



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS PROPOSED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE A SCHEME TO GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS.

THE SCHEME, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION BY ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, PROVIDED FINANCE COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED, WOULD BENEFIT ALL VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND COMPENSATION WOULD BE PAYABLE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHO WAS AT FAULT IN CAUSING AN ACCIDENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO MEANS TEST. PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR PERSONAL INJURY ONLY AND DAMAGED PROPERTY WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED.

THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, RANGING FROM ABOUT \$14,000 IN CASES WHERE THE BREAD-WINNER IN A FAMILY IS KILLED, TO ABOUT \$3,000 IN CASES INVOLVING INJURY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME WAS TO GIVE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL AID TO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS FACING HARDSHIP ARISING FROM INVOLVEMENT IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. +THE SCHEME DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AFFECT THEIR RIGHT TO OBTAIN LEGAL DAMAGES IN THE USUAL WAY,+ HE SAID.

BASED ON THE TREND IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE SCHEME COULD COST \$45 MILLION IN THE FIRST YEAR. ONE-THIRD OF THE COST WOULD BE MET BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A SOCIAL WELFARE MEASURE AND ON BEHALF OF PEDESTRIANS, WHILE THE BALANCE WOULD BE MET BY A LEVY OF \$75 ANNUALLY ON VEHICLE LICENCES AND \$25 ANNUALLY ON DRIVING LICENCES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO PUT THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) BILL 1978, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION. THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE FUND TO BE SET UP AND FOR THE COLLECTION OF THE LEVIES. THE SCHEME ITSELF WILL BE RUN ADMINISTRATIVELY BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHO IS WORKING OUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOING THIS.

ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE ASKED TO PREPARE A SCHEME FOR A MOTOR INSURERS' BUREAU, WITH GOVERNMENT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. THIS WOULD ACT FOR ALL INSURANCE COMPANIES AND PROVIDE COMPENSATION IN CASES WHERE A DRIVER INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WAS UNINSURED, WHERE HE COULD NOT BE TRACED, OR WHERE THERE IS INSURANCE COVER BUT SOME BREACH OF CONDITIONS HAS OCCURRED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE TWO SCHEMES WOULD TOGETHER ENSURE THAT VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RECEIVED INTERIM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY AN ACCIDENT HAPPENED AND FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE M.I.B. SCHEME FULL COMPENSATION FOR THEIR INJURIES. +IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL GREATLY RELIEVE FINANCIAL DISTRESS,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF ACCIDENTS ON THE ROAD AND SAID: +INDIVIDUAL DISTRESS AND THE BURDEN TO THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE SO MUCH LESS IF PEOPLE WOULD BE MORE CAREFUL ON THE ROADS.+

SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL BILL 1978

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THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL BILL 1978 IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS TO IMPROVE AND CONSOLIDATE THOSE PARTS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION RELATED TO SHIPPING AND CONTROL OF PORTS IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE AND TOO RESTRICTIVE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH PORT ADMINISTRATION, THE CONTROL OF LOCAL WATERS AND THE REGULATION OF LOCAL CRAFT.

+THE ORDINANCE, WHICH IS BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AND INTENDED PRIMARILY TO REGULATE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING, PROVIDES INSUFFICIENT POWERS TO ALLOW THE MAKING OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION OF BROAD ENOUGH SCOPE TO TACKLE LOCAL PROBLEMS. THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE CONSIDERS THAT SEPARATE LEGISLATION DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO REPLACE THE CORRESPONDING PARTS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE LEGISLATION WILL MAINLY REPRODUCE THE EXISTING PROVISIONS BUT IN A FORM WHICH CLARIFIES THE DIRECTOR'S POWER TO CO-ORDINATE THE NAVIGATION AND MOORING OF VESSELS= TO CONTROL SHIPBREAKING AND SHIP REPAIRING AND CARGO HANDLING ACTIVITIES= AND GENERALLY TO ADMINISTER THE WATERS OF HONG KONG WITH THE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILL, WHICH COMPRISES 81 CLAUSES, REPEALS AND REPLACES CERTAIN PARTS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE. IT RE-ENACTS MOST OF THE EXISTING PROVISIONS BUT THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO BEING TAKEN TO INTRODUCE SOME AMENDMENTS AND OTHER NEW PROVISIONS IN THE LIGHT OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND REVISED POLICY.

BOTH THE PORT COMMITTEE AND PORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO THE LEGISLATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID : +THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS THE INTRODUCTION OF PROVISIONS DEALING WITH THE REPAIR AND BREAKING UP OF VESSELS, AND WITH CARGO HANDLING ON BOARD VESSELS. THE FORMER ARISES FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE FIRE ON THE +JUMBO+ FLOATING RESTAURANT IN 1971. THE MAIN RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT 'THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE BE GIVEN AN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF WORKING CONDITIONS ON SHIPS AND FLOATING STRUCTURES BEING BUILT OR UNDER REPAIR OR RENOVATION IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG, AND THAT HE BE PROVIDED WITH SUITABLE POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT'. INTERIM MEASURES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1973 BY AMENDING THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (CONTROL OF PORTS) REGULATIONS AND BY ESTABLISHING A SHIPPING SAFETY SECTION IN THE SHIP SAFETY DIVISION OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO SUPERVISE THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF WORKS CARRIED OUT ON VESSELS.+

THE BILL EXTENDS THESE INTERIM MEASURES TO PROVIDE FOR MORE CLEARLY DEFINED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND IMPROVED MEANS OF ENFORCEMENT.

/THE PROVISIONS

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THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CARGO HANDLING ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE TO EXTEND THE PRESENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES UNDERTAKING (CARGO HANDLING) REGULATIONS TO CARGO HANDLING ON VESSELS. THIS IS DESIRABLE IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY AS THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING ORDINANCE COVERS ONLY THE SAFETY ASPECT OF CARGO HANDLING ON LAND AT DOCKS AND QUAYS, BUT NOT ON THE VESSELS THEMSELVES. THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED.

OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL INCLUDE CLAUSES WHICH MAKE ALL REPAIRS TO AND BREAKING UP OF VESSELS EXCEEDING 50 METRES IN LENGTH SUBJECT TO THE PERMISSION AND CONTROL OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE. OTHER CLAUSES PROHIBIT THE USE OF DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT AND THE CARRYING OUT OF WORK IN DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AND EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR TO APPOINT INSPECTORS WHO MAY BOARD ANY VESSEL AND CARRY OUT SUCH INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

OTHER CHANGES WHICH THE BILL SEEKS TO MAKE INCLUDE POWERS TO REFUSE PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN VESSELS TO ENTER OR LEAVE HONG KONG WATERS= POWERS OF DETENTION ARE ALSO PROVIDED. THE POWER TO GIVE DIRECTIONS IN RESPECT OF MOVEMENT AND MOORING OF ALL VESSELS IS EXTENDED THROUGHOUT THE WATERS OF HONG KONG. ALL LOCAL VESSELS ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED AND PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE RETROSPECTIVE CHARGING OF LICENCE FEES. A CLAUSE IS INCLUDED WHICH EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FIRE-FIGHTING APPARATUS AND LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES TO BE PROVIDED ON VESSELS AND FOR THE TRAINING OF THE CREW IN THE USE OF SUCH APPARATUS OR APPLIANCES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS ASKED THE OWNERS OF ALL FERRIES AND PASSENGERS VESSELS TO HOLD EMERGENCY DRILLS.

OTHER CLAUSES EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE EMISSION OF SMOKE FROM VESSELS= REQUIRE ALL SHIPS WHICH HAVE SUFFERED DAMAGE OR ARE ON FIRE TO NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVING IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG AND REQUIRE THE OWNER OR HIS AGENT OR MASTER TO NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES OF ANY FIRES ON BOARD VESSELS AND EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR TO BOARD SUCH VESSELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

CONCERNING OIL POLLUTION, THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE PROVIDE THAT, IF A VESSEL CAUSES OIL POLLUTION, THE OWNER, MASTER, AGENT OR CHARTERER OF THE VESSEL IS LIABLE TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

LOCAL SHIP AGENTS HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS THAT SUCH PROVISIONS ARE UNFAIR TO SHIPS' AGENTS AS THEY HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE VESSELS CONCERNED. THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACCEPT THIS VIEW AND ACCORDINGLY THE BILL OMITTS SHIP AGENTS FROM THOSE LIABLE TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF OIL POLLUTION OFFENCES.

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THIS WILL BRING HONG KONG LEGISLATION IN LINE WITH COMPARABLE LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF OIL POLLUTION IS RAISED FROM \$20,000 TO \$200,000 BUT DELETES THE IMPRISONMENT PROVISION UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

+THE HIGHER MAXIMUM FINE IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF SUCH OFFENCES AND THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM OIL POLLUTION AND IS COMPARABLE TO SIMILAR FINES PRESCRIBED IN OTHER COUNTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OMISSION OF AN IMPRISONMENT PROVISION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR DEFENCES ARE MADE TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE CORRESPONDING UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION.

REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE BILL ON SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL, TYPHOON SHELTERS AND THE HONG KONG MACAU FERRY TERMINALS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE BILL WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM YOUNG MEN TO JOIN THE DEPARTMENT AS SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID A RECRUITMENT FOR 75 SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE EXPANSION OF ITS AMBULANCE SERVICE.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30, WITH A STANDARD OF ENGLISH EQUIVALENT TO GRADE E IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, BE ABLE TO SPEAK CANTONESE, READ AND WRITE CHINESE AND HAVE GOOD PHYSIQUE.

CANDIDATES ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO PASS A PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST AND AN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN, AFTER TRAINING, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN AMBULANCE AND SUBORDINATE CREW, RENDERING FIRST-AID, CONTROL DUTIES AND OTHER DUTIES AS REQUIRED.

THE STARTING SALARY FOR A SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN IS \$1,965 A MONTH, RISING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$2,275.

APPLICANTS SHOULD APPLY IN PERSON TO THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON BETWEEN 9 A. M. AND 6 P.M. FROM TUESDAY (AUGUST 29) TO FRIDAY.

THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS= A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM G.F. 340, WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE= SHORTS AND RUBBER SHOES FOR USE IN THE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST AND ORIGINAL COPIES OF ANY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION.

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RECLAMATION AT SHAM WAN

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RECLAIM ABOUT 6,375 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA BED AT SHAM WAN, ABERDEEN, TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE PROPOSED ADJOINING MARINA.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEA BED INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PERSONS HAVING OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE. THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEA BED INVOLVED MAY ALSO BE SEEN AT THE PORT WORKS DIVISION, FIRST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ARGYLE STATION

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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE DESIGN OF AN ENTRANCE TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY'S ARGYLE STATION ON THE EASTERN FOOTPATH OF PORTLAND STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH ARGYLE STREET HAS BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE ACCESS FROM BOTH ARGYLE STREET AND PORTLAND STREET.

PLANS SHOWING THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THIS AMENDMENT MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG= AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON= AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (MONGKOK), 751 NATHAN ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON MAKING A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION MUST SEND HIS CLAIM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. THE CLAIM MUST REACH THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF ONE YEAR FROM THE COMPLETION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION WHICH IS ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED PECUNIARY LOSS OR DAMAGE.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR KWAI CHUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A 5,505 SQUARE METRE INDUSTRIAL SITE IN KWAI CHUNG FROM HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE ESTATE SURVEYOR (TSING YI) OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. HUMPHREY BEESON, TODAY SAID THAT APPLICANTS ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO SUBMIT LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS FOR 3,826 SQUARE METRES OF BUILDING AREA ON THE LOT.

LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS FOR THE REMAINING AREA ON THE LOT WILL NOT HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED, HE SAID.

THE LOT CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$6,177,500 TO BE FULFILLED BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 1981 AND IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN DEVELOPMENT.

MR. BEESON SAID: +THE LOT, SITUATED NEAR THE KWAI SHING CIRCUIT, HAS GOOD ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

+IT IS ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL AS WELL AS THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.+

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR \$10,000 MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE APPLICATION BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, FIFTH FLOOR, HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON, BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 22 THIS YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND THE SEVEN DISTRICT OFFICES.

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STREET CLOSURE EXTENDED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CLOSURE OF THE SECTION OF FIRST STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 56 AND 73 IN WESTERN DISTRICT HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR ABOUT ONE MORE MONTH FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SECTION OF THE STREET HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE JULY 20 TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS AND DEMOLITION OF THE BUILDINGS AT NOS. 63-69.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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