT LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN DECEMBER 1987 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

/COMPARING DECEMBER

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COMPARING DECEMBER 1987 WITH DECEMBER 1986, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND IN THE SERVICE SECTORS, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS BUT RELATIVELY SMALL GAINS IN REAL TERMS, LARGELY BECAUSE OF RISING INFLATION.

IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE INCREASE IN WAGE RATES REMAINED GENERALLY SUBSTANTIAL.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AS AN INDICATOR OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT, INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SLOW-DOWN FROM THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE OF 19 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1987 COMBINED.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY HAS APPARENTLY CONTINUED TO SLOW DOWN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, AS REFLECTED BY THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIAL AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, ON THE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY INDUSTRY, AND ON THE ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS.

THE PROPERTY MARKET REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AFTER EXPERIENCING SOME CONSOLIDATION IN THE LATTER PART OF 1987.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS A PICK-UP IN ACTIVITY MORE RECENTLY. INCREASED HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND RELATIVELY LOW MORTGAGE RATES CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE DEMAND FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FLATS.

THE DEMAND FOR OFFICE AND SHOPPING SPACE IN PRIME LOCATIONS WAS STRONG, WHILE THERE WAS CONTINUED DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PREMISES OF A GOOD QUALITY IN THE ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

PROPERTY PRICES, REMAINED GENERALLY STEADY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, WHILE RENTALS FOR SOME TYPES OF PROPERTY, SUCH AS COMMERCIAL PREMISES, HAVE TENDED TO INCREASE.

MEANWHILE, PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS OF NEW PROPERTY, AS INDICATED BY THE FIGURES ON BUILDING CONSENTS, REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$18 A COPY.

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TRADE UNION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 TO BE INTRODUCED SOON
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WHICH SEEK TO ALLOW REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS, WITH THE PERMISSION BY SECRET BALLOT OF ITS MEMBERS OR MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVES, TO SPEND MONEY TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO A DISTRICT BOARD, THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE AMENDMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN THE TRADE UNION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 8.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPLAINED THAT TRADE UNIONS WERE AT PRESENT EXPRESSLY BARRED BY LAW FROM USING THEIR FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES UNDER THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE IS TO RECTIFY AN ANOMALY TO ALLOW TRADE UNIONS, LIKE OTHER PROPERLY REGISTERED COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, TO USE THEIR FUNDS TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS.

HOWEVER, THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE LEGAL LIMITS ON ELECTION EXPENSES.

"TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION, THE BILL STIPULATES THAT ANY UNION WISHING TO SPEND MONEY FOR THE ABOVE PURPOSES MUST SEEK THE APPROVAL BY SECRET BALLOT OF ITS MEMBERS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE BILL ALSO PERMITS MEMBERS OF UNIONS TO AUTHORISE ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE BY RESOLUTION, IN A SECRET BALLOT AT A GENERAL MEETING, FOR A SPECIFIC ELECTION OR TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTORAL FUND FROM WHICH EXPENDITURE CAN BE MADE WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A RESOLUTION IN EACH CASE.

"IN THE LATTER CASE, THE APPROVAL BY SECRET BALLOT OF THE MAJORITY OF ALL THE VOTING MEMBERS MUST FIRST BE OBTAINED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MOREOVER, CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND ARE TO BE VOLUNTARY AND REFUSAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND MAY NOT PREJUDICE AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS EITHER TO BE ADMITTED TO OR TO CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNION."

UNDER THE EXISTING RULES OF ALL UNIONS, FUNDS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED FOR ELECTION PURPOSE.

/"SUITABLE AMENDMENTS

"SUITABLE AMENDMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE EXISTING RULES TO ALLOW SUCH USE OF FUNDS AND THE AMENDED RULES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS FOR REGISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ANY TRADE UNION WISHING TO USE FUNDS TO SUPPORT ELECTION CANDIDATES IS ADVISED TO CONTACT OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS FOR ADVICE ON THE PROPER PROCEDURES FOR SO DOING.

MODEL RULES ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE PREPARED FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL. COPIES OF THE RULES CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE AT THE REGISTRY IN DUE COURSE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BILL SHOULD WRITE TO OMELCO, 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THIRD FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

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MACLEOD ON U.S. OMNIBUS TRADE BILL
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THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE U.S. OMNIBUS TRADE BILL IS NOT UNEXPECTED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS SAID MANY TIMES THAT HE WOULD VETO THE BILL IF THE PLANT-CLOSING PROVISION WERE TO REMAIN.

"IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT AFTER ALL THE EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE, CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT SEEMS INEVITABLE, AND THE TRADE ISSUE THEREFORE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE POLITICALLY CONTROVERSIAL," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"THE BILL WHICH EMERGED FROM THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE CONFERENCE IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON EARLIER VERSIONS.

"THE BILL NEVERTHELESS RUNS INTO A THOUSAND PAGES. MANY OF THE PROVISIONS ARE SO TECHNICAL THAT THE EFFECTS WOULD ONLY BE KNOWN AFTER IMPLEMENTATION, AND IT STILL CONTAINED SOME UNDESIRABLE CLAUSES. ABUSE EVEN OF APPARENTLY INNOCUOUS PROVISIONS IS ALWAYS A DANGER.

"THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND EMOTION GENERATED BY THE VETO MIGHT BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE TEXTILES BILL WHICH WOULD BE A VERY UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT AS FAR AS HONG KONG IS CONCERNED.

"THUS MIXED FEELINGS IN HONG KONG ABOUT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT SEEM INEVITABLE."

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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HK AND FINLAND ON CLOTHING EXPORTS

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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FINLAND WERE HELD BETWEEN MAY 23 AND TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN HONG KONG ON THE EXPORTS OF CERTAIN CLOTHING PRODUCTS FROM HONG KONG TO FINLAND.

AS A RESULT OF THE CONSULTATIONS, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO RESTRAIN THE EXPORT FROM HONG KONG COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRE JACKETS AND COATS FOR MEN, BOYS, WOMEN AND GIRLS. THE RESTRAINT LEVEL FOR 1988 IS 520,000 PIECES.

BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED ON AN EXPORT AUTHORISATION ARRANGEMENT ON SKIRTS AND DIVIDED SKIRTS OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES.

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NEW PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY

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A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME TARGETED AT YOUNG CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT AND 11 WILL BE A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE SPECIAL PROJECT -- "THE CONSTABLE CARE CHILDREN'S SAFETY PROGRAMME", IS AIMED AT ENHANCING THE ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS OF MORE THAN 500,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE TERRITORY.

THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES, THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUNGSTERS MORE AWARE OF THE DANGERS WHICH EXIST ON THE ROADS, AND TO TEACH THEM THE BEST WAY TO AVOID BECOMING VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID THE PROJECT, WHICH WOULD UTILISE THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, WAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN.

HE DISCLOSED THAT OVER 3,000 CHILDREN ARE KILLED AND INJURED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS EVERY YEAR AND THAT ALMOST ALL OF THESE ACCIDENTS COULD BE PREVENTED.

/ "THE GOVERNMENT

"THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO BRING DOWN THESE FIGURES AND TO DO ITS UTMOST TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM THE DANGERS THEY FACE ON THE ROADS," MR LI SAID.

UNDER THE PROJECT, WIDE RANGING ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD, CENTRED AROUND THE CHARACTER OF A POLICE OFFICER KNOWN AS "CONSTABLE CARE", CONSISTING OF COMPETITIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND GAMES; AND A LOT OF GIVE-AWAY ITEMS SUCH AS STICKERS, T-SHIRTS, CAPS AND OTHER FUN NOVELTIES, WILL BE PRODUCED, EACH BEARING A ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL REACH ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGH POLICE ROAD SAFETY TEAMS.

"ALL THESE ARE DESIGNED TO HOLD YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TEACHING THEM THE VITAL FACTS OF ROAD SAFETY," MR LI SAID.

HE DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS MOST ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG TO GET TOGETHER TO TACKLE A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTED EVERYONE.

THE "CONSTABLE CARE" PROJECT, WHILE IT HAS THE FULL BACKING AND SUPPORT OF THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL AND THE POLICE, WILL BE ORGANISED AND SPONSORED BY COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

"THIS IS AN IDEA WHICH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TRIED IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT WHICH IS A NEW CONCEPT FOR HONG KONG."

MR LI SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT A NUMBER OF PUBLIC SPIRITED COMPANIES HAD ALREADY AGREED TO BECOME SPONSORS AND HE CALLED FOR EVEN WIDER SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT REDUCING THE TOLL OF DEATH AND INJURY ON OUR ROADS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE IN HONG KONG AND IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GOVERNMENT ALONE," HE REMARKED.

MISS DEBBIE PURDY, SPONSORSHIP SUPERVISOR FOR THE PROJECT, SAID IN THE FIRST PHASE, THOUSANDS OF POSTERS, BOARD GAMES, BAGS AND COMPETITION ENTRY FORMS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG 714 SCHOOLS.

SHE SAID THE POSTERS WOULD ALSO BE DISPLAYED AT POLICE STATIONS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND GOVERNMENT POSTER SITES TO CREATE HIGH AWARENESS.

"THIS EXTENSIVE, NON-STOP PROGRAMME WILL ENSURE CONTINUING INTEREST FROM THE CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND, HOPEFULLY, THE MEDIA.

"THIS AIM IS TO GET ALL THE HALF MILLION PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG ENTERING ROAD SAFETY COMPETITIONS, USING ROAD SAFETY POSTER-CALENDARS, WEARING ROAD SAFETY T-SHIRTS AND CAPS AND PLAYING ROAD SAFETY GAMES, AND THEREFORE, THINKING ROAD SAFETY," MISS PURDY SAID, ADDING THAT THE PROJECT WOULD GET UNDERWAY IN SEPTEMBER TO COINCIDE WITH THE NEW SCHOOL TERM.

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\$130M ACCESS FACILITIES FOR WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA

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THE TONNOCHY ROAD FLYOVER IS THE FINAL MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FACILITIES TO BE COMPLETED IN THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA, THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FLYOVER, MR BEATON SAID THE TOTAL PACKAGE OF FACILITIES FOR ACCESS TO, FROM AND WITHIN THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA SHOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT MONTH AT A TOTAL COST OF \$130 MILLION.

THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA HAS CONTINUED TO DEVELOP RAPIDLY WITH MANY CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, OFFICE AND HOTEL PROJECTS COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY. PROJECTS TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS INTO AND WITHIN THE AREA HAVE ALSO PROCEEDED RAPIDLY.

THE FIRST OF THESE FACILITIES - THE O'BRIEN ROAD FOOTBRIDGE - WAS OPENED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

SINCE THAT TIME FLYOVERS AT HUNG HING ROAD AND FENWICK PIER STREET, AND FOOTBRIDGES AT WAN SHING STREET, THE FERRY PIER AND FENWICK PIER STREET HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

AN EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF GROUND LEVEL ROADS LEADING TO THESE FLYOVERS HAS ALSO BEEN BUILT.

ACCESS TO AND FROM THE RECLAMATION AREA AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE AREA HAS BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED.

"IN UNDERTAKING THESE ROADWORKS THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING A PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT BY CREATING VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE STRUCTURES WITH AS MUCH 'GREENERY' INTRODUCED AS POSSIBLE," MR BEATON SAID.

"THIS CAN BE SEEN IN THE MORE INTENSIVE COLOUR TREATMENT OF SOME OF THE FOOTBRIDGES - A RELATIVELY NEW INNOVATION - AND IN THE TREE PLANTING AND AMENITY PROVISION WHICH IS TAKING PLACE.

"IN THIS RESPECT MORE THAN 20,000 NEW TREES AND SHRUBS WILL HAVE BEEN PLANTED WHEN THE WORKS ARE COMPLETED."

HE HOPED THE END RESULT WOULD OFFSET ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED DURING CONSTRUCTION.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, MRS PEGGY LAM.

MRS LAM PRAISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

/SHE NOTED

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SHE NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS, WAN CHAI NORTH HAD BEEN DEVELOPING RAPIDLY INTO A COMMERCIAL CENTRE WITH SUCH PROJECTS AS HOTELS AND THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE UNDERWAY.

"WE NEED A BETTER ROAD NETWORK TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT SO AS TO INTEGRATE WAN CHAI SOUTH AND NORTH ON THE ONE HAND AND IMPROVE CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER DISTRICTS ON THE OTHER," SHE SAID.

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TONNOCHY ROAD FLYOVER IS A KEY LINK IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT."

MRS LAM ALSO PRAISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR AGREEING WITH THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE FOOTBRIDGES TO CONNECT WAN CHAI SOUTH AND NORTH TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PROSPERITY OF THE DISTRICT.

SHE NOTED THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL HAD REACHED SATURATION LEVEL AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON GLOUCESTER ROAD WOULD NOT BE SOLVED UNTIL THE SECOND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WAS OPENED IN LATE 1989.

SHE ALSO HOPED THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD SOLVE THE LONG-STANDING CONGESTION PROBLEM ON WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD.

THE 210-METRE-LONG TONNOCHY ROAD FLYOVER PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA FOR VEHICLES TRAVELLING WESTWARDS ON GLOUCESTER ROAD. VEHICLES CAN ALSO TRAVEL VIA THE FLYOVER TO HARBOUR ROAD AND HUNG HING ROAD.

THE FLYOVER, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED ROADS AND FOOTBRIDGES, COST ABOUT \$30 MILLION.

IT WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

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CLEAN HK SHOW BROADCAST LIVE ON TV
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THE 1988-89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH A TELEVISION SPECTACULAR TO BE HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON FRIDAY (MAY 27).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED, THE SHOW WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON TVB-JADE FROM 9.05 PM TO 11.25 PM.

/POPULAR ARTISTES

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POPULAR ARTISTES AND SINGERS WILL PERFORM IN A NUMBER OF SEGMENTS TO PUBLICISE THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN MESSAGE.

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOW.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, MR WALTER SULKE; VICE-CHAIRMAN, DR PANG HOK-TUEN; AND MEMBERS MR A.J. VAIL AND DR DANIEL NG.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH FORCES, LIEUTENANT COLONEL MALCOLM RATCLIFFE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, MR OSCAR TANG, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM IN THE VIP LOUNGE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM PRIOR TO THE SHOW. IT WILL BE ATTENDED BY THE OFFICIATING GUESTS, CHAIRMEN OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER GUESTS.

AT THE RECEPTION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, WILL PRESENT A SOUVENIR TO TELEVISION BROADCASTS LTD WHILE THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MRS ELSIE TU, WILL RECEIVE A PLAQUE FROM THE COMPANY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO COVER THE SOUVENIR PRESENTATION CEREMONY SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM BY 8 PM.

A FIXED POSITION WILL BE PROVIDED INSIDE THE STADIUM FOR THE MEDIA TO COVER THE TELEVISION SHOW. PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING TELEPHOTO LENSES.

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REMINDER ON SALARIES TAX RETURNS

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED SALARIED TAXPAYERS TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED SALARIES TAX RETURNS TO THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE JUNE 1 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT MORE THAN 700,000 RETURNS FOR FINAL ASSESSMENT 1987-88 AND PROVISIONAL PAYMENT 1988-89 HAD BEEN ISSUED ON MAY 2.

/"FAILURE TO

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"FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED RETURNS BEFORE JUNE 1 IS AN OFFENCE AND MAY RESULT IN IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES," HE STRESSED.

"MAKING AN INCORRECT OR FALSE RETURN WITH A FRAUDULENT INTENT TO EVADE TAX, OR TO ASSIST ANY OTHER PERSON TO DO SO, IS ALSO AN OFFENCE.

"ON CONVICTION, AN OFFENDER SHALL BE LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTY, THE MAXIMUM BEING IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE YEARS AND A FURTHER FINE OF TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

"THE COURT OF APPEAL HAS RECENTLY WARNED THAT, ON CONVICTION, THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE LIABLE TO AN IMMEDIATE CUSTODIAL SENTENCE."

ANY SALARIED TAXPAYER WHO HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE RETURN FORM OR WHO HAS ANY ENQUIRY IS ADVISED TO TELEPHONE 5-8942028, OR WRITE TO GPO BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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MTRC PEAK HOUR SURCHARGE ON DB AGENDA

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE PEAK HOUR SURCHARGE PROPOSED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A REPORT ON THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY; AND CONSIDER A PLAN TO CLOSE A FOOTPATH AT THE JUNCTION OF MA TAU WAI ROAD AND TAI WAN ROAD, AND TO BUILD A NEW FOOTPATH NEARBY.

THEY WILL BE CONSULTED ON A PLAN TO BUILD A 126-METRE-LONG PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY UNDER THE RAILWAY TRACKS IN KOWLOON TONG, BETWEEN THE TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION AND THE KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION.

THE PROJECT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO COPE WITH INCREASED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ARISING FROM THE OPENING OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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SHA TIN DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY REPORT

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, WILL ATTEND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO EXPLAIN THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY AND LISTEN TO MEMBERS' VIEWS.

MEANWHILE, THE DB'S WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH PROGRAMME HAS PREPARED A REPORT ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE DISTRICT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.

THE REPORT WAS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN LAST DECEMBER AND JANUARY ON 161 YOUNG PEOPLE, AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 16 YEARS, FROM 889 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE RE-ORGANISATION OF ITS WORKING GROUPS IN THIS TERM. A TOTAL OF FIVE WORKING GROUPS HAD BEEN SET UP DURING THE LAST TERM COMMITTEE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION'S ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME, THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1988-89, AS WELL AS THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS OF DB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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PRAISE FOR POK OI HOSPITAL
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PRAISED THE POK OI HOSPITAL IN YUEN LONG FOR DIVERSIFYING ITS SERVICES TO MEET PUBLIC NEEDS.

HER WORDS OF PRAISE CAME DURING A COURTESY VISIT TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HOSPITAL, LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR TONY CHU.

MR CHU SAID THAT APART FROM STRENGTHENING OF SERVICES IN THE MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS, THE HOSPITAL'S SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR INCLUDED A CHILD CARE CENTRE IN YUEN LONG AND A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN TUEN MUN.

MRS WONG PLEDGED THAT HER DEPARTMENT WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE HOSPITAL SO THAT IT COULD ACHIEVE ITS TARGETS.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR FOUR SITES
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FOUR SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE TO BE LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE FIRST SITE IS IN AREA 10B, KWAI CHUNG. MEASURING ABOUT 2,450 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE, (EXCLUDING STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS, PARKING AND/OR STORAGE OF CONTAINERS, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS AND LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLES) OR PLANT NURSERY.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER THREE SITES ARE AT D.D. 359 OF YAM O WAN, NORTHEAST LANTAU, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,720.2 SQUARE METRES, 4,700.9 SQUARE METRES AND 9,336.8 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THEY ARE FOR STORAGE OF FLOATING LOGS ONLY. THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 10.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN HAPPY VALLEY AND WESTERN DISTRICT

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SEVERAL RESTRICTED ZONES WILL BE DESIGNATED IN HAPPY VALLEY AND WESTERN DISTRICT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 28).

IN HAPPY VALLEY, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE MADE PEAK HOUR (7 - 10 AM AND 4 - 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES:

- * THE NORTHERN SIDE OF YIK YAM STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 12 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH SING WOO ROAD;
- * THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF YIK YAM STREET BETWEEN SHAN KWONG ROAD AND SING WOO ROAD;
- * THE EASTERN SIDE OF SING WOO ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 19 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH YUEN YUEN STREET;
- * THE WESTERN SIDE OF SING WOO ROAD BETWEEN YIK YAM STREET AND KING KWONG STREET;
- * THE NORTHERN SIDE OF KING KWONG STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 14 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH SING WOO ROAD; AND
- * THE SECTION OF TSOI TAK STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SING WOO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, TWO EXISTING 24-HOUR DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS FOR ROADWORKS.

THEY ARE THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST FROM A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WATER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, AND A 10-METRE STRETCH ALONG WATER STREET SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST.

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

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TWO NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES FOR SHA TIN

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TWO NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM FRIDAY, MAY 27, TO SERVE THE SHA TIN AREA, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PLYING BETWEEN SHA TIN KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATION (PAI TAU STREET) AND JULIMOUNT GARDEN, ROUTE NO. 68K WILL OPERATE DAILY FROM 6.30 AM TO 11.30 PM AT A FREQUENCY OF 10 MINUTES. THE FARE WILL BE \$2 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

THE OTHER ROUTE WILL BE NO. 69K RUNNING FROM SHA TIN KCR STATION (PAI TAU STREET) TO VILLE DE JARDIN/GREENWOOD TERRACE.

IT WILL ALSO OPERATE DAILY AT A 10-MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 11.30 PM. THE FARE WILL BE \$3 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF POTTINGER STREET

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TO FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL DETECTOR LOOPS, POTTINGER STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 28) TO 5 AM THE NEXT DAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF CMB ROUTES WILL BE RE-ROUTED.

ON LEAVING CENTRAL BUS STATION, ROUTES 11 AND 25 WILL OPERATE VIA CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND COTTON TREE DRIVE TO JOIN QUEENSWAY.

ROUTES 4, 7, AND 37 WILL TRAVEL THROUGH CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, GILMAN STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND QUEEN VICTORIA STREET TO JOIN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

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URBAN CLEARWAY AND 'NO ENTRY' FOR HEAVY VEHICLES
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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 27), THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON KIMBERLEY ROAD EASTBOUND IN TSIM SHA TSUI, FROM A POINT ABOUT 27 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH NATHAN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE LIFTED.

AT THE SAME TIME, IN SHEUNG SHUI, NO VEHICLES EXCEEDING FIVE TONNES GROSS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER BAILEY BRIDGE N165 ACROSS NG TUNG RIVER NEAR LO WU CAMP AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

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RESTRICTED ZONE IN FACTORY STREET LIFTED
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THE EXISTING PEAK HOUR (7 - 10 AM AND 4 - 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE IN FACTORY STREET, SHAU KEI WAN, WILL BE LIFTED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 28).

THE RESTRICTED ZONE IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FACTORY STREET BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 17 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHURCH LANE AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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