



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MAKING EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MORE EASILY MARKETABLE

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IS TO EXEMPT FROM TAX ANY INTEREST OR PROFIT ARISING FROM DEBT INSTRUMENTS ISSUED UNDER THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID HE HAD ANNOUNCED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH IN MARCH LAST YEAR HIS INTENTION TO DEVELOP A PROGRAMME FOR THE ISSUE OF SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE FUND BILLS.

HE HAD EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE A FLEXIBLE, LOW RISK AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONDUCTING MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS.

"THESE OPERATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE CONDITIONS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

"THE BUYING AND SELLING OF GOVERNMENT PAPER IS A METHOD OF CONDUCTING MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS. IT IS WIDELY USED IN OTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE BILLS WHICH HE INTENDED TO BEGIN ISSUING SOON WOULD BE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

THE PROCEEDS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO FINANCE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE OF FISCAL DEFICITS.

THEY WOULD BE INVESTED ALONG WITH OTHER ASSETS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THOSE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE RESOURCES OF THAT FUND MIGHT PROPERLY BE USED.

"THE BILLS WILL CONSTITUTE DIRECT, UNSECURED, UNCONDITIONAL AND GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

"NORMALLY, THEY WILL HAVE A MATURITY OF 91 DAYS, THAT IS, 13 WEEKS, AND WILL BE ALLOTTED BY COMPETITIVE TENDER, WHICH WILL BE HELD WEEKLY.

"BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM RECOGNISED DEALERS ONLY.

"THE MINIMUM DENOMINATION OF THE BILLS WILL BE HK\$500,000 AND THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING AMOUNT IS LIKELY TO BUILD UP TO APPROXIMATELY HK\$3-4 BILLION BY THE END OF THE FIRST 13-WEEKS CYCLE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT IN DEVISING THIS PROGRAMME, HE HAD VALUABLE ADVICE FROM THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG CAPITAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION.

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CONSULTATIONS HAD ALSO TAKEN PLACE WITH PROSPECTIVE MARKET PARTICIPANTS AND WITH EXPERTS FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND, AMONG OTHERS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING SECTION 26A OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE EXEMPTED FROM TAX LIABILITY ANY INTEREST OR PROFIT ARISING FROM GOVERNMENT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) ORDINANCE.

SINCE THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS WOULD BE ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT UNDER THE EXCHANGE FUND ORDINANCE, THEY WOULD FALL OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF THE EXISTING EXEMPTION PROVIDED FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IN CLAUSE 2(C) OF THE BILL SERVED TO EXEMPT FROM TAX ANY INTEREST OR PROFIT ARISING FROM EXCHANGE FUND BILLS.

"THE EXEMPTION OF THESE BILLS FROM PROFITS TAX AND STAMP DUTY SERVES TO LOWER THE YIELD AT WHICH THE BILLS ARE SOLD, MAKE THE BILLS MORE EASILY MARKETABLE AND ENCOURAGE SECONDARY MARKET TRADING.

"THIS WOULD ASSIST IN THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS MARKET," SIR PIERS ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO PROVIDE EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTY
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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IS TO EXEMPT EXCHANGE FUND DEBT INSTRUMENTS FROM THE IMPOSITION OF STAMP DUTY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID THE REASONS FOR THIS PROPOSAL WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED IN HIS EARLIER SPEECH MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

"HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE NEED FOR THE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED IN THIS BILL," HE SAID.

"UNDER THE PRESENT STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE, STAMP DUTY IS CHARGEABLE ON TRANSACTIONS WHICH AMOUNT TO THE SALE OR PURCHASE OF 'STOCK'.

"THE DUTY IS ON THE CONTRACT NOTE. 'STOCK' AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF THE ORDINANCE EXCLUDES 'ANY BILL OF EXCHANGE OR PROMISSORY NOTE OR ANY CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 2 OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE'.

/"BECAUSE OF

"BECAUSE OF THE PAPERLESS FORM THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS WILL TAKE, THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD FALL WITHIN THAT EXCLUSION.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT SERVES TO REMOVE THAT DOUBT AND TO EXEMPT EXCHANGE FUND DEBT INSTRUMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE FROM STAMP DUTY."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO AMEND DEFINITION OF 'PUBLIC MONEYS'

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THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE CONTROL ON MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES OF HONG KONG, INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC MONEYS" ANY MONEYS WHICH WERE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE BOOKS OR RECORDS OF ACCOUNT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT.

THESE TWO OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY HELD MONEY THAT, STRICTLY SPEAKING, WAS NOT PUBLIC MONEY, BUT WAS HELD ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS CREDITORS IN COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS.

BOTH THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT WERE ACCOUNTABLE UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION IN RESPECT OF MONEYS HELD BY THEM IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WITHOUT THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED, THERE COULD BE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS, SIR PIERS SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE DESIRABLE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF 'PUBLIC MONEYS' IN THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE BY REMOVING FROM IT SECTIONS 2(B)(II) AND (III) WHICH CONCERN MONEYS HELD BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT.

"NEVERTHELESS, FOR CONTROL PURPOSES, A NEW SECTION 40A NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO DIRECT THE PUBLIC OFFICERS CONCERNED TO PREPARE AND MAINTAIN RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS OF SUCH NON-GOVERNMENT MONEYS.

"THE ACCOUNTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AUDITED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE AUDIT ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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COUNTRIES EXPECTED TO ACCEPT VALIDITY OF PASSPORT

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SO FAR NO COUNTRY HAS INDICATED THAT IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR BARNES SAID THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT WAS A BRITISH PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

"AS SUCH WE EXPECT OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT IT AS A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE ABSENCE OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY COUNTRIES OF ACCEPTANCE WAS NOT IN ITSELF SIGNIFICANT.

"NO COUNTRY HAS INDICATED TO EITHER THE HONG KONG OR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT RECOGNISE THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT," HE SAID.

MR TAI HAD ASKED WHETHER ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH ACCEPTED THE VALIDITY OF THE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY CITIZEN PASSPORT HAD ALSO ACCEPTED THE VALIDITY OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT SINCE IT WAS FIRST ISSUED IN 1987.

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PERIODIC REVIEWS OF BOARD, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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THE MEMBERSHIP OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES IS REVIEWED PERIODICALLY TO ENSURE THAT EACH BOARD OR COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN THIS RESPECT, THE COMPOSITION OF THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE USUAL WAY WHEN THE CURRENT TERM OF ITS MEMBERS EXPIRES IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR," SIR PIERS SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR.

MR MCGREGOR HAD ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER INVITING NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS TO SIT ON THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT AS REGARDS THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, HE HAD INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF THIS BOARD.

/"THE MEMBERSHIP

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"THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD HAS RECENTLY BEEN REORGANISED, AND SO FAR WE HAVE HAD ONE MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED BOARD," HE POINTED OUT.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT AS A GENERAL RULE, NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS ON GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED ON AN AD PERSONAM BASIS.

"WHERE APPROPRIATE, REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED BY RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS ARE ALSO APPOINTED.

"THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RECEIVES THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ADVICE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS ADDED THAT HE RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS, AND WHEN MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES WERE BEING TAKEN THEIR VIEWS WERE SOUGHT AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

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ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

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RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, AND CIRCULATED TO SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A TECHNICAL CIRCULAR WAS BEING PREPARED TO EXTEND THESE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND SUBVENTED INSTITUTIONS, MRS WONG SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG.

SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TERRITORY-WIDE WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.

"IT WILL ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM, AND DECIDE ON THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE TO ENSURE THE PROPER DESIGN, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER COOLING AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THAT WHILE FRESH WATER COOLING TOWERS WERE THE IDENTIFIED SOURCE IN MOST OVERSEAS OUTBREAKS OF THE DISEASE, THEY WERE NOT COMMONLY EMPLOYED IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ON GROUNDS OF CONSERVATION.

"FOR THIS REASON, A MAJOR OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE IN HONG KONG IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE VERY LIKELY," SHE SAID.

/MRS WONG

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MRS WONG SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED IN 1985 WITH MEMBERSHIP DRAWN FROM WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITIES IN ORDER TO RECOMMEND HOW TO PREVENT AN OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

"IT CONCLUDED IN 1987 THAT THE DISEASE COULD BE PREVENTED BY THE PROPER DESIGN OF COOLING TOWERS AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS, COUPLED WITH THE PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THESE SYSTEMS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG OUTLINED WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO APPLY THE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD RECONVENED LAST YEAR TO CONSIDER HOW TO IMPLEMENT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TERRITORY-WIDE.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE WAS CAUSED BY THE BACTERIUM LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA, AND PRODUCED PNEUMONIA-TYPE SYMPTOMS.

"IT IS A WATER-BASED ORGANISM, SURVIVING BEST IN WARM, WET CONDITIONS WITH ABUNDANT SIMPLE ORGANIC LIFE AND INORGANIC SUBSTANCES FOR NUTRITION.

"IT INFECTS PEOPLE THROUGH INHALATION, TYPICALLY BY BREATHING IN AEROSOLS, OR FINE WATER SPRAY, DISSEMINATED FROM WATER COOLING TOWERS," MRS WONG SAID.

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COMPARISONS OF PROVIDENT, PENSION SCHEMES DIFFICULT

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IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN PROVIDENT AND PENSION SCHEMES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PENSION SCHEME IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"MOST PROVIDENT FUNDS OPERATED BY PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES PROVIDE A HIGHLY FLEXIBLE SYSTEM ALLOWING EMPLOYEES TO WITHDRAW THEIR BENEFIT AND MOVE TO OTHER FIRMS SEVERAL TIMES DURING THEIR CAREER.

"IN CONTRAST, THE GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME GENERALLY MAKES BENEFITS AVAILABLE ONLY AT THE END OF THE OFFICER'S CAREER," SIR DAVID SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IN 1986 THE UK GOVERNMENT ACTUARY'S DEPARTMENT WAS COMMISSIONED TO ASSESS HONG KONG'S FUTURE CIVIL SERVICE PENSION LIABILITY IN THE COURSE OF EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW PENSION SCHEME.

"THE ASSESSMENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN UPDATED BY THE TREASURY WHICH SHOWS THAT THE AVERAGE PENSION ONCOST FOR STAFF ON THE DIRECTORATE AND MASTER PAY SCALES ON THE NEW PENSION SCHEME IS ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF SALARY.

"PENSION ONCOST IS THE NOTIONAL AMOUNT WHICH NEEDS TO BE SET ASIDE TO MEET FUTURE PENSION LIABILITIES IN RESPECT OF A PARTICULAR OFFICER," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID A DIVERSITY OF SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES AND PROVIDENT FUNDS WERE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE AUTHORISED SCHEMES, ABOUT HALF OF THEM ARE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE FUNDING.

"AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE SCHEMES OPERATED BY MAJOR CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARE MOSTLY NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

"THE AVERAGE EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTIONS RANGE FROM FIVE PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT OF SALARY AND THE EMPLOYERS ARE NORMALLY OBLIGED TO MAKE UP FOR ANY DEFICIENCY OF THE PENSION FUNDS," HE SAID.

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NEW HOSPITAL PLANNED FOR FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI

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TO CATER FOR FURTHER POPULATION GROWTH IN NORTH DISTRICT, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO BUILD A 1,260-BED HOSPITAL IN AREA 34 IN FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MRS WONG SAID THIS WOULD BE A FULLY FLEDGED GENERAL ACUTE HOSPITAL WITH A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES SUPPORTED BY A SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT CLINIC, AND THE TARGET COMPLETION DATE WAS 1999.

SHE SAID THAT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE EXPANDING POPULATION OF THE NORTH DISTRICT, THE FACILITIES AT FANLING HOSPITAL HAD BEEN UPGRADED IN RECENT YEARS TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL SERVICES COMPARABLE TO A DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

"FANLING HOSPITAL HAS 98 BEDS SUPPORTED BY A 24-HOUR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE. OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE AN OPERATING THEATRE, X-RAY, PATHOLOGY, DISPENSARY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY.

"GENERAL OUT-PATIENT AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES ARE ALSO PROVIDED AT THE HOSPITAL," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG ALSO SAID THAT PLANNING FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HAD FOLLOWED THE PRINCIPLE OF REGIONALISATION.

"THERE ARE FIVE NEW HOSPITAL PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE EAST NEW TERRITORIES REGION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, TWO OF WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR.

"TOGETHER THESE PROJECTS SHOULD PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 3,900 ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS, INCREASING THE PRESENT LEVEL OF PROVISION BY MORE THAN THREE-FOLD," SHE SAID.

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SATISFACTORY RESULTS SO FAR UNDER PRISONER RELEASE SCHEMES

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SATISFACTORY RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR UNDER THE PRISONER "RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME" AND THE "PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME", THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"ALTHOUGH THE TWO SCHEMES ARE IN THEIR EARLY STAGES, IT CAN BE CONCLUDED THAT THEIR REHABILITATION OBJECTIVES UNDER THE PRISONERS (RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION) ORDINANCE ARE BEING ACHIEVED," MR BARNES SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON DANIEL TSE.

FROM THE START OF THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME IN 1988 UP TO THE END OF LAST MONTH, THERE HAD BEEN 43 SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS, HE SAID.

OF THESE, 10 WERE UNDER THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME, UNDER SECTION 7(1) OF THE ORDINANCE, AND 33 WERE UNDER THE PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME, UNDER SECTION 7(2).

MR BARNES SAID TWO IMPORTANT MEASURES OF THE SUCCESS OF A PENAL SYSTEM WERE THE EXTENTS TO WHICH IT REDUCED RECIDIVISM AND ENABLED A FORMER PRISONER TO REINTEGRATE HIMSELF IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE TWO SCHEMES UNDER THE PRISONERS (RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION) ORDINANCE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED INTO THE COMMUNITY WHEN THEY WERE MOST LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES WITHOUT REVERTING TO CRIME.

"THE SCHEMES PROVIDE ONE OF THE BEST MEANS OF HELPING THE PRISONERS TO ADJUST FROM A HIGHLY DISCIPLINED PRISON ENVIRONMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF LIVING NORMALLY IN THE COMMUNITY.

"THE AIM IS THAT THEY SHOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO LEAD A LAW-ABIDING LIFE," HE SAID.

OF THE 10 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS UNDER THE RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME, ONE HAD COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF SUPERVISION AND EIGHT HAD BEEN UNDER SUPERVISION FOR PERIODS OF EIGHT TO 10 MONTHS.

THE REMAINING ONE HAD JUST BEEN RELEASED AND ALL 10 WERE LIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

"NINE HAVE TAKEN UP EMPLOYMENT AND THE ONE WHO HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED IS NOW ON A SIX-MONTH TRAINING COURSE.

"NO SIGNS OF TRANSGRESSION OR RETROGRESSION HAVE YET BEEN DETECTED AND THEIR OVERALL RESPONSE TOWARDS GUIDANCE, SUPERVISION AND COUNSELLING HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID OF THE 33 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS UNDER THE PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME, 32 HAD BEEN RELEASED AND ONE WOULD BE RELEASED SHORTLY.

ALL 32 HAD TAKEN UP EMPLOYMENT, AND 28 HAD COMPLETED SUPERVISION AFTER THEIR STAY IN THE HALF-WAY HOUSE AND WERE NOW LIVING WITH IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.

"HERE AGAIN THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS OF TRANSGRESSION OR RETROGRESSION AND THEIR RESPONSES TOWARDS SUPERVISION AND COUNSELLING HAVE GENERALLY BEEN FAVOURABLE, RECEPTIVE AND POSITIVE," HE ADDED.

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GOOD PROGRESS IN LABELLING DISPENSED MEDICINES

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VERY ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN PROMOTING THE GOOD PRACTICE OF LABELLING DISPENSED MEDICINES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MRS WONG SAID THAT LABELLING OF DISPENSED MEDICINES WAS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT IN 11 GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND SIX PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

"PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXTEND THIS PRACTICE TO OTHER GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WHEN RESOURCES PERMIT.

"ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF LABELLING PRACTISED IN PRIVATE CLINICS, THIS PRACTICE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID SHE TOOK THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD'S PROFESSIONAL ADVICE THAT EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CO-OPERATION REMAINED THE MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PROMOTE THE PRACTICE OF LABELLING DISPENSED MEDICINES.

"HOWEVER, THE NEED AND APPROPRIATENESS OF INTRODUCING MANDATORY LABELLING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THE BENEFITS OF LABELLING DISPENSED MEDICINES WERE WELL RECOGNISED.

SHE EXPLAINED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ALL DISPENSED MEDICINES SHOULD BE MADE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY LABELLING REQUIREMENTS WAS FIRST CONSIDERED BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD IN 1987.

"THE BOARD RESOLVED THAT HAVING REGARD TO THE CONSIDERABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY LABELLING BY HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE NEED TO PROVIDE SOME FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOMMODATE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT LABELLING THE DRUGS DISPENSED, PROPER LABELLING SHOULD FOR THE TIME BEING BE PROMOTED AS A VOLUNTARY PRACTICE.

"THE BOARD ADVISED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO INTRODUCE LABELLING OF MEDICINES DISPENSED AT ITS HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AND TO EDUCATE PROFESSIONALS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE BENEFITS OF LABELLING," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG ADDED THAT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THEIR MEMBERS TO PRACTISE LABELLING.

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PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM CONSISTENT WITH POLICY
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THE PAYMENT OF AN HONORARIUM TO AN OFFICER IN THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH WAS APPROVED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE LONG ESTABLISHED POLICY TO REWARD CIVIL SERVANTS FOR PERFORMING WORK AT A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY THAN THAT NORMALLY EXPECTED OF THEIR SUBSTANTIVE RANKS. THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE CONTENTION CONTAINED IN THE QUESTION THAT THE PAYMENT OF THE HONORARIUM REFERRED TO CAUSED CONCERN AND DISCONTENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE CASE CONCERNED A D2 OFFICER IN THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH WHO, THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1988 TO AUGUST 31, 1989, UNDERTOOK DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES APPROPRIATE TO A D3 OFFICER.

"NORMALLY, HIS POST WOULD HAVE BEEN UPGRADED TO D3 AND HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GRANTED AN ACTING ALLOWANCE.

"THIS WAS NOT DONE, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE UPGRADING WOULD HAVE NECESSITATED A MAJOR REDELINEATION OF DUTIES AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH AT A TIME WHEN THE ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BRANCH AND ITS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS WERE ABOUT TO BE REVIEWED," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MAIN CRITERION FOR PAYMENT OF ACTING ALLOWANCE, NAMELY THE EXISTENCE OF A VACANT SENIOR POST, WAS NOT MET.

"IN FAIRNESS TO THE OFFICER, HOWEVER, FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL WAS SOUGHT FOR PAYMENT OF A SPECIAL HONORARIUM (\$122,300) EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT OF ACTING ALLOWANCE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYABLE HAD A D3 POST BEEN CREATED. SUCH APPROVAL WAS GIVEN ON DECEMBER 8, 1989," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID THAT OFFICERS ENGAGED IN ONEROUS DUTIES BEYOND THEIR PRESCRIBED RESPONSIBILITIES WERE ELIGIBLE FOR RECOGNITION IN THE FORM OF ACTING ALLOWANCE, EXTRANEOUS DUTIES ALLOWANCE OR HONORARIA UNDER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS AND MANY OFFICERS RECEIVED SUCH ALLOWANCES EACH YEAR.

"ANNUAL PROVISIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THESE ALLOWANCES AND HONORARIA BY INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS ARE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ESTIMATES.

"PAYMENT IN INDIVIDUAL CASES ARE APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY SUBJECT TO THE RELEVANT CONDITIONS BEING MET. ONLY THOSE CASES WHICH CANNOT BE APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY ARE REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION," HE ADDED.

DURING THE THREE YEARS FROM 1987 TO 1989, SIR DAVID SAID THE CASE REFERRED TO BY MR POON WAS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS NATURE WHICH COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH ADMINISTRATIVELY AND FOR WHICH, THEREFORE, FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL WAS OBTAINED.

"AS I HAVE EXPLAINED, WERE IT NOT FOR THE PLANNED REORGANISATION OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, THE OFFICER CONCERNED WOULD HAVE BEEN REWARDED BY MORE CONVENTIONAL MEANS," HE SAID.

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DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS ON VBP DUTIES

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DEDICATED RECORDS KEPT SINCE JUNE 1989 INDICATE A DAILY AVERAGE DEPLOYMENT OF 567 POLICE OFFICERS, AND 76 MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE TO MANAGE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CAMPS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANOTHER 35 POLICE OFFICERS WERE ASSIGNED TO VBP ESCORT DUTIES, MR BARNES SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI.

"THIS LEVEL OF DEPLOYMENT ACCOUNTS RESPECTIVELY FOR 2.23 PER CENT AND 1.41 PER CENT OF RHKPF (ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE) AND RHKAPF (AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE) STRENGTH," HE SAID.

MR POON WAS ASKING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS DEPLOYED ON BEAT DUTIES ANNUALLY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE FREQUENCY OF SUCH BEAT PATROLS, AND THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS DEPLOYED ON VBP DUTIES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT INFORMATION AS TO THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS DEPLOYED ANNUALLY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS ON BEAT DUTIES WAS NOT READILY AVAILABLE.

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"TO PROVIDE SUCH DATA WOULD ENTAIL A DETAILED AND LABOUR INTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL DUTY RECORDS IN RESPECT OF NEARLY 1,000 BEATS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"HOWEVER, AN APPROXIMATE CURRENT FIGURE OF THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS DEPLOYED FOR NORMAL BEAT DUTIES IN A PERIOD OF 24 HOURS IS 2,600," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ADDED THAT THE FREQUENCY OF BEAT PATROLS WAS DETERMINED ON A DIVISIONAL BASIS HAVING REGARD TO COMMUNITY POLICING NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

"THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO OVERALL STANDARD FREQUENCY, WHICH IS DETERMINED BY LOCATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

"HOWEVER, A RECENT SURVEY INDICATES THAT, ON AVERAGE, EVERY BEAT IS COVERED MORE THAN ONCE DURING EVERY 24-HOUR PERIOD," HE NOTED.

MR BARNES REITERATED THAT THE OVERALL CRIME LEVEL HAD REMAINED STABLE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

"AS I NOTED IN THIS COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 18, 1989, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS ON VBP DETENTION DUTIES," HE SAID.

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VIGOROUS CONTROL OVER TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WITH THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, VIGOROUS CONTROL WOULD HAVE TO BE EXERCISED OVER TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

"WE NEED ALSO TO ADJUST SUITABLY THE PRIORITIES OF OTHER NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, AND TO RESTRAIN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO SOME," SIR PIERS SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH.

"IN DOING SO WE SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ARE WELL LOOKED AFTER AND THAT ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED."

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, ON THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS, HE HAD ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY HAD BEEN MADE AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ITS FULL IMPLICATION ON OUR FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1990

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REMINDERS AGAINST USE OF ILLEGAL SOFTWARE

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HEADS OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE REMINDED REGULARLY THAT THE POSSESSION OR USE OF ILLEGAL SOFTWARE INFRINGES COPYRIGHT LAWS AND IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG.

"THE LAST SUCH CIRCULAR WAS ISSUED IN APRIL 1989.

"IN ADDITION, CLEAR GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS ON COPYRIGHT ISSUES ARE CONTAINED IN A USER GUIDE WHICH IS ISSUED TO THE MICROCOMPUTER USERS IN THE GOVERNMENT," SIR PIERS SAID.

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CALL TO EASE OVERCROWDING AT POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO WORK CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY WITH THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL TO HELP OVERCOME OVERCROWDING ON THE POLYTECHNIC'S HUNG HOM CAMPUS.

THE CALL WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG, WHEN TABLING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC'S ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR CHEONG SAID ONE OPTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-CAMPUS ADJACENT TO THE HUNG HOM CAMPUS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION ON THE CAMPUS WAS ONE OF THE CONSTRAINTS AND THE SITUATION WOULD GET WORSE WHEN THE POLYTECHNIC BEGAN TO INCREASE ITS FIRST DEGREE INTAKE IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

EVEN WITH THE ADDITION OF 33,000 SQUARE METRES OF FLOOR AREA IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WOULD STILL BE SHORT OF SPACE TO MEET GROWING DEMAND, HE ADDED.

ON THE PROBLEM OF THE BRAIN DRAIN, MR CHEONG NOTED THAT THE TURNOVER RATE OF ACADEMIC AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF DURING 1988-89 INDICATED AN UPWARD TREND WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

"INDEED, OUR ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN STAFF OF A HIGH CALIBRE WILL BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE THAT WE FACE IN FULFILLING OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING PERIOD. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT VIGOROUSLY AND IMAGINATIVELY," HE SAID.

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IN A BID TO FURTHER ENHANCE LINKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY, A NEW BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD BE OPENED SOON, WHILE A FURTHER TWO NEW SPECIALIST CENTRES -- THE CENTRE FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES AND THE CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ENGLISH -- WERE PROPOSED AND PLANNED DURING THE PAST YEAR, MR CHEONG SAID.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FORMER SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, FOR HIS WORK FOR THE POLYTECHNIC AND FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ROLE IN HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

SIR SZE-YUEN WAS CONFERRED THE POLYTECHNIC'S FIRST HONORARY DEGREE -- DOCTOR OF ENGINEERING HONORIS CAUSA -- LAST YEAR, HE NOTED.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED THE FIRST CONFERMENTS OF PROFESSORSHIPS ON SIX SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS AND THE FIRST AWARD OF THE RESEARCH DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLYTECHNIC'S POST-GRADUATE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY WAS THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE'S DECISION IN APRIL LAST YEAR TO AUTHORISE THE INSTITUTE TO REGISTER CANDIDATES FOR THE RESEARCH DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, HE SAID.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES, MR CHEONG SAID OF THE 2,875 FULL-TIME GRADUATES, ALMOST 88 PER CENT WERE IN REGULAR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$5,209, WHICH WAS 19.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE 1987 FIGURE.

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CITY POLYTECHNIC CONTINUES TO GROW

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THE CITY POLYTECHNIC CONTINUED TO GROW DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1988 AND JUNE 1989 WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF 17 NEW COURSES IN OCTOBER 1988 AND THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS INCREASED BY 32 AND 36 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN WHEN HE PRESENTED THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG'S ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE POLYTECHNIC ADMITTED ITS FIRST 12 MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY RESEARCH STUDENTS AND ALSO GAINED APPROVAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO TAUGHT MASTER'S COURSES FROM OCTOBER 1989, HE SAID.

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 1A OF THE PERMANENT CAMPUS IN KOWLOON TONG WAS COMPLETED IN AUGUST 1988. THIS BROUGHT A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN TEACHING FACILITIES WHEN FIVE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AND THREE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTRES MOVED INTO THE NEW CAMPUS IN OCTOBER 1988," HE ADDED.

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THE POLYTECHNIC ALSO CREATED A NEW POST OF ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCED PROFESSORSHIPS AND READERSHIPS TO UNDERPIN THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED STUDIES AND ITS RAPIDLY EXPANDING RESEARCH PROGRAMME.

"THE LATTER WAS GIVEN FURTHER IMPETUS BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY," MR CHENG SAID.

AT THE THIRD ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY IN DECEMBER 1988, THE POLYTECHNIC CONFERRED ITS FIRST HONORARY DEGREE, A DOCTORATE OF SCIENCE, ON SIR RUN RUN SHAW AND AWARDED ITS FIRST BACHELOR'S DEGREES TO 135 STUDENTS.

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REWARDING YEAR FOR ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS

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THE YEAR 1988-89 WAS BUSY AND REWARDING FOR THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WHICH HELD OVER 200 PUBLIC PERFORMANCES OF DANCE, DRAMA AND MUSIC, A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMY, THE HON MIRIAM LAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ACADEMY'S 1988-89 ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS LAU SAID THE LARGE NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE ACADEMY ATTACHED TO STUDENT TRAINING THROUGH PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE.

SHE SAID THAT IT WAS GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE ACADEMY TO MAKE ITS MAGNIFICENT PERFORMING VENUES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GENERALLY, AND TO INCREASE AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE ACADEMY'S ACTIVITIES.

DURING THE YEAR, AN ACCREDITATION PANEL MADE UP OF A TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG'S ACADEMIC LIFE HAD CONDUCTED AN INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW OF THE ACADEMY, SHE NOTED.

"THE REPORT BY THIS PANEL WAS MOST ENCOURAGING AND INDICATED THAT IN MOST AREAS OF ACTIVITY, THE ACADEMY WAS WELL UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

"THE PANEL RECOMMENDED, INTER ALIA, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE ACADEMY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND EXPANDED AND THAT THE ACADEMY SHOULD BECOME A DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTION," SHE SAID.

/MRS LAU

MRS LAU SAID SHE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THE ABILITY OF THE ACADEMY TO CONFER DEGREES NOT ONLY RECOGNISED THE HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OFFERED BY THE ACADEMY BUT ALSO WENT A LONG WAY TOWARDS IMPROVING FUTURE RECRUITMENT OF HIGH CALIBRE STUDENTS BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

SHE WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN PRINCIPLE APPROVED OF THE ACADEMY'S DEGREE GRANTING STATUS, AND THE ACADEMY WAS PROCEEDING WITH THE NECESSARY ACCREDITATION AND VALIDATION PROCEDURES.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1989 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON ALL THREE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1990

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GUANGDONG DELEGATION IN HK FOR ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW

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A DELEGATION OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR HUANG QUN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE FRONTIER ADMINISTRATION BUREAU, MR CHEN WENLI, ARE VISITING HONG KONG FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9) FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW.

THE DELEGATION IS HERE AT THE INVITATION OF THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR WILLIAM EHRMAN.

THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD ALTERNATELY IN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG.

THE BORDER LIAISON SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND CONTROL AT THE BORDER. BOTH SIDES CONSIDER IT VERY EFFECTIVE AND VALUABLE.

AT THE TALKS HELD TODAY, THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF WAYS OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING THESE ARRANGEMENTS. THE TALKS WERE USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.

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TAC DISCUSSES BUS FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY CONTINUED ITS DISCUSSION ON FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS FROM THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB) AND THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB).

MEMBERS NOTED THAT BOTH APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN JOINTLY ASSESSED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH.

THE TAC WAS INFORMED THAT THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS WERE BASED ON THE FIVE YEAR ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (RDP) PREVIOUSLY PUT TO AND NOTED BY TAC, FOLLOWING DISTRICT BOARD CONSULTATION.

WHEN EXAMINING THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATION FROM CMB, THE TAC HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE CHANGES IN CMB'S OPERATING REVENUE AND COSTS IN RELATION TO THE COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY DIRECTED CMB TO FUNDAMENTALLY OVERHAUL ITS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY COMMISSIONING A CONSULTANCY STUDY.

A DEADLINE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE MANAGEMENT REVIEW.

THE TAC NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF MORE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND. THIS IS TO PROVIDE A WIDER CHOICE TO RESIDENTS RELIANT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

/ACCORDING TO

ACCORDING TO CMB'S FINANCIAL FORECAST, IF FARES REMAIN UNCHANGED, OPERATING REVENUE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER OPERATING COSTS IN ALL THREE YEARS ENDING 1991-92, LET ALONE THE PERMITTED RETURN PROVIDED UNDER THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME.

FOR 1989-90, A SHORTFALL OF ABOUT \$18 MILLION IS FORECAST, DUE MAINLY TO A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PENSION LIABILITY WHICH CANNOT BE FULLY MET EVEN AFTER THE EXISTING BALANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT FUND, OF \$54 MILLION, IS COMPLETELY DRAWN DOWN.

CMB NEEDS THE FARE INCREASES TO TOP UP THE SHORTFALL IN PENSION LIABILITY IN 1989-90, AND TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS SERVICES IN 1990-91.

A LOW RATE OF RIDERSHIP INCREASE IS FORECAST BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED SCOPE FOR GROWTH IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRIPS ON HONG KONG ISLAND; ROAD CONGESTION WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO REDUCING BUS PRODUCTIVITY; SHIFT OF PASSENGERS TO AIR-CONDITIONED MODES IN THE SUMMER; AND LOSS OF PASSENGERS TO MORE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, CMB'S TOTAL OPERATING COSTS ARE EXPECTED TO RISE AS EXTRA PROVISIONS ARE REQUIRED TO COVER THE STAFF'S NEW PENSION SCHEME.

HOWEVER, THE TAC EMPHASISED THAT THE EXTRA PROVISIONS REQUIRED FOR THE STAFF PENSION SCHEME WOULD BE PLACED IN A SEPARATE FUND AND NOT IN THE COMPANY'S GENERAL REVENUE.

SIMILARLY THE INTEREST ACCRUED BY THIS FUND WOULD BE PLOUGHED BACK TO THE FUND TO HELP MEET FUTURE PENSION COMMITMENTS.

THE TAC HAD LOOKED INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF MAINTAINING CMB SERVICES AT THE 1989-90 LEVEL FOR COST SAVING PURPOSES, BUT CONSIDERED IT NOT ADVISABLE AS MANY OF THE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ITEMS BEING PLANNED WERE NEEDED TO CATER FOR ONGOING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

IN 1987 TO 1988 THE TAC FORMED A SUB-GROUP TO STUDY THE KMB FIVE YEARLY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL, THERE WERE STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS, INTER ALIA, TO:

- * MAXIMISE ON THE UTILISATION OF THE ASSETS AND RESOURCES OF KMB;
- * STRENGTHEN TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S MONITORING ROLE ON GROWTH OF ASSETS OF KMB IN TERMS OF DEPOT PROVISION AND VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT.

THE SUB-GROUP FELT THAT THE SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT OF KMB WAS SUCH THAT COST EFFECTIVENESS IN ITS OPERATION WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

ON DECEMBER 7 LAST YEAR, THE TAC IN CONSIDERING THE KMB 1990-94 FIVE YEAR RDP TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE SUB-GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE STILL VALID AND SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

TAC APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT SINCE THE MEETING, KMB HAD CO-OPERATED WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN EFFECTING PROGRESSIVELY THE ABOVE MEASURES.

IN CONSIDERING KMB'S FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, THE TAC NOTED AND WELCOMED THE COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO MEMBERS' RECENT CALL FOR A TRIMMING OF BUS DEPOTS AND LOSS MAKING ROUTES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE COMPANY AND CONTROL THE EXPANSION OF ITS ASSET BASE.

THE TAC FURTHER NOTED THAT IN 1989, KMB'S PATRONAGE HAD DROPPED BY MORE THAN 10 PER CENT DURING THE FIRST 10 MONTHS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS SUCH AS LOST TRIPS DUE TO DRIVER SHORTAGE; ROAD CONGESTION, CAUSING ADDITIONAL LOST TRIPS AND PASSENGER DIVERSION TO RAIL MODE; AND WITHDRAWAL OF ROUTES FROM THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICE AREA.

WHEN THE TAC CONSIDERED KMB'S FARE REVISION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR, MEMBERS NOTED A SHORTFALL IN PERMITTED RETURN WAS PREDICTED FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1989, AND THAT A FURTHER INCREASE WOULD BE NECESSARY IN EARLY 1990.

OPERATING COSTS OF KMB IN 1990 ARE FORECAST TO INCREASE BY 20 PER CENT OVER 1989 DUE TO ANTICIPATED RISE IN WAGES, COST OF PARTS AND FUEL, AS WELL AS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT AT EXISTING FARES, KMB EXPECTED AN OPERATING DEFICIT OF \$10.3 MILLION IN 1990 AND \$253.4 MILLION IN 1991 AFTER TAXATION, NOT COUNTING THE PERMITTED RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAC ON BUS FARE INCREASES WILL BE PUT TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN DUE COURSE.

MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD COMPLETED ANOTHER REVIEW TO EXAMINE WHETHER CMB'S FARE STRUCTURE COULD BE FURTHER RATIONALISED.

THIS IS THE THIRD RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT IN AS MANY YEARS.

ITS LATEST FINDINGS RE-AFFIRM THE NEED TO FURTHER SIMPLIFY CMB'S FARE STRUCTURE AND TO ADJUST THE FARES OF SOUTHERN BUS ROUTES, THUS MAKING THEM MORE EQUITABLE WITH THOSE OF NORTH-SHORE ROUTES.

WHILE THE FARE SCALE PROPOSED BY CMB IS IN GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE REVIEW'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO PROPOSED A FARE STRUCTURE THAT IS MORE EFFECTIVE IN NARROWING DOWN THE FARE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN SOUTHERN AND NORTH-SHORE ROUTES.

UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE FARE SCALE, FARES ON "ABERDEEN-INTERNAL" ROUTES AND SOUTHERN ROUTES USING THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WOULD BE FROZEN.

THIS MEANS FARES FOR ABOUT 58 PER CENT OF PASSENGERS ON SOUTHERN ROUTES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

MEANWHILE, THE TAC WAS INFORMED OF CMB'S 1990-94 FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME (FPP) WHICH COVERED PROPOSALS ON ROUTE, BUS FLEET AND DEPOT DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBERS LEARNED THAT CMB HAD PROPOSED SIX NEW ROUTES AND 30 FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENT ITEMS TO MEET ANTICIPATED DEMAND FROM NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT CHAI WAN, SHAU KEI WAN EAST AND KELLET BAY.

CONVERSION TO HIGHER CAPACITY BUSES ON FIVE ROUTES ARE ALSO PROPOSED TO HELP BETTER MEET PASSENGER DEMAND AT WAH FU, THE MID-LEVELS AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

FREQUENCY REDUCTION IS PROPOSED FOR ROUTES 20 AND 95 TO TIE IN WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO PROPOSED NEW ROUTES, ONE EACH FOR THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT CMB PROPOSED TO BUY 230 NEW BUSES AND SCRAP 200 OLD BUSES BETWEEN 1990 AND 1994.

ON THE BUS DEPOT PROGRAMME, CMB HAS NO CONCRETE PLAN FOR ADDITIONAL DEPOTS AS ITS FLEET SIZE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN STABLE WITHIN THE FPP PERIOD.

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DSW VISITS SWD OFFICES IN KOWLOON CITY

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE UNITS IN KOWLOON CITY TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE OPERATION OF THE UNITS.

THIS IS PART OF A TIGHTLY SCHEDULED FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW DIRECTOR WHO TOOK UP OFFICE ON JANUARY 30.

MR CARTLAND WAS BRIEFED BY THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (KOWLOON CITY), MR CHEUNG HON-LEUNG, ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE DISTRICT.

HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED BY STAFF MEMBERS ON THE OPERATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE UNITS. THE OFFICES PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES, INCLUDING FAMILY, REHABILITATION AND PROBATION SERVICES, SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY, AS WELL AS SOCIAL SECURITY.

IMPRESSED BY THE EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION OF THE STAFF, MR CARTLAND WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THEIR WORK IN THE 90'S AND BEYOND.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1990

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CONTEST TO PROMOTE BETTER USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING A COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS TO PROMOTE BETTER USE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND LEISURE READING.

ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, THE COMPETITION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A LIBRARY BOARD DISPLAY.

A CIRCULAR WITH AN ENTRY FORM IS BEING SENT TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INVITING THEM TO TAKE PART.

ENTRY FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AND THE DISPLAY BOARDS BY MARCH 21 TO THE LIBRARY SECTION ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF LEE GARDENS AT HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE MAY BE USED IN THE DISPLAY WHICH SHOULD NOT EXCEED 1.83 METRES IN WIDTH AND 1.22 METRES IN HEIGHT.

THE CONTENTS SHOULD MATCH THE THEME OF THE COMPETITION -- TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY FOR INFORMATION AND LIBRARY-ASSISTED LEARNING, AND LEISURE READING.

THIRTY ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED FOR JUDGING AND THE TOP THREE WINNERS WILL EACH BE AWARDED A TROPHY AND A BOOK COUPON RANGING FROM \$1,000 TO \$2,000.

THERE WILL ALSO BE 10 MERIT PRIZES FOR HIGHLY COMMENDED DISPLAYS.

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REMINDER CONCERNING OFFENCE UNDER TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED RETAILERS AND SHOP OPERATORS NOT TO POSSESS FOR SALE ANY GOODS TO WHICH FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ARE APPLIED.

"THIS IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF WHICH IS A FINE OF \$500,000 AND FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT," THE SENIOR PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER, MR LEUNG YAU-YAM, SAID.

THE ADVICE WAS MADE FOLLOWING A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A PARTNER OF A GINSENG AND MEDICINE SHOP WAS FINED \$65,000 AT THE NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY FOR HAVING IN POSSESSION FOR SALE BIRDS' NEST TO WHICH A FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION WAS APPLIED.

/THE COURT

THE COURT HEARD THAT OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT RAIDED TAI LAI GINSENG AND MEDICINE SUPERMARKET AT LEI HO STREET, SHAM SHUI PO ON JUNE 20 LAST YEAR, AND SEIZED 1,276 PIECES OF GOODS BEARING A SUSPECTED FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION, NAMELY SWIFTLETS' NEST BALLS.

INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT THE DEFENDANT BOUGHT THE SEIZED GOODS FROM A DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN AND DISPLAYED THEM FOR SALE IN HIS SHOP.

THE DEFENDANT, LI KA-SHEUNG OF THE SHOP, ADMITTED THAT HE BOUGHT THE SEIZED GOODS AT A CHEAPER PRICE OF ABOUT \$480 PER CATTY, WHEREAS THE PRICE FOR A CATTY OF SWIFTLETS' NEST BALL FROM RELIABLE SOURCES WAS ABOUT \$1,000.

THE MARKET VALUE OF THE GOODS SEIZED WAS ABOUT \$35,000. A PROFIT OF ABOUT \$26,000 WAS ANTICIPATED IF THEY WERE SOLD.

MR LEUNG SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST COURT CASE INVOLVING THE SEIZURE OF SPURIOUS BIRDS' NEST.

HE ADDED THAT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORT IN ENFORCING THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF TRADERS AND CONSUMERS.

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SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY ON DB AGENDA

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFTING OF A WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9).

MEMBERS WILL MOVE A MOTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY CONSULTATION PAPER WHICH ALSO COVERS REHABILITATION SERVICES, PROVIDENT FUNDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, A MEMBER WILL ASK WHY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD HAD GRANTED LICENCES TO THREE KARAOKE LOUNGES IN BELAIR GARDENS - A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SHING MUN EAST - AGAINST THE WISHES OF RESIDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED REGARDING THE POLICY ON FEES CHARGED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR HAWKER OPERATIONS UNIT.

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEPLOY STAFF AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ENTRANCE TO TAKE PROSECUTION ACTION AGAINST VEHICLES THAT EMIT EXCESSIVE SMOKE.

/THE MEETING

THE MEETING WILL ALSO CONSIDER IF IT IS DESIRABLE TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS UNDER THE BOARD'S MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME FROM TWICE TO ONCE A WEEK.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE CONCERN GROUP ON WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE, THE SIX DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9) AT THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND A LUNCH TO BE HOSTED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AFTER THE MEETING.

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DB WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS CLEARANCE

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9) A PLAN ON CLEARANCE OF SQUATTER HUTS TO MAKE WAY FOR A ROAD PROJECT.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE EXTENSION OF FUNG TAK ROAD TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN DIAMOND HILL AREA AFTER THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

ABOUT 500 FAMILIES COMPRISING SOME 1,700 PEOPLE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL AND APPROACH ROADS, AND A REPORT ON THE COMPLETION OF AN EARLIER CLEARANCE IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1990

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DB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW TRAFFIC TRIAL SCHEME

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL REVIEW AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) A TRIAL SCHEME TO PROHIBIT GOODS VEHICLES FROM USING A WESTBOUND SLIP ROAD IN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD FOR ACCESS TO THE NORTHBOUND LANES IN WATERLOO ROAD.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO RE-ROUTE A SECTION OF GULLANE ROAD BETWEEN ARGYLE STREET AND DUNBAR ROAD TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

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DB TO BE BRIEFED ON WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION

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AN INFORMATION PAPER GIVING THE BACKGROUND OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR JOHN COORAY, WILL INTRODUCE THE PAPER AND ANSWER MEMBERS' QUERIES.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS, BASED ON A PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE FOUR COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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GOVT SITE TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT WESTERN RECLAMATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE SITE IS FOR A DEPOT FOR THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF NATURAL SAND, AGGREGATE AND CEMENT ONLY. CONCRETE BATCHING AND ROCK-CRUSHING ARE NOT PERMITTED.

THE SITE MEASURES ABOUT 1,500 SQUARE METRES. THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 23.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPENING OF TAI WO TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9), SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TAI PO FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF TAI WO TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE.

THE SECTION OF ROAD L6 BETWEEN KWONG FUK ROAD AND TAI PO TAI WO ROAD AND ITS ADJACENT SERVICE ROADS LEADING TO TAI WO ESTATE WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

ROAD L6 BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 190 METRES TO THE WEST WILL BE MADE A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

IN ADDITION, ROAD L6 BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 190 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD AND TAI PO TAI WO ROAD WILL BECOME A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

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

ALSO, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS ALONG THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS ROUND-THE-CLOCK:

- * KWONG FUK ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TING KOK ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 165 METRES TO THE NORTH; AND

/* TING KOK

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* TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN TAI PO TAI WO ROAD AND KWONG FUK ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING ROAD L6 BETWEEN KWONG FUK ROAD AND TAI PO TAI WO ROAD.

THE TAI WO BUS TERMINUS WILL ALSO BE OPENED TO BUS TRAFFIC.

THE FOLLOWING BUS ROUTES WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO OPERATE VIA ROAD L6 FROM THE DATES SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * KMB ROUTE 71K WILL BE TERMINATED AT THE TAI WO BUS TERMINUS FROM FEBRUARY 10;
- * KMB ROUTE 74A WILL BE EXTENDED FROM TAI PO CENTRAL TO TAI WO FROM FEBRUARY 10 AND THE FARE PER SINGLE JOURNEY WILL BE REVISED TO \$3.60; AND
- * KMB ROUTES 64K, 65K, 70, 71X, 73 AND 73A WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA ROAD L6 AND TING KOK ROAD INSTEAD OF TAI PO TAI WO ROAD NORTH OF TING KOK ROAD FROM FEBRUARY 17.

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SPEED LIMIT ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9), THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN 11.6 MILESTONE, TING KAU AND 12.3 MILESTONE, SHAM TSENG WILL BE LOWERED FROM 70 TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 9), THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAI NAN WEST STREET BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND CHEUNG YEE STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

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

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