



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ALLOWANCES IN NT LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT, IN PASSING THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987, SHOULD MAKE RENT CONCESSION TO VOLUNTARY, SPORTS OR NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS IN ORDER THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE MUCH-NEEDED RECREATIONAL AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF HAVING TO CONTEND WITH RISING COSTS, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON F.K. HU, URGED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HU, CONVENOR OF A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE BILL, WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE AIM OF THIS BILL IS TO IMPLEMENT PARAGRAPH 2 OF ANNEX III OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, SO THAT OVER 30,000 LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND NEW KOWLOON MAY BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED FOR A PERIOD EXPIRING NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2047 WITHOUT PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL PREMIUM.

INSTEAD AN ANNUAL RENT EQUIVALENT TO THREE PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE CHARGED.

WHILE SUPPORTING THE BILL, MR HU NEVERTHELESS NOTED THAT THE BILL PROVIDED NO RENT CONCESSION IN REGARD TO SOME 40 RECREATIONAL AREAS CURRENTLY HELD BY CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION, Y.M.C.A, AND THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL.

AT PRESENT, THESE BODIES ONLY HAVE TO PAY THE GOVERNMENT A NOMINAL FEE AS RENT FOR THE USE OF THE LAND.

"I AM CONCERNED THAT IF A THREE PER CENT TAX WAS TO BE CHARGED ACCORDING TO THE RATEABLE VALUE, MANY OF THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO PAY.

"OR THEY MAY HAVE TO SHIFT THE BURDEN TO THEIR USERS, THAT IS THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BY RAISING THE LEVEL OF FEES.

"IN BOTH CASES, IT IS THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO WILL SUFFER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,"MR HU SAID.

HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT A SECOND AREA OF CONCERN RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THE AD HOC GROUP'S DELIBERATIONS WAS THE DEFINITION OF "ESTABLISHED VILLAGE".

UNDER THE BILL, RENTS FOR CERTAIN LAND HELD BY DESCENDANTS FROM PRE-1898 VILLAGES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER THE LEASES INVOLVED ARE EXTENDED. THESE PRE-1898 VILLAGES, TOTALLING AROUND 600 TODAY, ARE DEFINED ACCORDING TO A 1905 SURVEY.

SOME AD HOC GROUP MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT SOME VILLAGES MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISSED OUT FROM THE SURVEY, AND THE BILL WOULD THEN BE UNFAIR TO THE VILLAGERS.

/THEY WANTED

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THEY WANTED TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE DEFINITION SO THAT RESIDENTS OF OMITTED VILLAGES, IF THERE WERE ANY, COULD ALSO CLAIM THE RENT CONCESSION.

THE AD HOC GROUP WAS THEREFORE GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER TO ENSURE THAT ALL CLAIMS TO PRE-1898 STATUS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND EVIDENCE OUTSIDE OF THE BLOCK CROWN LEASES WOULD BE GIVEN ITS PROPER WEIGHT.

"I BELIEVE THIS IS SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO COVER ANY POSSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD, WITHOUT CAUSING FURTHER DELAY TO THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL," MR HU SAID.

ANOTHER CONCERN RAISED WAS THE APPLICATION OF RENT CONCESSION TO PROPERTY HELD BY 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS', WHICH ARE ANCIENT CHINESE INSTITUTIONS OF ANCESTRAL LAND-HOLDING, WHEREBY LAND DERIVED FROM ANCESTOR WAS ENJOYED BY MALE DESCENDANTS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, HE SAID.

THE AD HOC GROUP NOTED THAT ONLY IN THE CASE OF 'T'SOS' IS THE LAND CONCERNED DEFINITELY HELD BY INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS.

"THE QUESTION REGARDING THE 'T'ONG' IS MORE COMPLICATED: IT IS AN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE WHETHER RELIGIOUS, COMMERCIAL OR PHILANTHROPIC.

"VERY OFTEN ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE BOTH INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS VILLAGES. THE MEMBERSHIP IS ALSO SUBJECT TO CHANGES FROM TIME TO TIME."

FURTHERMORE, SOME ORGANISATIONS USING THE NAME OF 'T'ONGS' ARE IN FACT 'T'SOS' IN NATURE WITH LANDS DONATED BY INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE ALSO INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY THE ELIGIBILITY OF THESE 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS' FOR RENT CONCESSION PURPOSES; OTHERWISE IT WILL CREATE UNEASINESS AMONG THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS," MR HU SAID.

HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT RENT CONCESSION WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS', IN WHICH ALL THE MEMBERS WERE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS AND THAT THE BILL WOULD BE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THIS.

MR HU WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT YET ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN, AS EXPRESSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND SOME PROPERTY OWNERS, WAS ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANTS (DMC'S) ALONG WITH THE EXTENSION OF NEW TERRITORIES LEASES.

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UNDER THE TERMS OF SOME DMC'S, THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY APPOINTED BY THE FIRST OWNER BECOMES THE MANAGER OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE LIFE OF THE LEASE, AND THERE ARE OBVIOUS REASONS WHY OWNERS DO NOT WANT TO BE BOUND BY THESE TERMS FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS.

THE ADMINISTRATION EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THIS BILL DMC'S WOULD SURVIVE FOR THE FULL PERIOD OF THE EXTENSION, OTHERWISE A VERY SERIOUS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROBLEM WOULD DEVELOP. OWNERS WHO FIND THE DMC UNFAIR OR OPPRESSIVE COULD HOWEVER TAKE UP THE ISSUE SEPARATELY.

THE AD HOC GROUP UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SET UP A SUB-COMMITTEE, UNDER THE EXISTING STANDING COMMITTEE ON MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT, TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO RECTIFY THE UNFAIR PROVISIONS OF EXISTING DMC'S.

MR HU HOPED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD SOON SPELL OUT WHAT AVENUES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PROPERTY OWNERS WHO WANT TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE EXTENDED DMC'S.

FINALLY, MR HU AGREED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987 SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED ANY FURTHER, AS IT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN TAI PO AND YUEN LONG HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AD HOC GROUP - THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT INVESTORS, INCLUDING SOME LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES, ARE BECOMING MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE LEASES CONDITIONS.

"WITH THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL, I HOPE ALL SUCH ANXIETIES WILL BE ELIMINATED, MAKING NO SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG," HE CONCLUDED.

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DEFINITION OF "ESTABLISHED VILLAGE" QUERIED

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THERE WERE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE DEFINITION OF "ESTABLISHED VILLAGE" UNDER THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987 AND THE ORIGIN MEANING OF THE TERM AS USED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LAU SAID THE DISCREPANCIES MIGHT SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE INTEREST OF INDIGENEOUS VILLAGERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO POSSESS LAND TO THE TIME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED THE BLOCK LEASE.

/IN VIEW

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IN VIEW OF THIS, THE HEUNG YEE KUK HAD PUT FORTH ITS VIEWS TO THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE BILL, AND REQUESTED THAT THE DEFINITION BE AMENDED.

HOWEVER, NO SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION HAD SO FAR BEEN MADE BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT INSISTED THAT THE LAND SURVEY ON WHICH THE BLOCK LEASE WAS BASED WAS EXTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE ENOUGH TO INCLUDE ALL THE ESTABLISHED VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"IT IS NECESSARY FOR ME TO POINT OUT THAT THE BLOCK LEASE IS ONLY A UNILATERAL LEASEHOLD AGREEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT BY WHICH ALL RESUMED PRIVATE LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS LEASED TO THEIR ORIGINAL OWNERS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE BLOCK LEASE WAS ONLY ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT MIGHT BE USED AS EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE STATUS OF AN ESTABLISHED VILLAGE AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THESE VILLAGES, NOR COULD IT BE TAKEN AS THE ONLY EVIDENCE FOR VALIDATING THE STATUS OF AN ESTABLISHED VILLAGE.

HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE BILL WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER RELATED ISSUES AND THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED ANY FURTHER.

"HOWEVER, I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF 'ESTABLISHED VILLAGE' IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS ON THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT HE SUPPORTED THE BILL.

MR LAU ALSO EXPLAINED WHY LAND HELD BY INDIGENEOUS VILLAGERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE ALLOWED TO ENJOY RENT CONCESSION AFTER 1997.

THE MAJOR REASON WAS THAT THE FORM OF OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DIFFERED GREATLY FROM THAT TO THE SOUTH OF BOUNDARY STREET.

BEFORE THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS LEASED TO BRITAIN IN 1898, ALL PRIVATE LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS HELD AS FREEHOLD ESTATE WITH NO EXPIRY DATE ON THEIR TENURE.

AFTER THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS LEASED TO BRITAIN IN 1898, THE TENURE OF THESE LEASES WOULD EXPIRE BEFORE JUNE 30, 1997.

SINCE THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD REVERT TO CHINA IN 1997, THE TENURE OF PRIVATE LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SHOULD BE REINSTATED TO THE PRE-1898 CONDITIONS AS WELL.

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AGREED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT LAND HELD BY A PERSON WHO WAS A RESIDENT OF AN ESTABLISHED VILLAGE IN HONG KONG IN 1898 OR A LAWFUL SUCCESSOR OF THAT PERSON IN THE MALE LINE SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL RENT.

/MR LAU

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MR LAU SAID HE HOPED THIS CLARIFICATION WOULD REMOVE THE MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG SOME PEOPLE THAT THE INDIGENEOUS VILLAGERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE ENJOYING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

HE ALSO SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO ENABLE, THROUGH LEGISLATION, THE EXTENSION OF ALL NEW TERRITORIES LAND LEASES EXPIRING BEFORE 1997 FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF 50 YEARS TO 2047 WITHOUT HAVING EACH OF THE LEASES TO BE RENEWED INDIVIDUALLY.

THIS WOULD SAVE THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURES AND ALSO PUBLIC EXPENSES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE NECESSARY FOR THE RENEWAL OF THESE LEASES.

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REDEFINE ESTABLISHED VILLAGE : CHEUNG

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "ESTABLISHED VILLAGE" AS USED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID HE STRONGLY FELT THAT THE BILL SHOULD NOT BE PASSED BEFORE AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM.

"NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR A LONG TIME AND FURTHER DELAY MIGHT HOLD UP THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION IN PROCESSING NEW TERRITORIES LEASES FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES, WE HAVE RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO SUPPORT RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING ON CONDITION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR REQUEST, AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO REVIEW AND AMEND THE DEFINITION OF 'ESTABLISHED VILLAGE'," HE SAID.

THE BILL GAVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE LAND ANNEX OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDED THAT ALL LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW, WOULD BE EXTENDED AUTOMATICALLY FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997 ON PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL RENT EQUIVALENT TO THREE PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY.

THE LAND ANNEX FURTHER STIPULATED THAT THERE WOULD BE RENT CONCESSION FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF LAND HELD BY "INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS" - A TERM WHICH WAS DEFINED IN THE BILL AS PERSONS WHO WERE IN 1898 RESIDENTS OF AN ESTABLISHED VILLAGE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OR WERE DESCENDED THROUGH THE MALE LINE FROM SUCH PERSONS.

/THE MEANING

THE MEANING OF INDIGENOUS VILLAGER THUS RESTED HEAVILY ON THE MEANING OF "ESTABLISHED VILLAGE", WHICH THE BILL DEFINED AS A VILLAGE ESTABLISHED UNDER A BLOCK LEASE GRANTED BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE GOVERNOR.

THIS CREATED MUCH CONCERN AMONG SOME NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS WHO POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER HAD THE JOINT DECLARATION MADE REFERENCE TO THE BLOCK CROWN LEASE, NOR HAD THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST RECOGNISED INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES ON THE BASIS OF THE BLOCK CROWN LEASE, MR CHEUNG NOTED.

"BY MAKING THE BLOCK CROWN LEASE THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF THE STATUS OF PRE-1898 VILLAGES, THE BILL LEAVES NO OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE VILLAGERS WHO WISH TO ESTABLISH THEIR INDIGENOUS STATUS ON EVIDENCE OTHER THAN THE BLOCK CROWN LEASE," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO ANOTHER POINT IN THE BILL, MR CHEUNG POINTED OUT THAT A GREAT NUMBER OF PROPERTY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HELD BY 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS', SHOULD, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, BE ELIGIBLE FOR RENT CONCESSION AFTER 1997, BUT WHICH DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE COME UNDER THE LETTERS OF THE BILL.

"WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE CASE FOR 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS' AND WE ARE GLAD THAT AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD AGREED THAT THE BILL SHOULD BE AMENDED," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED A COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT STATING THAT RENT CONCESSIONS WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS' WHOSE MEMBERS WERE ENTIRELY INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS.

HOWEVER, THE SAME PRIVILEGE WOULD NOT BE APPLICABLE TO THOSE 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS' WHOSE MEMBERSHIP DID NOT CONSIST ENTIRELY OF INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS.

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BILL GIVES RENT CONCESSION TO 'T'SOS' AND 'T'ONGS'
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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987 TO INCLUDE THE EXTENSION OF THE RENT CONCESSION PROVIDED FOR IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION TO A 'T'SO' OR 'T'ONG'.

MR BARNES SAID IN THE DEBATE OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE 'T'SO' OR 'T'ONG' IN QUESTION MUST BE RECOGNISED AS SUCH UNDER CHINESE CUSTOM, ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF WHICH WERE ON JUNE 30, 1984, INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS.

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ON THE QUESTION OF RECREATIONAL LEASES, MR BARNES SAID: "THESE LEASES ARE SPECIAL PURPOSES LEASES WHICH WILL NOT BE EXTENDED BY THE BILL."

"EACH LEASE GRANTED FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE WILL BE EXAMINED BEFORE A DECISION IS TAKEN ON EXTENSION, HAVING REGARD TO EXISTING POLICY.

"THE QUESTION OF PREMIUM AND RENT WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF EXAMINING THE EXTENSION OF THESE LEASES," MR BARNES SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ISSUE OF "OPPRESSIVE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT", A PROBLEM COMMON TO BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, CANNOT BE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSED BY THIS BILL AND IT WAS BEING TACKLED SEPARATELY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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BILL TO EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE OF LOAN DETAILS TO DIRECTORS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED TO AMEND THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT OF BANKING CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, MR JACOBS SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO AMEND SECTION 161B OF THE ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO EXEMPT AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO DISCLOSE IN THEIR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS DETAILS OF LOANS ON NORMAL COMMERCIAL TERMS TO INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICERS.

INSTEAD, SUCH DETAILS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FOR 14 DAYS PRIOR TO AN INSTITUTION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FOR SEVEN DAYS THEREAFTER, HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE REQUIRED EVERY COMPANY INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING SUCH AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, TO SET OUT IN ITS ANNUAL ACCOUNTS DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING LOANS MADE BY THE COMPANY TO ANY OF ITS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS, OR TO ANY COMPANY CONTROLLED BY ANY OF ITS DIRECTORS.

"THE BANKING COMMUNITY HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THE PRESENT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT INVOLVES THE INCLUSION OF CUMBERSOME AND EXCESSIVE DETAIL IN THEIR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

"FURTHERMORE, PUBLICATION COULD CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF THE DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY OWED BY A BANK TO ITS CUSTOMER," HE SAID.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE BANKING COMMUNITY WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT FOREIGN BANKS OPERATING IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE NOT SUBJECT TO SUCH STRICT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, HAD AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT AFTER REVIEWING THE MATTER AND SEEKING THE ADVICE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE IMPORTANCE OF BANKING CONFIDENTIALITY, BUT CONSIDERED THAT IN GENERAL THE PRINCIPLE OF DISCLOSURE OF DETAILED INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC SHOULD APPLY TO BANKS AS IT DID TO OTHER COMPANIES.

ON THE PROPOSED EXEMPTION, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE AUTHORISED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF SUCH LOANS IN THEIR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, THEY HAD TO GIVE THE AGGREGATE FIGURES OF THE LOANS IN THEM.

THE EXEMPTION DID NOT APPLY TO LOANS OR GUARANTEES IN EXCESS OF HK\$10 MILLION WHERE THAT LOAN OR GUARANTEE IS MADE OR GIVEN ON CONCESSIONARY TERMS, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FOUR MEDICAL BILLS SUPPORTED

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FOUR MEDICAL BILLS, WHICH PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPLE ORDINANCES TO RELINQUISH THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, THE DENTAL COUNCIL, THE NURSES BOARD AND THE MIDWIVES BOARD OF HONG KONG, WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WELCOMED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE FOUR BILLS ARE THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987; THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1987; THE NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987; AND THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILLS, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE MEDICAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WHICH INCLUDE DOCTORS, DENTISTS, NURSES AND MIDWIVES, WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE BILLS WOULD MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THOSE PROFESSIONAL STATUTORY MEDICAL BODIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE OF THEIR MEMBERS WITH MORE INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AN ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

DR CHIU SAID THE BILLS WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A LAY MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL, OR SIMILAR STATUTORY BODIES.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: "ONCE THESE PROVISIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED, WE EXPECT THE LAY MEMBERS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MEDICAL MEMBERS AND TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A LAYMAN SO AS TO ENABLE THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS TO ADOPT A MORE OBJECTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES."

NOTING THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION WOULD AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILLS BE THE ONLY PROFESSION SO FAR TO HAVE LAY MEMBERS, SERVING ON THEIR BOARDS AND COUNCILS, DR CHIU PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER CONSULTING THE OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES REGARDING THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING LAY MEMBERS INTO THEIR BOARDS AND COUNCILS.

"THE INTRODUCTION OF LAY MEMBERS WILL SERVE TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," HE ADDED.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILLS, COUNCILLOR DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IT WAS A RIGHT STEP TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN REGULATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

HOWEVER, SHE NOTED THAT VARIOUS GOVERNING BODIES OF PROFESSIONS, SUCH AS THE LEGAL, ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PROFESSIONS, WERE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS ELECTED AMONG THEIR FELLOWS WHEREAS THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE MEDICAL COUNCIL WERE ALL APPOINTED.

SHE URGED THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION BE GIVEN THE AUTONOMY TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

SHARING THE SAME VIEW, COUNCILLOR THE HON EDWARD HO STATED THAT ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONS IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THEIR OWN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT.

"THESE PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THROUGH CONSTANT CONTACTS WITH THE TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ALLIED PROFESSIONAL BODIES BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND THEIR OWN MEMBERS, ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO UNDERSTAND HOW PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS CAN BE ATTAINED AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE SET TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY; AND HOW PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SHOULD BE REGULATED," MR HO SAID.

NOTING WITH GRATIFICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY PURSUING THE INTRODUCTION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCES FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND PLANNING PROFESSIONS, MR HO SAID THE MATTER SHOULD BE TREATED WITH URGENCY AS THE REGISTRATION OF THE FOUR PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING INDUSTRY WAS NOT GOVERNED BY STATUTE EXCEPT WHEN SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED FOR UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

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BILLS LEAD TO REVIEW OF MEDICAL BODIES' COMPOSITION

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THE INTENTION OF INTRODUCTION OF THE FOUR BILLS RELATED TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION WAS TO CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE FOUR RESPECTIVE COUNCILS AND BOARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAMBERS WAS WINDING UP THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, THE NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE OF PROFESSIONS OTHER THAN THESE FOUR TO WHICH MEMBERS HAD REFERRED DIFFERED IN VARYING DEGREES.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WAS THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD BOTH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, MR CHAMBERS ADDED.

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FIVE BILLS PASSED

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

THEY ARE THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1987, NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND NEW TERRITORIES LEASES (EXTENSION) BILL 1987.

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PHONE POLL ON DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

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A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS BEING MADE BY MEANS OF A TELEPHONE POLL CONDUCTED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EDWARD S.T. HO, SIR DAVID SAID: "IF THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TAKE THE MATTER FURTHER, WIDER CONSULTATION WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY.

/ "DISTRICT BOARDS

"DISTRICT BOARDS MAY BE CONSULTED TOGETHER WITH GROUPS WITH A PARTICULAR INTEREST.

"THESE WOULD INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, THOSE CONCERNED WITH TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT, INCLUDING THE AIRLINES, SPORT AND LEISURE.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THERE WOULD BE WIDE-SPREAD PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE MATTER ALSO," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO GIVE ADEQUATE NOTICE, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT ANY CHANGE COULD BE INTRODUCED BEFORE 1989.

"BUT I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PRECONCEIVED VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT," HE ADDED.

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SHOPTHEFTS A TARGET FOR FIGHT CRIME DRIVE

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PART OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PUBLICITY AGAINST SHOPTHEFT SO AS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEW TOWNS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ROSANNA TAM, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS A TOTAL OF 9,038 JUVENILE OFFENDERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE POLICE IN THE POLICE DIVISIONS WHICH INCLUDED NEW TOWNS.

OF THESE, 4,056 OR 45 PER CENT OF THE OFFENDERS WERE ARRESTED FOR SHOPTHEFT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 1,509 JUVENILE OFFENDERS WERE ARRESTED FOR OTHER TYPES OF THEFT; 601 FOR ROBBERY; 509 FOR BURGLARY; 495 FOR WOUNDING AND SERIOUS ASSAULT; AND 285 FOR CRIMINAL DAMAGE.

"THE REMAINING OFFENDERS WERE ARRESTED FOR BLACKMAIL, UNLAWFUL SOCIETY OFFENCES, OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER AND OTHER CRIMES," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SHOPTHEFT IN LARGE DEPARTMENT STORES, SHOPPING PLAZAS AND SUPERMARKETS.

"IN THIS CONNECTION THEY WILL CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH OWNERS AND ARCHITECTS WITH A VIEW TO MAKING THESE PREMISES LESS VULNERABLE TO SHOPTHEFT.

/"THE POLICE

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"THE POLICE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PAY REGULAR VISITS TO SCHOOLS WITH THE AIM OF URGING YOUNG PEOPLE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CRIME OF ANY KIND," MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

IN ADDITION, A SCHEME OF RENUNCIATION OF TRIAD MEMBERSHIP WHICH WAS AIMED LARGELY AT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE AMONG OTHER MEASURES THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE PLANNED TO INTRODUCE THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

MATERIALS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS TO WARN AGAINST THE DANGER OF BEING INVOLVED WITH TRIADS WOULD BE PREPARED, MR JEAFFRESON ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-CRIME MEASURES DID NOT TEND TO FOCUS ON CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, MR JEAFFRESON HOWEVER SAID MEASURES TO COMBAT CRIME BY YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD HAVE MORE EFFECT IN THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE THERE WAS A PROPORTIONATELY YOUNGER POPULATION.

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VACATION OF ARGYLE STREET RECEPTION CENTRE BY SEPTEMBER

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO VACATE THE ARGYLE STREET RECEPTION CENTRE SITE NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, WHO HAD ASKED ABOUT THE TARGET DATE OF VACATION OF THE SITE UPON WHICH A START ON THE ARGYLE STREET OPHTHALMIC CENTRE PROJECT WOULD DEPEND, AND THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN ACHIEVING THIS TARGET.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE ARGYLE STREET RECEPTION CENTRE WAS TO BE REPROVISIONED IN PART OF THE KAI TAK TRANSIT CENTRE.

"THE DATE FOR VACATING THE RECEPTION CENTRE IS DEPENDENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK NECESSARY TO REFURBISH ACCOMMODATION FOR IT IN THE KAI TAK TRANSIT CENTRE.

"I AM ADVISED THAT THIS WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST 1988.

"WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS IN ACHIEVING THIS TARGET DATE," HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

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WEEKLY CHECKS FIND ESCALATORS SAFE

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ALL REGISTERED ESCALATORS OF THE TYPE INVOLVED IN A RECENT ACCIDENT AT THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY STATION ARE BEING CHECKED WEEKLY BY THE ESCALATOR CONTRACTOR AND FOUND TO BE IN SAFE WORKING CONDITION.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM PROFESSOR THE HON C.K. POON IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID THE ACCIDENT, WHICH RESULTED IN INJURIES TO SEVEN PEOPLE, WAS CAUSED BY SOMEONE WHO PRESSED THE STOP BUTTON OF THE ESCALATOR.

THE BRAKE SYSTEM FAILED AND THE ESCALATOR ROLLED BACKWARDS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE PASSENGERS.

"THE INJURIES OCCURRED BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE ESCALATOR WAS DESCENDING SLOWLY AND STOPPED AFTER REVERSING ABOUT 10 STEPS, THE PERSONS ON THE LOWER STEPS WERE CARRIED BACK INTO ONCOMING PASSENGERS.

"THE INVESTIGATION INTO WHY AND HOW THE BRAKING SYSTEM FAILED IS CONTINUING AND MAY LAST SEVERAL WEEKS MORE.

"IN THE MEANTIME, ALL ESCALATORS OF THE SAME MODEL HAVE BEEN CHECKED BY THE REGISTERED ESCALATOR CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THEM, WHO IS THE SOLE SUPPLIER OF THIS MODEL, AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE IN SAFE WORKING ORDER.

"HE WILL CONTINUE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS ON BRAKES OF ALL THESE INSTALLATIONS PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION," MR BARNES ADDED.

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SCREENING TESTS ENSURE SAFE BLOOD TRANSFUSION

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EVERY UNIT OF BLOOD RECEIVED BY THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE IS SUBJECT TO BLOOD SCREENING TESTS AND ALL LOCALLY PRODUCED BLOOD PRODUCTS ARE MADE FROM BLOOD WHICH HAS BEEN SCREENED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THESE TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS WERE SAFE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSFUSION.

"THE BLOOD SCREENING TESTS CURRENTLY IN USE IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OF HEPATITIS B, SYPHILIS AND ANTIBODIES TO THE AIDS VIRUS," HE SAID.

/MR CHAMBERS

MR CHAMBERS ALSO SAID THESE SCREENING TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION, THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

"IMPORTED BLOOD PRODUCTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS BEFORE THEY CAN BE SOLD IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH REGISTRATION IS CONDITIONAL UPON SIMILAR TYPES OF SCREENING AND ASSURANCES OF QUALITY CONTROL BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT," MR CHAMBERS ADDED.

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WAYS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC BEFORE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL COMPLETES

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ROAD PROJECTS COSTING MORE THAN \$3 BILLION AND PLANS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES ARE IN HAND TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND COMMUTER MOVEMENTS BETWEEN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON BEFORE THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL COMPLETION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MR LEUNG SAID THE POPULATION OF THE MAJOR NEW TOWNS IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES WAS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF 689,000 TO 856,000 WHEN THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL OPENED IN LATE 1991.

THE NUMBER OF VEHICULAR TRIPS IN THE CORRIDOR IN THE PEAK PERIODS WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 37 PER CENT IN 1991 OVER PRESENT LEVELS.

A NUMBER OF ROAD PROJECTS WERE IN HAND TO MEET THE EXPECTED GROWTH, MR LEUNG SAID.

THE LINK ROAD CONNECTING MA ON SHAN AND NAI CHUNG ROAD, TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, WOULD ENABLE TRAFFIC TO BY-PASS LION ROCK TUNNEL AND RE-ROUTE THROUGH SAI KUNG TO KOWLOON VIA HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND CLEARWATER BAY ROAD.

THE COMPLETION OF ROUTE 5 FROM SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN AND THE WIDENING OF TAI PO ROAD TO THREE LANES BY THE END OF 1989 WOULD RELIEVE SUBSTANTIALLY TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CORRIDOR, HE SAID.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF VEHICLES IN THE CORRIDOR WOULD USE ROUTE 5 FOR TRIPS TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG.

THE ADDITIONAL LANE ON TAI PO ROAD WOULD PROVIDE AN EXTRA CAPACITY FOR 1,500 VEHICLES PER HOUR AND SHOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC.

THE COMPLETION OF ROAD T6 ACROSS THE SHING MUN RIVER LINKING TOLO HIGHWAY WITH MA ON SHAN ROAD IN 1990 WOULD PROVIDE A SHORTER ROUTE BEFORE THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL FROM TOLO HIGHWAY TO KOWLOON VIA THE MA ON SHAN - NAI CHUNG LINK ROAD.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT APART FROM THESE HIGHWAY PROJECTS, A CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS BEING CARRIED OUT TO CONSIDER SHORT TERM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES.

"THE FIRST PART OF THE STUDY HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND ESTABLISHED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TIDAL FLOW SCHEME AND THE USE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

"THESE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON WEEKDAYS SINCE MID-JANUARY AND HAVE RESULTED IN AN 11 PER CENT INCREASE IN TUNNEL CAPACITY IN THE MORNING PEAK HOURS."

THE SECOND AND FINAL PART OF THE STUDY INCLUDING OTHER IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WOULD BE COMPLETED IN APRIL.

MR LEUNG POINT OUT THAT A KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF ALL THESE MEASURES WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"TO THIS END, THE 'BUS ONLY' LANE ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED VIA HUNG MUI KUK ROAD TO CHE KUNG MIU ROAD IN MAY THIS YEAR.

"THIS WILL FURTHER REDUCE THE JOURNEY TIMES OF KOWLOON BOUND BUSES IN THE PEAK HOURS."

TURNING TO THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID THAT AT PRESENT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGER TRIPS BETWEEN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON WERE BY THE MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES, NAMELY BUSES AND THE RAILWAY.

DAILY DEMAND FOR RAIL AND BUS SERVICES WAS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE BY 20 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF 1991.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RAPID GROWTH IN PASSENGER DEMAND, THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION HAD ORDERED 25 ADDITIONAL SETS OF THREE-CAR UNITS. TEN OF THESE WERE ALREADY IN SERVICE AND THE REST BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST.

TOGETHER WITH MODIFICATIONS TO THE SEATING CAPACITY LAYOUT OF EXISTING TRAINS, A 75 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE SEATING CAPACITY WOULD BE ACHIEVED.

THE CORPORATION HAD DECIDED TO EXPAND FURTHER THE CAPACITY OF THE RAILWAY BY ORDERING EIGHT ADDITIONAL SETS OF SIX-CAR UNITS FOR INTRODUCTION IN 1990 AND 1991. ON PRESENT FORECAST, THIS SHOULD CATER FOR PASSENGER DEMAND UP TO 1992.

AS REGARDS BUSES, MR LEUNG SAID, THERE WERE AT PRESENT 31 ROUTES OPERATING BETWEEN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON.

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN HAD PROVIDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL 12 ROUTES BY 1991 TO COPE WITH PROJECTED DEMAND.

"THE PLAN IS REVISED ANNUALLY IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING NEEDS IN CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS."

MR LEUNG SAID THAT WITH THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND FULL COOPERATION FROM THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CORRIDOR WOULD BE REDUCED TO A TOLERABLE LEVEL BEFORE THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL IN 1991.

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81 JOIN EXPAT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER SCHEME

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A TOTAL OF 81 EXPATRIATE TEACHERS WILL BE WORKING IN 41 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE TWO-YEAR LONG EXPATRIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS' PILOT SCHEME BY NEXT MONTH, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR BRIDGE SAID THE SCHEME WAS STARTED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND WAS BEING RUN BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

ON THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF THE EXPATRIATE TEACHERS, MR BRIDGE SAID: "A TOTAL OF 81 POSTS WERE ORIGINALLY CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN THIS SCHEME."

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"IN THE FIRST RECRUITMENT EXERCISE, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN MID-1987, 59 APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED TEACHERS WERE ENGAGED.

"THEY HAD A BRIEFING IN LONDON AND A TWO-WEEK INDUCTION COURSE IN HONG KONG BEFORE STARTING TO TEACH IN OUR SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 1987.

"SINCE THEN ANOTHER 23 TEACHERS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED. THEY ARE NOW GOING THROUGH AN INDUCTION COURSE AND WILL START TEACHING IN FEBRUARY," HE ADDED.

HE DISCLOSED THAT ONE OF THE ORIGINAL 59 TEACHERS HAD RESIGNED FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

AS TO THE EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME, MR BRIDGE SAID IT WAS TO BE DONE BY PROCEDURES DESIGNED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY.

"THESE TESTING PROCEDURES ARE AMONG THE MOST RIGOROUS USED IN ANY LANGUAGE TEACHING SCHEME ANYWHERE."

"THEY ARE BEING USED, FIRST TO MEASURE THE LANGUAGE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PUPILS TAUGHT BY THE EXPATRIATE TEACHERS, SECONDLY, TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF THE SCHEME IN INCREASING MOTIVATION AND INTEREST AMONG THE PUPILS, AND THIRDLY, TO ASSESS THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE EXPATRIATE TEACHERS TO THE GENERAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL," HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FIVE-MONTH-OLD SCHEME, MR BRIDGE SAID: "DESPITE SOME RATHER SENSATIONAL REPORTS IN THE PRESS, THERE HAVE IN FACT BEEN FEWER DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SCHEME THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

"IN A FEW SCHOOLS THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS OF CLASS CONTROL, BUT SUCH PROBLEMS ARE ENCOUNTERED BY LOCAL TEACHERS ALSO, AND DISCUSSIONS ARE HELD WITH THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

"ADAPTATION TO THE TEACHING ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN EASIER FOR SOME TEACHERS THAN FOR OTHERS, BUT PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED AND THE TEACHERS ARE GIVEN PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT IN A VARIETY OF WAYS."

/COMMENTING ON

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COMMENTING ON THE VARIOUS MEANS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO THE TEACHERS, MR BRIDGE SAID A BRITISH COUNCIL TEAM VISITED EACH SCHOOL IN THE SCHEME ONCE A MONTH AND TALKED WITH THE PRINCIPAL, THE PANEL CHAIRMEN AND THE TEACHERS AND THE COUNCIL HAD SOMEONE AVAILABLE EVERY EVENING SO THAT TEACHERS COULD DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS.

"THE COUNCIL ALSO ORGANISES PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS IN WHICH FIVE OR SIX TEACHERS GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND IDEAS FOR NEW TEACHING METHODS.

"THERE ARE WORKSHOPS FOR THE TEACHERS AND UP TO TWO WEEKS OF CONFERENCE DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL ALSO ORGANISE JOINT SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND PANEL CHAIRMEN.

"IN GENERAL THESE TEACHERS HAVE BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED BY THEIR LOCAL COLLEAGUES AND ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO FIT THEMSELVES INTO THEIR NEW SCHOOLS AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. SO FAR THE SCHEME SEEMS TO ME TO BE GOING VERY WELL." MR BRIDGE ADDED.

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WAGE CEILING DISCUSSION IN MARCH

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WILL DISCUSS WHETHER TO EXTEND THE EXISTING EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO NON-MANUAL LABOUR EARNING MORE THAN \$11,500 PER MONTH IN MARCH, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THE PRESENT RULE, WHICH WAS REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY, EXTENDED THE PROTECTION OF THE ORDINANCE TO ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND TO ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES EXCEPT THE HIGHEST PAID TWO PER CENT.

"THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IS TO PROTECT LOWER PAID EMPLOYEES," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HAS MANY TIMES DISCUSSED PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF THE ORDINANCE TO THE COMPARATIVELY SMALL GROUP OF HIGHER PAID EMPLOYEES NOW EXCLUDED.

"IN RECENT YEARS THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS HAS BEEN IN FAVOUR OF KEEPING THE PRESENT RULE, BUT IT PLANS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AGAIN IN MARCH," HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

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GOVERNOR CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING VR PROBLEM

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWING VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM FACING HONG KONG.

"INCREASED ARRIVALS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS AND DWINDLING RESETTLEMENT PROSPECTS HAVE RESULTED IN HONG KONG'S REFUGEE POPULATION RISING SIGNIFICANTLY IN 1987 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1979," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID, WHO WAS VISITING CLOSED CENTRES AT CHI MA WAN AND HEI LING CHAU, NOTED WITH CONCERN THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN THESE CENTRES, PARTICULARLY IN HEI LING CHAU.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A FOURTH CLOSED CENTRE.

MEANWHILE, HE PRAISED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND ALL OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE OVERCROWDING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG WAS GRATEFUL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ITS CONTINUING ASSISTANCE WITH THE MAINTENANCE AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN HONG KONG THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNHCR AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IT SUPPORTS.

"I URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME TO INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE THROUGH THE CREATION OF ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE RETURN TO VIETNAM OF THOSE WHO LEAVE FOR ECONOMIC AND NOT POLITICAL REASONS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING HIS VISIT BY LADY WILSON, COMMISSIONER FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR NIGEL FRENCH.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

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HOWE MEETS MARTIN LEE

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THE FOLLOWING WAS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND MR MARTIN LEE ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON (LONDON TIME):

MR LEE MADE A PRESENTATION OF HIS CASE IN FAVOUR OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988. THE SECRETARY OF STATE REJECTED THE ALLEGATIONS OF BROKEN PROMISES AND BAD FAITH IN DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY MR LEE. THE RECORD CLEARLY SHOWED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER ENTERED INTO A COMMITMENT TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER OF 1984 (PARAGRAPH 25) CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS AND GAVE AN UNDERTAKING TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN 1987 (PARAGRAPH 46(H)). THIS REVIEW IS NOW IN HAND AND A FURTHER WHITE PAPER WILL SHORTLY BE PUBLISHED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID HE RESPECTED MR LEE'S VIEWS BUT THE EVIDENCE DID NOT SUPPORT MR LEE'S CLAIM THAT THEY WERE OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED IN HONG KONG. THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PROGRESSIVE EVOLUTION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

HE GAVE MR LEE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF THE "PROMISES" WHICH HE ALLEGED WERE BROKEN. MR LEE DID NOT DO SO.

MR LEE HAD EARLIER PAID A SHORT CALL ON LORD GLENARTHUR.

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TALKS ON NEW DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT

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A FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS ON A NEW DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 22). THE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST FOR A FEW DAYS.

THE HONG KONG TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TEAM BY MR BRIAN COUSINS, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE (GENERAL FINANCE) AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

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EXPERT MEETING ON LOCALISATION OF CIVIL AVIATION LEGISLATION

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AN EXPERT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PEKING BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND BRITISH SIDES ON JANUARY 22 AND 23 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE LOCALISATION OF CIVIL AVIATION LEGISLATION.

THE BRITISH TEAM, LED BY MR DAVID LITTLE, PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL (SPECIAL DUTIES) OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WILL LEAVE FOR THE CHINESE CAPITAL TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE EXPERT MEETING FOLLOWS AN AGREEMENT AT THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP IN NOVEMBER 1987 THAT DETAILS OF THE LOCALISATION OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT EXPERT LEVEL BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

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COMPREHENSIVE ELDERLY POLICY NEEDED

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MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, DR CHIU HIN-KWONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE AND LONG-TERM POLICY ON ELDERLY SERVICE.

DR CHIU MADE THE APPEAL WHEN HE OPENED THE "SEMINAR ON THE ELDERLY" JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING THIS MORNING.

"THE CALL IS MADE IN THE HOPE THAT THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WILL FACE UP TO THE PROBLEM OF ELDERLY IN HONG KONG AND TO CONSOLIDATE OUR EXISTING FRAGMENTED AND PIECE-MEAL SERVICE PROVISIONS AND PLANNING SO THAT A COMPREHENSIVE AND SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMME PLAN CAN BE WORKED OUT," HE SAID.

DR CHIU CONCEDED THAT ELDERLY SERVICE HAD MADE SOME DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST DECADE AND THE NECESSARY AREAS WERE MORE OR LESS COVERED, SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY, OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, RESIDENTIAL CARE, SOCIAL CENTRES, HOME HELP, COMMUNITY NURSING, MEDICAL CARE, GERIATRIC BEDS, MEALS, LAUNDRY SERVICE AND EVEN LIMITED OUTREACHING SERVICE.

"REGRETTABLY DUE TO THE CONSTRAINT OF RESOURCES, THE EMPHASIS OF ELDERLY SERVICE IS STILL ON QUANTITY RATHER THAN QUALITY," HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THAT WHILE THE ELDERLY MIGHT NOT LACK MATERIALISTIC SUPPORT, VERY LITTLE HAD BEEN DONE ABOUT THEIR MENTAL WELL-BEING, FOR WHICH HE FELT THAT THE SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY HAD BEEN PROVIDING ONLY LIMITED HELP.

/HE REGRETTED

- 22 -

HE REGRETTED TO SEE THAT SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY WERE STILL NOT FULLY SUBVENTED, ADDING THAT HE HOPED MORE ATTENTION COULD BE DEVOTED TO THIS ASPECT OF SERVICE WHEN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IMPROVED.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON ELDERLY SERVICE SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST JULY WOULD LOOK INTO THE MENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY AS WELL AS THEIR MATERIALISTIC NEEDS.

THE SEMINAR, WITH "THE ELDERLY - WE CARE" AS ITS THEME, IS TO LAST 10 DAYS UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

MORE THAN 350 PARTICIPANTS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE EXCHANGING THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE IN THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF ELDERLY SERVICE - POLICY, PLANNING, PROVISION, PROBLEMS IN SERVICE DELIVERY, SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES.

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DB TO DISCUSS NOISE REDUCTION IN TRAM DEPOT

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS NOISE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE TRAM DEPOT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE DEPOT RELOCATION WORKING GROUP WILL PRESENT A PAPER ON NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY BOARD MEMBERS AT A MEETING IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS AN APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A RAINSHELTER IN A POPULAR SPOT FOR MORNING WALKERS AT THE TOP OF PO LUEN PATH IN BRAEMAR HILL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

- 23 -

TWO NEW TERRITORIES SITES TO LET

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TWO PARKING SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE TO BE LET BY TENDER ON SHORT-TERM TENANCIES BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE FIRST SITE AT FO TAN IN SHA TIN, MEASURING ABOUT 1,360 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR A FEE PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR PRIVATE CARS, LIGHT VANS, LORRIES AND TAXIS.

THE OTHER SITE AT TSING YI AREA 16 NEAR SAI TSO WAN, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.29 HECTARES, IS FOR A FEE PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

BOTH SITES WILL HAVE A TENANCY OF THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDERS FOR THE SITES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FEBRUARY 5.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

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THE PROHIBITED ZONE ON POTTINGER STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE RESCINDED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 23).

THE EXISTING 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF GILMAN STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CONVERTED TO A 7 AM TO 7 PM URBAN CLEARWAY.

ALSO, THE EXISTING LEFT-TURNING BAN FOR ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, FROM CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND ON TO GILMAN STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

MEANWHILE, FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 25), CMB ROUTE NOS. 11, 25 AND 75 WILL OPERATE VIA CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, POTTINGER STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO JOIN QUEENSWAY FOR JOURNEYS LEAVING THE CENTRAL BUS STATION.

CMB ROUTE NOS. 3A, 4, 7 AND 37, UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE CENTRAL BUS STATION, WILL OPERATE VIA CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND POTTINGER STREET TO JOIN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN WAN CHAI

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THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ANTON STREET IN WAN CHAI WILL BE DESIGNATED AS PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 23):

- * THE EASTERN SIDE OF ANTON STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HENNESSY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTERN SIDE OF ANTON STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HENNESSY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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

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TEMPORARY RESTRICTED ZONE IN CAUSEWAY BAY

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THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 499 AND 507 WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 23).

THIS MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FOR ROAD WORKS.

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

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN SHA TAU KOK

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 22), THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHA TAU KOK FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS:

- * THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD (SHEK CHUNG AU) BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH ROAD L1 AND ROAD L4 WILL BE CLOSED. TRAFFIC ON SHA TAU KOK ROAD (SHEK CHUNG AU) WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ROAD L1 AND ROAD L4.
- * THE SECTION OF SHUN LUNG STREET BETWEEN SHA TAU KOK ROAD (SHEK CHUNG AU) AND SHA TAU KOK FIRE STATION WILL BE CLOSED. VEHICLES HEADING FOR THE SECTION OF SHUN LUNG STREET SOUTH OF SHA TAU KOK FIRE STATION WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD (SHEK CHUNG AU) EAST OF ROAD L4, SHUN ON STREET AND SHUN HING STREET.
- * THE BUS TERMINUS AT SHUN LUNG STREET WILL BE RELOCATED TO ROAD L1 EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD L4. KMB ROUTE NO. 78K PLYING BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND SHA TAU KOK WILL HAVE TO OPERATE VIA SHA TAU KOK ROAD (SHEK CHUNG AU) AND ROAD L1.

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