



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

+UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS CEASED TO DETERIORATE+ .....	1
CHICKEN FARMERS TO GET AID .....	2
PLAN TO DEAL WITH WEIGHTS AND MEASURES .....	3
TRANSMISSION OF HERPES VIRUSES EXPLAINED .....	4
BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIRED .....	5
WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN BEING DEVELOPED .....	5
MEASURES AGAINST ABANDONED VEHICLES .....	7
MEASURES TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH .....	8
FEE HELP FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS ADEQUATE .....	9
USE OF PUTONGHUA MAY BE CONSIDERED .....	10
INQUIRY POWER PROPOSED .....	11
WEATHER WARNING ARRANGEMENTS ADEQUATE: HAYE .....	12
SHORT-TERM LEASES PROPOSED .....	15
LIMITATION ON LAND RECOVERY STRESSED .....	16
TWO MOTIONS APPROVED .....	17
BILL ON TYPHOON DAYS IN LEGAL TIME COMPUTATION .....	17
KINDERGARTEN BILL ON NURSERY CLASSES .....	19

/PROBATE AND .....

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED ...	20
PAYMENTS INCREASED .....	21
DOCUMENTATION FEE PROPOSED IN BILL .....	21
TRUST BENEFITS HANDICAPPED CHILDREN .....	22
COMMON OFFENCES PROVIDED BY BILL .....	23
LIKELY USE OF RESERVOIR FOR SPORTS .....	23
MORE +STRENGTH+ PROVIDED IN BILL .....	24
PROVIDING FOR THE AGED .....	25
THREE CORRIDOR SECTIONS READY MID-1985 .....	25
MOTORCYCLE PARKING NOW FREE .....	26
LEGCO THANKS LANDS AND WORKS SECRETARY .....	27
DEBATE ADJOURNED ON TEN BILLS .....	28
PROTECTION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH .....	29
MAURINE GRANTHAM HEALTH CENTRE TO MOVE .....	30
LONDON DATE FOR GOVERNOR AND EXCO MEMBERS .....	30
+ELDERLY NEED A DIFFERENT MIX OF SERVICES+ .....	31
GROUP TO REPORT ON EX-MENTAL PATIENTS .....	33
NEW FIGHT YOUTH CRIME DRIVE STARTING .....	33
ARTS ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES .....	34
SIX YOUNG PEOPLE VISIT BRITAIN .....	35
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IMPRESS VISITOR .....	36
NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI .....	36
ROADS OPEN IN TAI PO .....	37
ROAD SECTION TO BE CLOSED .....	38

+UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS CEASED TO DETERIORATE+  
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS CEASED TO DETERIORATE WITH THE GRADUAL RECOVERY FROM RECESSION, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PERS JACOBS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMY +IS IMPROVING AND SEEMS LIKELY TO GO ON IMPROVING+, THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT WOULD BE TRANSLATED IMMEDIATELY INTO NEW JOBS.

THE REASON, HE SAID IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, WAS THAT AFTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY BEGAN THERE TENDED TO BE A LAG BEFORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD START TO INCREASE AGAIN.

+NEVERTHELESS, ALL THE INDICATORS SUGGEST THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

EARLIER, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 5.2 PER CENT IN THE FEBRUARY-APRIL PERIOD THIS YEAR WHICH WAS HIGHER THAN THE 3.4 PER CENT RECORDED FOR THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

BUT MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF GOODS INCREASED BY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+ORDERS IN HAND IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE HAVE LENGTHENED FROM 3.8 MONTHS IN DECEMBER 1982 TO 4.2 MONTHS IN APRIL 1983,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR INCREASED BY ROUGHLY FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 2 -

CHICKEN FARMERS TO GET AID

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHICKEN FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT PUBLICITY ON THE ILL-EFFECTS OF USING SYNTHETIC HORMONES IN CHICKEN RAISING, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT STOP SHORT AT THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE -- +THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL START INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSES IN SAFE METHODS OF INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY.+

HE SAID THAT THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TOGETHER WITH THE COURSES OF ACTION ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 8 ON THE USE OF HEXOESTROL AND THE CONTROL OF IMPORTS OF MEAT TREATED WITH THIS SUBSTANCE WOULD FULLY REVIVE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

+INDEED, THERE ARE SOME SIGNS ALREADY THAT CONFIDENCE IS BEING RESTORED,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

THE LOSS AS AT JUNE 26, SUFFERED BY CHICKEN FARMS HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT \$17 MILLION, HE SAID, ADDING: +IN GIVING THIS FIGURE I AM AWARE THAT DIFFERENT SUMS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED. THE DISCREPANCY IS PROBABLY DUE TO DIFFERENT BASES OF CALCULATION.+

HE SAID THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED 1 520 APPLICATIONS FROM CHICKEN FARMERS FOR LOANS AND, TO MEET THEM, THE KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID LOAN FUND AND THE J.E. JOSEPH TRUST FUND WILL BE USED FOR GRANTING LOANS TO THOSE WHO MEET THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA.

ALSO, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD, THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WOULD BE MAKING AVAILABLE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ITS ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

+THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED PROCESSING APPLICATIONS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. THE LOANS WILL BE MADE AT FAVOURABLE INTEREST RATES,+ HE POINTED OUT.

BUT HE EMPHASISED THAT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS' LOSSES -- +THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE LOANS IS TO HELP THE LOCAL POULTRY INDUSTRY REGAIN ITS POSITION AND TO DEVELOP SAFE METHODS OF PRODUCTION.+

HE ADDED: +WITH AN ESTIMATED TOTAL TURNOVER OF OVER \$400 MILLION IN 1982, THE LOCAL CHICKEN REARING INDUSTRY IS A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. FURTHERMORE, IT IS IN THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST TO HAVE A DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MAJOR FOODSTUFFS.+

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13 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 3 -

PLAN TO DEAL WITH WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF ENFORCING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, FOLLOWING WHICH THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JUSTIN YUE, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES IN 1978.

MR YUE EXPLAINED THAT THE STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES IN 1978 FOLLOWED A STUDY IN WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD ITSELF NEED TO ACQUIRE SOME EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD AS A FIRST STEP.

AN EXPERT WAS EMPLOYED IN NOVEMBER 1980 AND DETAILED STUDY AND DRAFTING CARRIED OUT, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

+AS A RESULT OF THIS PHASE OF THE WORK, GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED THAT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS ON THE EVERY DAY LIFE OF VIRTUALLY THE WHOLE POPULATION OF HONG KONG. TO TAKE A SINGLE EXAMPLE, THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE 'CHING'S' RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO HOW FAR ITS CONTINUED USE AND POSSIBLE STANDARDISATION NEEDED TO BE ENVISAGED.+ HE SAID.

MR YUE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES CONSEQUENTLY DECIDED IN MARCH 1982 THAT AN APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT SHOULD BE CIRCULATED TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF DISTRICT BOARDS, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE RELEVANT TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS AND ADVISORY BODIES.

+THIS PROCESS WAS COMPLETED AT THE END OF 1982, SHORTLY AFTER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SUBJECT WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH TO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH.

+THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVES IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WERE WIDELY WELCOMED BY ALL CONCERNED, AND IT HAS BEEN GOVERNMENT'S TASK IN THE FIRST PART OF THIS YEAR TO SEEK TO TRANSLATE THOSE OBJECTIVES INTO CLEAR, WORKABLE AND ENFORCEABLE LEGISLATION,+ MR YUE SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT SEEK TO PASS LEGISLATION UNTIL IT WAS FULLY ABLE TO ENFORCE IT.

+THE SORT OF PROPOSALS ENVISAGED WOULD REQUIRE A LARGE NUMBER OF STAFF AND INEVITABLY REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT BY GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

/IN REPLY .....

IN REPLY TO THE HON ROGER LOBO'S QUESTION REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF MARKING ORDERS TO CONTROL THE FRADULENT AND MISLEADING DESCRIPTION OF GOLD ARTICLES ON SALE IN LOCAL SHOPS, MR YUE SAID: +FOLLOWING DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE, CONSUMER AND TOURIST ORGANISATIONS, A MARKING ORDER HAS BEEN DRAFTED. SUBJECT TO A FINAL CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, THE DRAFT ORDER WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.+

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#### TRANSMISSION OF HERPES VIRUSES EXPLAINED \* \* \* \* \*

THE RISK OF CONTRACTING HERPES WHILE SWIMMING IN POOLS OR USING TOILET SEATS IS MINIMAL AS THE MICRO ORGANISMS OF THE VIRUS DO NOT SURVIVE IN THE NATURAL ELEMENTS OUTSIDE THE HUMAN BODY, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE HERPES VIRUS BY THE HON WONG LAM, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON S.F. LAM, EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE TWO STRAINS OF VIRUSES WHICH CAUSE A CONDITION KNOWN AS HERPES SIMPLEX.

THE HERPES THAT IS CAUSED BY THE TYPE ONE STRAIN NORMALLY MANIFESTS ITSELF AS SKIN LESIONS AROUND THE MOUTH AND FACE AND IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS COLD SORES AS IT USUALLY FOLLOWS A COMMON COLD.

+THIS IS BY FAR THE MORE PREVALENT TYPE OF INFECTION AND, AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, IS QUITE HARMLESS AND THE DISEASE IS SELF-LIMITING,+ DR LAM SAID.

THE TYPE TWO STRAIN CAUSES A CONDITION WHICH NORMALLY MANIFESTS ITSELF AS LESIONS AROUND THE GENITALIA, A CONDITION THAT IS MUCH LESS COMMON AND IS KNOWN AS GENITAL HERPES.

+BOTH TYPE ONE AND TYPE TWO STRAINS OF THE HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUSES ARE MICRO ORGANISMS WHICH, WHEN EXPOSED TO THE NATURAL ELEMENTS OUTSIDE THE HUMAN BODY, DO NOT SURVIVE,+ DR LAM SAID.

+THEREFORE, SWIMMING IN POOLS AND THE USE OF TOILET SEATS AS SUCH IN PRACTICE DO NOT CONSTITUTE ANY SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF INFECTION,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE CASE OF THE COLD SORES, TRANSMISSION IS BY DIRECT CONTACT FROM PERSON TO PERSON OR BY DROPLETS WHEN THE PERSONS ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, WHILE IN THE CASE OF GENITAL HERPES, TRANSMISSION IS THROUGH SEXUAL ACTIVITIES ONLY,+ HE ADDED.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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EVERY PERSON CARRYING ON A BUSINESS OR OTHER ACTIVITY FOR GAIN, INCLUDING THE OFFERING OF PRIVATE TUITION AT HOME FOR A FEE, IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE WITHIN ONE MONTH OF COMMENCEMENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

THE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$350 PAYABLE ANNUALLY, HE ADDED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIR JOHN ALSO SAID: +THERE IS OF COURSE A THIN LINE BETWEEN RUNNING A BUSINESS FROM ONE'S HOME AND EARNING A BIT OF PIN MONEY. THE CIR MUST BE EXPECTED TO USE HIS JUDGEMENT.

+THERE IS ALSO AN EXCEPTION ON INCOME UNDER \$450 PER MONTH FOR SERVICES, AND \$1 500 FOR THE SALE OF GOODS.+

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WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN BEING DEVELOPED

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A COMPREHENSIVE WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, MR CHING SAID THE CONCEPTS OF BULK TRANSPORT OF REFUSE AND THE USE OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS TO MAXIMISE THE COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES WERE ALSO BEING EXAMINED.

+FURTHER POSSIBLE SITES FOR CONTROLLED TIPS AND NEW INCINERATORS ARE BEING LOOKED AT,+ HE ADDED.

/AS REGARDS ...

AS REGARDS TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTES, MR CHING SAID A REPORT HAD RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED FROM CONSULTANTS.

+THIS RECOMMENDS POSSIBLE METHODS FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF SUCH WASTES, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN SPECIALISED FACILITIES. THESE COMPRISE A NEUTRALISATION PLANT FOR AQUEOUS WASTES, AN OILY WASTE TREATMENT PLANT, A CHEMICAL WASTE INCINERATOR AND A SOLVENTS RECOVERY PLANT,+ HE SAID.

+THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOW UNDER STUDY,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN ON THE USE OF NON-GAZETTED BEACHES, MR CHING POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE USE OF BEACHES FOR SWIMMING DID NOT DEPEND UPON WHETHER OR NOT THE BEACH WAS GAZETTED OR NON-GAZETTED.

+THE WATER QUALITY IS ANALYSED REGULARLY AT ALL BEACHES DESIGNATED AS PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUNDS, AND AT SOME NINE OTHER BEACHES WHICH ARE NOT SO DESIGNATED BUT WHICH ATTRACT SWIMMERS AND WHICH MAY AT SOME FUTURE DATE REQUIRE DESIGNATION,+ HE SAID.

+WHERE THE WATER QUALITY FALLS BELOW THE STANDARD RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AS BEING ACCEPTABLE FOR SWIMMING, NOTICES ARE POSTED PROMINENTLY WARNING PEOPLE THAT IT IS UNSAFE FOR THEM TO SWIM THERE.

+SUCH NOTICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN POSTED AT CASTLE PEAK, ANGLERS' AND BUTTERFLY BEACHES, AND CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT THE WATERS ADJACENT TO THOSE BEACHES ARE NOW SO POLLUTED AS TO BE UNSAFE FOR SWIMMERS.

+IN THE CONTEXT OF POLLUTION, CLEARLY SWIMMERS SHOULD AVOID SWIMMING AT THOSE BEACHES, WHETHER 'GAZETTED' OR NOT, WHERE THE WATER QUALITY IS SUCH AS TO POSE A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ABOUT FLOATING REFUSE ON GAZETTED PUBLIC BEACHES AND ABOUT VESSELS AND INDIVIDUALS CAUSING THIS NUISANCE, MR CHEUNG SAID ALL SO-CALLED GAZETTED BEACHES WERE PROVIDED WITH A LITTER COLLECTION SERVICE.

IN ADDITION TO COLLECTING REFUSE ON THE BEACH ITSELF, THE SERVICE ALSO INCLUDES THE COLLECTION OF FLOATING REFUSE ON THE WATERS ADJACENT TO THE BEACH, AND IN PARTICULAR ON THOSE WATERS SET ASIDE FOR THE SOLE USE OF SWIMMERS AND NORMALLY DELINEATED BY BOOM-LINES.

URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF ARE STATIONED AT ALL GAZETTED BEACHES AND ARE EMPOWERED TO SUMMON LITTER OFFENDERS.

MEASURES AGAINST ABANDONED VEHICLES  
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THE REDUCTION IN THE STATUTORY PERIOD FROM ONE MONTH TO TWO WEEKS FOR KEEPING ABANDONED VEHICLES AT A POLICE POUND BEFORE DISPOSAL COULD HELP EXPEDITE THE CLEARANCE OF THESE VEHICLES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT ABOUT 3 661 ABANDONED VEHICLES, OR AN AVERAGE OF 730 A MONTH, WERE SEIZED AND CRUSHED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 350 A MONTH AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR.

LAST YEAR, 6 159 ABANDONED VEHICLES WERE CRUSHED, COMPARED WITH 4 380 IN 1980 AND 4 145 IN 1981.

+THE SPEED WITH WHICH ABANDONED AND IMPOUNDED VEHICLES CAN BE DEALT WITH WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED WHEN THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR KEEPING AN ABANDONED VEHICLE AT A POLICE POUND BEFORE DISPOSAL IS REDUCED FROM ONE MONTH TO TWO WEEKS,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES WAS REPLYING TO THE HON PETER C. WONG WHO ASKED WHAT GOVERNMENT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AGAINST PEOPLE WHO ABANDONED THEIR VEHICLES ON CROWN LAND AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON STREETS AND PAVEMENTS.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID WHILE OWNERS OF THESE VEHICLES WOULD BE CHARGED WITH OFFENCES OF ILLEGAL PARKING, OBSTRUCTION AND POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED AND UNINSURED VEHICLES, PROSECUTIONS WERE NOT VERY FREQUENT AND THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT WAS DOUBTFUL.

+THE DIFFICULTY LIES IN DETERMINING THE IDENTIFICATION AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE TRUE OWNER AS THE LICENCE DISCS AND NUMBER PLATES HAVE USUALLY BEEN REMOVED FROM THE VEHICLES, AND TRACING THE MOST RECENT OWNER THROUGH THE CHASSIS NUMBER INVOLVES A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND OFTEN NOT VERY REWARDING SEARCH THROUGH MANY RECORDS.

+EVEN IN CASES WHERE AN OWNER HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, AFTER A LOT OF RESEARCH, PROSECUTION MAY BE PREVENTED BY COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND POSSIBLY HIRE-PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT THE IMPORTANT TASK IS TO EXPEDITE THE CLEARANCE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES,+ HE SAID.

HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT MUCH HAD BEEN DONE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DONE TO BRING THE MATTER UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH  
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THE PROBLEM OF MENTAL DEPRESSION IN HONG KONG WAS NO MORE OR NO LESS SERIOUS THAN IN ANY OTHER CITY OF COMPARABLE SIZE AND POPULATION IN THE WORLD, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON S.F. LAM SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, DR LAM SAID MENTAL DEPRESSION WAS THE MOST COMMON PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION IN MANY DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

+IT IS A CONDITION WHICH IS GENERALLY RELATED TO THE PERSON'S REACTION TO HIS ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT ACTION TO IMPROVE THE PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY, DR LAM POINTED TO ALL THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

+MORE SPECIFICALLY IN THE MEDICAL FIELD, SIGNIFICANT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENT PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS,+ DR LAM SAID.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT HAD BEEN ORGANISING MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGNS THROUGH EXHIBITIONS AND THE MASS MEDIA AIMED AT EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO STAY MENTALLY HEALTHY, SAID DR LAM.

ALSO, COUNSELLING SERVICES TO PROMOTE GOOD MENTAL HEALTH ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL GOVERNMENT MENTAL HEALTH CENTRES, AND DOCTORS HOLD REGULAR SESSIONS IN THE CLINICS OF THESE CENTRES TO HELP PATIENTS WHO REQUIRE SUCH SERVICES, HE SAID.

+WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN BY OUR EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE IN MEETINGS AND SEMINARS WITH A VIEW TO KEEPING THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC ABREAST OF MODERN DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICE OF PSYCHIATRY IN THIS FIELD,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 9 -

FEE HELP FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS ADEQUATE  
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THE MAXIMUM FEE ASSISTANCE LEVEL FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS IS ADEQUATE TO ATTRACT ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON MARIA TAM, MR HAYE SAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE 1981 WHITE PAPER ON PRIMARY EDUCATION AND PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF FEE ASSISTANCE FOR KINDERGARTENS WAS BASED ON THE AVERAGE FEE CHARGED IN NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS.

+THIS LEVEL IS UPDATED EVERY YEAR TO BRING THE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE IN LINE WITH CURRENT AVERAGE FEE LEVELS WHICH ARE \$110 PER MONTH FOR HALF-DAY KINDERGARTENS AND \$300 PER MONTH FOR FULL-DAY KINDGARTENS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO REDUCE THE BUDGET FOR FEE ASSISTANCE FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS IN THE 1983/84 FINANCIAL YEAR, MR HAYE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISION OF \$31.6 MILLION FOR KINDERGARTEN FEE ASSISTANCE IN 1982/83 WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SOME 73 000 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS WOULD BE FOUND.

HOWEVER, HE SAID ONLY 10 070 CAME FORWARD FOR THE 1982/83 SCHOOL YEAR, AND OF THESE 7 550 WERE FOUND TO BE ELIGIBLE.

+CONSEQUENTLY, A MORE REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS IN 1983/84 HAS BEEN MADE - AND THIS WE THINK WILL BE IN THE REGION OF 11 000, REQUIRING A PROVISION OF \$5.05 MILLION.

+FEE ASSISTANCE IS NOT BEING REDUCED - THE BUDGET ESTIMATE HAS MERELY BEEN ADJUSTED,+ MR HAYE NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT FEE ASSISTANCE WAS GRANTED TO PARENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SLIDING SCALE BASED ON THE FAMILY'S TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME AFTER PAYMENT OF RENT.

+AS STATED IN THE 1981 WHITE PAPER, THE PRIME OBJECT OF THE SCHEME IS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO MEET THE COST OF KINDERGARTENS FEE. I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS OBJECT IS BEING FRUSTRATED,+ MR HAYE SAID.

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USE OF PUTONGHUA MAY BE CONSIDERED  
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AN AD HOC GROUP OF OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS COULD BE FORMED TO CONSIDER WHETHER STANDING ORDERS SHOULD BE AMENDED TO ENABLE PUTONGHUA TO BE USED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DOING SO, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PHILIP SAID THE AD HOC GROUP COULD INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO CHINESE LANGUAGE POLICY PANEL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT STANDING ORDER WHICH SPECIFIED THAT A MEMBER MIGHT ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CANTONESE DATED FROM AN AMENDMENT MADE IN 1971 FOLLOWING A RECOMMENDATION IN THE FIRST REPORT OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SIR KENNETH FUNG PING-FAN.

+THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED WHETHER CANTONESE ALONE, CANTONESE AND MANDARIN (PUTONGHUA), OR MANDARIN ALONE SHOULD BE ADOPTED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE BASIS THAT CANTONESE WAS THE USUAL LANGUAGE OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND THAT AN EVEN GREATER NUMBER UNDERSTOOD CANTONESE, THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED +THAT CANTONESE WOULD AT THE PRESENT MOMENT HAVE MORE RELEVANCE AND REALITY FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE ... AND THAT INTERPRETATION FACILITIES ..... SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ENGLISH AND CANTONESE ONLY,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE WENT ON TO SAY, HE ADDED, THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING MANDARIN +IN YEARS TO COME+ SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

+WE HAVE NOT, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, FORMALLY REVIEWED THE POSITION, SINCE 1971. PERHAPS WE SHOULD DO SO NOW AND I SHALL CONSULT WITH THE SENIOR MEMBER,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 11 -

INQUIRY POWER PROPOSED

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO HOLD A FORMAL INQUIRY INTO AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES:

- \* TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR FACTORY REGISTRATIONS TO BE PERIODICALLY RENEWED;
- \* TO EXEMPT CONSTRUCTION SITES FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE;
- \* TO REVISE THE LEVELS OF SOME PENALTIES IN THE ORDINANCE;
- \* TO AMEND THE DEFINITIONS OF +COMMISSIONER+, +FACTORY+ AND +INSPECTOR+ IN THE ORDINANCE; AND
- \* TO STREAMLINE CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

THE BILL WILL ALSO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER TO ORDER THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR TO MAKE AN INFORMAL INQUIRY.

WHERE THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR CONSIDERS THAT HIS INQUIRY MAY BE FRUSTRATED OR DELAYED FOR ANY REASON, THE COMMISSIONER MAY THEN HOLD A FORMAL INQUIRY.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, MR HENDERSON ADDED, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INVESTIGATED BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THAT FATAL ACCIDENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED TO THE CORONER.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE SOME ACCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT GIVE RISE TO WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONCERN, AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT AN INQUIRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BILL IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC.

IN FATAL ACCIDENTS, THERE MIGHT BE AN OCCASIONAL NEED TO ESTABLISH VERY URGENTLY WHETHER ANY WIDELY-USED EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS INVOLVED WERE DEFECTIVE.

SOME FORM OF FORMAL INQUIRY MIGHT BE NECESSARY IF THE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER FAILED TO CO-OPERATE.

+THIS WOULD BE ADDITIONAL TO AND NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE INQUEST, AND IN NO WAY DEROGATES FROM THE POWERS OF THE CORONER,+ MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT.

/ MR HENDERSON ....

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT FURTHERMORE, THERE COULD BE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT ACCIDENTS WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE DEATH, BUT FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN AUTHORITATIVELY THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR RENEWAL OF FACTORY REGISTRATIONS, MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED THAT AS A NUMBER OF SAFETY REGULATIONS HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT YEARS, IT WAS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO USE THE SYSTEM OF RENEWAL TO STIPULATE SPECIAL CONDITIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF WORKERS.

AND THE REASON FOR EXEMPTING CONSTRUCTION SITES FROM REGISTRATION WAS THAT THEY ARE NOT PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENTS AND HAVE VERY DIFFERENT WORKING CONDITIONS FROM FACTORIES WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

+IN ANY EVENT, ANY CONTRACTOR CARRYING ON CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR SIX WEEKS OR MORE, OR EMPLOYING MORE THAN 10 WORKMEN, MUST SUBMIT A NOTIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF WORK TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 13.

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WEATHER WARNING ARRANGEMENTS ADEQUATE: HAYE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S WEATHER WARNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PARENTS AND THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND ADEQUATE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, MR HAYE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT KEPT A WEATHER-WATCH THROUGH DIRECT LINKS WITH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND THE POLICE.

IN THE CASE OF HEAVY PERSISTENT RAIN DURING THE NIGHT LIKELY TO CAUSE FLOODING OR DISRUPTION TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT, A DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER IS UNDER STANDING INSTRUCTION TO CONTACT THE DUTY FORECASTER OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE DUTY OFFICER OF THE GIS AND THE COLONY +POLMIL+ OFFICE IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR WEATHER, ROAD AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION BETWEEN 5 AND 5.30 AM THE NEXT DAY.

MR HAYE SAID: +HIS DUTY IS TO KEEP THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION INFORMED, WHO IN TURN REPORTS TO ME AT 5.30 AM, WHEN A DECISION MUST BE TAKEN TO CLOSE SCHOOLS OR LEAVE THEM OPEN.

+ACTION IS NECESSARY AT THIS VERY EARLY HOUR TO PERMIT MESSAGES TO BE RELAYED TO RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS BETWEEN 6 AND 6.15 AM WHEN PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN MORNING SESSION SCHOOLS ARE LISTENING BEFORE THEY SET OUT FOR SCHOOL,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 13 -

MR HAYE SAID WHEN THE INFORMATION FROM THESE VARIOUS SOURCES CLEARLY INDICATED DANGEROUS WEATHER AND FLOODING, OR DISRUPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, IT WAS EASY TO COME TO THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS.

+BUT IF THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THE INTENSITY OR LIKELY DURATION OF HEAVY RAIN, AND WHEN ROAD AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONDITIONS ARE REPORTED TO BE NORMAL, JUDGEMENT IS TO BE EXERCISED AND A DECISION IS USUALLY TAKEN TO OPEN SCHOOLS BUT THAT PARENTS SHOULD BE ASKED TO USE THEIR DISCRETION IN SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL HAVING REGARD TO WEATHER, ROAD AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS IN THEIR PARTICULAR LOCALITY.

+IF SUBSEQUENTLY THERE IS A SUDDEN DETERIORATION OF THE WEATHER WITH FLOODING AND DISRUPTION OF ROAD TRAFFIC, THOUGHT MUST BE GIVEN TO WHETHER OR NOT SCHOOLS SHOULD REMAIN OPEN, AND HERE JUDGEMENT MUST AGAIN BE EXERCISED WITH THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN A PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION,+ MR HAYE SAID.

IN THIS RESPECT, MR HAYE SAID SCHOOL AUTHORITIES WERE EXPECTED TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHO MIGHT HAVE BRAVED THE WEATHER TO GO TO SCHOOL, AND THIS MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF SIMPLY WAITING FOR A LULL IN THE WEATHER BEFORE RELEASING THEM TO THE CUSTODY OF PARENTS, SCHOOL OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD ALSO BE ISSUED AT 11 AM TO GUIDE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ATTEND AFTERNOON SESSION SCHOOLS, HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT +CARDINAL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS MUST BE THE ADEQUACY OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEATHER AND ROAD AND TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS- BUT GIVEN THE VARIABILITY OF LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCE THERE HAS TO BE DEPENDENCE ON INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATION OF LOCAL CONDITIONS.+

REFERRING TO JUNE 17, WHEN SUDDEN HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING OCCURRED, MR HAYE SAID HE RECEIVED NO INDICATION OF THE INTENSITY OR LIKELY DURATION OF HEAVY RAINS AT 5.30 THAT MORNING, AND ROAD AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONDITIONS WERE REPORTED TO BE NORMAL.

+IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT SCHOOLS WOULD OPEN AS USUAL BUT THAT PARENTS SHOULD BE REMINDED TO USE THEIR DISCRETION IN SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL HAVING REGARD TO LOCAL WEATHER, ROAD AND TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS.

/+INFORMATION .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 14 -

+INFORMATION PROVIDED WAS NOT COMPREHENSIVE ENOUGH TO WARRANT A CHANGE IN THE DECISION WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED AT 6 AM, WHEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE PREPARING TO LEAVE HOME FOR MORNING SESSION SCHOOLS. AT 6.25 AM A FURTHER CHECK DID NOT INDICATE ANY WIDE-SPREAD FLOODING OR DAMAGE.+

MR HAYE SAID THAT THERE WAS A SUDDEN MASSIVE DELUGE SOON AFTERWARDS, WITH FLOODING AND SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION. AS A RESULT, A DECISION WAS REACHED TO CLOSE ALL SCHOOLS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY DESPITE A LULL IN THE WEATHER. THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT 10.20 AM TO THIS EFFECT.

HE SAID IT WAS EASY TO BE WISE AFTER AN EVENT, BUT GIVEN THE SAME SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE SAME INFORMATION, THE DECISION TO OPEN SCHOOLS THAT MORNING, TRUSTING PARENTS TO USE THEIR DISCRETION AND SCHOOLS TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, WOULD AGAIN HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

+REGRETTABLY MANY PARENTS DID NOT USE THEIR DISCRETION AND SOME SCHOOLS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SENT CHILDREN INTO THE STORM WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SHELTERING THEM,+ HE NOTED.

MR HAYE SAID A QUICK REVIEW OF STANDING ARRANGEMENTS HAD PERSUADED HIM THAT MOST OF THEM SHOULD REMAIN BUT THAT GREATER EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO SECURE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE OF LOCAL WEATHER, ROAD AND TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS TO PERMIT SAFER DECISIONS.

THIS WOULD MEAN DELAYING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM 6 AM TO 6.15 AM ON MORNINGS IN QUESTION TO CATCH EARLY SCHOOL USERS, AND FROM 10.30 AM TO 11 AM TO COVER ALL-DAY AND AFTERNOON SCHOOLS.

HE SAID: +IT WILL INVOLVE REPEATED ANNOUNCEMENTS BY RADIO AND TELEVISION WITH INSISTENT UNDERLINING OF THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN.

+IT WILL ALSO MEAN FRESH DIRECTIVES TO SCHOOLS TO EMPHASISE THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR GREAT CARE IN AN EMERGENCY SUCH AS THAT OF FRIDAY, JUNE 17.+

MR HAYE ADDED THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS HAD PERMITTED THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS ON JUNE 18 AND THEIR OPENING ON JUNE 20. +NATURALLY, THESE DECISIONS DID NOT ATTRACT COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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SHORT-TERM LEASES PROPOSED  
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THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION TO GRANT SHORT-TERM LEASES OF LAND WITHIN ITS ESTATES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SAID THAT UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, THE CORPORATION WAS ONLY PERMITTED TO USE THE LAND WITHIN ITS ESTATES AT TAI PO AND YUEN LONG FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

+SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1977 THE CORPORATION HAD PURSUED A POLICY OF FORMING LAND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, HAVING REGARD TO THE LEAD TIME REQUIRED AND THE NEED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT LAND ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO MEET DEMAND,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+IT WAS OF COURSE RECOGNISED THAT THIS POLICY MIGHT RESULT IN A SURPLUS OF LAND ARISING FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THE RECENT WORLD RECESSION AND HIGH INTEREST RATES HAVE EXACERBATED THE SITUATION BY CAUSING A SLOW DOWN IN THE TAKE-UP RATE OF AVAILABLE LAND.+

STATISTICS SHOWED THAT THE CORPORATION HAD ALLOCATED, AS AT APRIL 1983, A TOTAL OF 30 HECTARES BUT STILL HAD 35 HECTARES OF FORMED LAND UNALLOCATED. ANOTHER 53 HECTARES WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE IN 1984 AND A FURTHER FIVE HECTARES IN 1985.

WITH AN AVERAGE ANNUAL TAKE-UP RATE OF FIVE HECTARES, MR MCDONALD SAID, THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE A CONSIDERABLE SURPLUS IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION ACCORDINGLY APPROACHED THE GOVERNMENT WITH A REQUEST THAT THE ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO PERMIT THE CORPORATION TO GRANT SHORT-TERM LEASES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

+INITIALLY ABOUT 20 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE EARMARKED FOR SUCH USE. THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THIS A SENSIBLE APPROACH SINCE IT WILL MAKE LAND AVAILABLE FOR PURPOSES SUCH AS OPEN STORAGE, FOR WHICH THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DEMAND RECENTLY, AND WILL ENABLE THE CORPORATION TO DERIVE INCOME FROM LAND WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE LIE IDLE FOR SOME TIME,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+THE LAND BANK OF THE CORPORATION WILL BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET THE EXPECTED DEMAND FOR SITES FROM ELIGIBLE INDUSTRIES.+

/THE BILL .....

- 16 -

THE BILL SEEKS TO AMEND SECTIONS 4 AND 5 OF THE ORDINANCE BY EXPANDING THE PRESENT PURPOSES AND POWERS OF THE CORPORATION SO AS TO PERMIT IT TO DISPOSE OF AND MANAGE ANY LAND WITHIN AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE CROWN LEASES ON WHICH THE LAND IS HELD.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, IT WAS INTENDED TO OFFER THE CORPORATION A WAIVER TO PERMIT IT TO GRANT SHORT-TERM LEASES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES WITHIN THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

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LIMITATION ON LAND RECOVERY STRESSED  
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THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) BILL 1983, WHICH AIMS TO ENABLE THE CROWN UPON PAYMENT OF FAIR AND REASONABLE COMPENSATION TO ACQUIRE LAND TO WHICH THE CROWN HAS LOST ITS POSSESSORY TITLE UNDER THE LIMITATION ORDINANCE, WAS TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, SAID THAT UNDER THE LIMITATION ORDINANCE NO ACTION FOR THE RECOVERY OF LAND MIGHT BE BROUGHT BY THE CROWN AFTER A PERIOD OF 60 YEARS FROM THE DATE THE RIGHT OF ACTION ACCRUED TO THE CROWN, THAT IS THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ADVERSE POSSESSION.

+THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE TITLE OF THE CROWN TO SUCH LAND IS EXTINGUISHED ON THE EXPIRY OF THIS PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, MR MCDONALD SAID, THE CROWN HAD NO POWER, EITHER UNDER THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE, OR ANY OTHER ORDINANCE CONFERRING LAND ACQUISITION POWERS, TO ACQUIRE SUCH LAND, IF IT WAS REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

+WHILE NO CLAIM TO POSSESSORY TITLE HAS YET SUCCEEDED AND, INDEED VERY FEW CASES OF THIS TYPE HAVE EVER ACTUALLY ARISEN, THE FACT THAT CLAIMS CAN BE MADE AND MIGHT SUCCEED, HOWEVER REMOTE THESE POSSIBILITIES, REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE MEANS TO OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY, SHOULD IT ARISE, BY EMPOWERING THE CROWN FIRST TO ACQUIRE SUCH LAND FREE OF ALL PRIVATE RIGHTS THEREIN AND THEN TO SETTLE ANY CLAIMS OF POSSESSORY TITLE AND COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE LAND.+

MR MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN THE BILL RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION FOLLOWED, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE PROVISIONS OF THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 17 -

TWO MOTIONS APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON APPROVED TWO MOTIONS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE.

ON THE MOTION ON DELEGATION OF FINANCIAL POWERS, SIR JOHN SAID THE PURPOSE WAS FORMALLY TO RESCIND THE RESOLUTION PASSED 10 YEARS AGO IN WHICH POWERS TO APPROVE PROVISION IN ADDITION TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE WERE DELEGATED TO SPECIFIED PUBLIC OFFICERS.

+THESE DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN SUPERSEDED IN PRACTICE BY A NEW SET OF DELEGATED POWERS TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ESTIMATES APPROVED ON MARCH 9, 1983, BY FINANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER MOTION, SIR JOHN SAID THE PURPOSE WAS TO SEEK THE COVERING APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE WRITE-OFFS MADE DURING THE 1982-83 FINANCIAL YEAR AND FOR ONE WRITE-OFF IN 1981-82.

HE ADDED THAT THE WRITE-OFFS HAD INDIVIDUALLY BEEN AUTHORISED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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BILL ON TYPHOON DAYS IN LEGAL TIME COMPUTATION

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A BILL WHICH PROPOSES THAT TYPHOON DAYS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME WAY AS PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE EXISTING INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE WAS MOVED THROUGH ITS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

/VARIOUS ORDINANCES ...

VARIOUS ORDINANCES REQUIRE CERTAIN STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITHIN A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME.

THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ON WHICH SUCH PERIODS END OR WHICH OCCUR DURING WHICH SUCH PERIODS NOT EXCEEDING SIX DAYS, SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THE COMPUTATION OF TIME.

THE ORDINANCE LEFT OUT GALE WARNING OR TYPHOON DAYS -- DAYS WHEN A NUMBER 8 (OR HIGHER) TYPHOON WARNING IS GIVEN BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND WHEN THE COURTS AND OFFICES ARE FORCED TO CLOSE.

+CONSEQUENTLY IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED THAT THE ORDINANCE IS UNHAPPILY EXPRESSED, THAT IT ALLOWS TYPHOON DAYS TO BE EXCLUDED IN THE COMPUTATION OF TIME IN SITUATIONS THAT WERE NEVER INTENDED TO BE AFFECTED, AND THAT A REFORM IS NECESSARY,+ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID.

THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983 INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL TODAY PROPOSES THAT TYPHOON DAYS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS PUBLIC HOLIDAY, MR THOMAS SAID.

+THE INTENTION UNDERLYING THE PRESENT PROVISIONS IS TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE SOMETHING WHICH MUST OR SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME OR ON A PARTICULAR DAY CANNOT BE DONE BECAUSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OFFICES AND THE COURTS THEMSELVES ARE NOT FUNCTIONING AT THAT TIME OR ON THAT DAY BECAUSE OF TYPHOON CONDITIONS,+ MR THOMAS EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH DAYS ON WHICH THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS, BY ORDER, ADJOURNED JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS BECAUSE OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE OR ITS EFFECTS ARE WITHIN THE PRESENT LEGISLATION, THE BILL DOES NOT MAKE PROVISION SPECIFICALLY TO ALLOW SUCH A DAY TO BE EXCLUDED FROM COMPUTATION OF TIME.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONLY ONE SUCH ORDER SINCE 1969.

THE PRESENT BILL, IF PASSED, WILL COME INTO OPERATION 60 DAYS AFTER GAZETTING.

+THUS ANYBODY WHO HAS BEEN RELYING UPON THE EXISTING STATE OF THE LAW IN COUNTING TIME WILL BE ABLE TO DERIVE THAT BENEFIT NOTWITHSTANDING THIS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 19 -

KINDERGARTEN BILL ON NURSERY CLASSES  
\* \* \* \*

AN AMENDMENT BILL WHICH PROPOSES TO ALLOW KINDERGARTENS TO OPERATE NURSERY CLASSES FROM SEPTEMBER 1985 WITHOUT DUAL REGISTRATION UNDER TWO ORDINANCES AND OPERATED BY TWO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID THAT NURSERY CLASSES DEFINED UNDER THE BILL WILL CATER FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF THREE AND THREE YEARS EIGHT MONTHS.

MR HAYE EXPLAINED THAT THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, WHICH WAS DEBATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST JUNE, REQUIRED OPERATORS OF KINDERGARTENS WITH NURSERY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS EIGHT MONTHS OF AGE TO REGISTER THESE CLASSES UNDER THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE.

BUT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS, THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED THAT REGISTRATION OF PART OF THE PREMISES OF A KINDERGARTEN UNDER THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE WOULD BE IMPRACTICABLE FOR MANY KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS AND WOULD RESULT IN A SERIOUS REDUCTION OF A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

TO ENSURE THAT THE NURSERY CLASSES WILL BE OPERATED TO HIGH STANDARDS, THE BILL AND AMENDED EDUCATION REGULATIONS WILL REQUIRE NURSERY CLASSES TO EMPLOY QUALIFIED PRINCIPALS AND TO IMPROVE SPACE REQUIREMENTS AND CLASS SIZE.

THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1986, MR HAYE SAID.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS COVER FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN SCHOOLS, HE ADDED.

THE BILL, IF ENACTED, WILL NOT ONLY RELIEVE THE UNEASE AMONG MANY KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS, BUT ALSO PROVIDE A MORE FLEXIBLE AND PRACTICABLE APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1981 WHITE PAPER ON PRIMARY EDUCATION AND PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 13.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 20 -

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED  
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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE WAS MOVED THROUGH ITS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS OFFICIAL ADMINSTRATOR, MAY SUMMARILY ADMINISTER THE ESTATE OF A DECEASED PERSON IF HE IS OF THE OPINION THAT IT DOES NOT EXCEED \$20 000 IN VALUE.

THE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 PROPOSES TO RAISE THIS LIMIT TO \$50 000.

THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON GARTH NAZARETH, DESCRIBED THE PROVISION IN THE MAIN ORDINANCE AS BEING USEFUL AND SENSIBLE, ENABLING SMALL ESTATES TO BE ADMINISTERED INEXPENSIVELY, SIMPLY AND QUICKLY.

+NOT SURPRISINGLY, THEREFORE, THE NUMBER OF ESTATES SO ADMINISTERED HAS RISEN BY AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 16 PER CENT IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS TO A TOTAL OF 1 671 IN 1982/83.

+IF INFLATION HAD NOT SEVERELY ERODED THE REAL VALUE OF THE \$20 000 LIMIT, WHICH WAS FIXED IN 1971 WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE NUMBER WOULD HAVE RISEN EVEN MORE STEEPLY,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAW SOCIETY HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE PROPOSED INCREASE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 21 -

PAYMENTS INCREASED

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A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE INTESSTATES' ESTATES ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO THE SURVIVING SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OF A DECEASED PERSON WHOSE PROPERTY IS NOT SUBJECT TO A WILL.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON GARTH NAZARETH SAID UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, WHERE THE DECEASED LEAVES A SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, SUCH PROPERTY, AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBTS AND THE LIKE, IS CHARGED WITH THE PAYMENT OF \$25 000 TO THE SURVIVING SPOUSE.

+WHERE THE DECEASED LEAVES A SPOUSE BUT NO CHILDREN, THE AMOUNT TO WHICH THE SURVIVING SPOUSE IS ENTITLED GOES UP TO \$100 000.

+PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THESE AMOUNTS IS TO BE HELD ON TRUST FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE CHILDREN AND RELATIVES,+ HE SAID.

MR NAZARETH POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING AMOUNTS WERE ORIGINALLY FIXED IN JANUARY 1971, WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED.

+INFLATION, SINCE 1971, HAS MADE THE AMOUNTS INCREASINGLY UNREALISTIC, AND THIS MOTION PROPOSES TO INCREASE THEM TO \$50 000 AND \$200 000 RESPECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROPOSAL FOR AN APPROPRIATE INCREASE CAME FROM THE JUDICIARY, AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAW SOCIETY HAVE BEEN CONSULTED,+ HE ADDED.

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DOCUMENTATION FEE PROPOSED IN BILL

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THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, WHICH SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE A FEE FOR AUTHENTICATING PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON GARTH NAZARETH, EXPLAINED THAT WHERE HONG KONG WAS OBLIGED UNDER A TREATY TO RENDER A SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS, IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO LEVY A FEE FOR THAT SERVICE WITHOUT STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

/AN EXAMPLE ...

- 22 -

AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH A TREATY WAS THE 1961 HAGUE CONVENTION UNDER WHICH HONG KONG WAS OBLIGED TO PROVIDE A SIMPLIFIED AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURE TO RENDER PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ACCEPTABLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THE CONVENTION, HE SAID.

+THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN OF EMPOWERING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE A FEE WHERE AN AUTHENTICATION IS DONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY FOREIGN OR COMMONWEALTH LAW,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

+IT IS TRUE THAT WHERE SUCH AUTHENTICATION IS A VOLUNTARY SERVICE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AUTHORITY TO LEVY A FEE MAY NOT BE NECESSARY,+ HE SAID. +BUT TO AVOID PROBLEMS, IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE CLEAR LEGAL AUTHORITY ANYWAY.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

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#### TRUST BENEFITS HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST BILL 1983 SHOWS THAT A GREAT DEAL OF CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID TODAY.

SHE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, WHICH WAS APPROVED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

DR IP SAID THAT CLAUSE 5(1) (C) WAS INTENTIONALLY INCLUDED TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY TO THE TRUSTEE TO PROVIDE +OPPORTUNITIES+ FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF EDUCATION OF CHILDREN CONCERNED.

+THEY WILL, I UNDERSTAND, INCLUDE PROVISIONS ON STUDY AIDS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SPECIAL EQUIPMENT.

+I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THIS CONSIDERATE ATTITUDE SHOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND BE FURTHER CULTIVATED,+ SHE SAID.

REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE PROVISIONS IN CLAUSE 5(1) (B) OF THE BILL, DR IP SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A STATUTORY TRUST WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AS ONE OF ITS OBJECTIVES.

+A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, BUT NEVER HAVE THE AIM BEEN STATED IN THE LAW.

+I THEREFORE WELCOME THIS AS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TOWARDS MEETING THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN+, SHE SAID.

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COMMON OFFENCES PROVIDED BY BILL

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THE PURPOSE OF CHILD CARE CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WAS TO BRING CERTAIN OFFENCES AND PENALTIES IN THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE INTO LINE WITH THOSE IN THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE WHICH AFFECT THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDE FOR COMMON OFFENCES WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND COMMON PENALTIES UNDER BOTH ORDINANCES.

+SIMILAR AMENDMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE CHILD CARE CENTRES REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF A NUMBER OF OFFENCES.

+ALTHOUGH IN CERTAIN CASES, FOR EXAMPLE THE OFFENCE OF OPERATING AN UNREGISTERED CHILD CARE CENTRE, THE AMENDMENTS WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE, I BELIEVE THESE TO BE FULLY JUSTIFIED HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE VERY YOUNG CHILDREN WHO USE THESE CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

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LIKELY USE OF RESERVOIR FOR SPORTS

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PLOVER COVE WOULD MOST LIKELY BE THE RESERVOIR TO BE CONSIDERED FOR USE FOR RESTRICTED ORGANISED WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO ALLOWING ONE OR MORE OF HONG KONG'S GOVERNING WATER SPORTS BODIES TO ESTABLISH A TRIAL SCHEME, MR BRAY SAID IN ANSWERING A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG.

HE ADDED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE TRIAL SCHEME.

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MORE +STRENGTH+ PROVIDED IN BILL  
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THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WILL STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ITS INTEGRITY AS A RESPONSIBLE TRADING PARTNER, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON JUSTIN YUE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE BILL THROUGH ITS SECOND READING, MR YUE SAID ITS PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO TEXTILE PRODUCTS, SO AS TO PREVENT CIRCUMVENTION OF THE TEXTILE LICENSING SYSTEM.

+WITHIN THIS BROAD OBJECTIVE, THE BILL FIRST SEEKS TO FACILITATE THE EXAMINATION OF CONSIGNMENTS BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, AND SECOND TO TIGHTEN THE MANIFEST REQUIREMENTS FOR CARGO IMPORTED OR EXPORTED BY RAIL,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL SEEKS TO CLARIFY THE EXISTING AUTHORITY OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO REQUEST A CARGO MANIFEST AND TO ENSURE THAT DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AS CARGO MANIFESTS MEET THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, HE ADDED.

TO FACILITATE THE EXAMINATION OF IMPORTED CARGO WHERE THE IDENTITY OF THE CONSIGNEE IS NOT KNOWN, OR IF A DOUBT EXISTS AS TO HIS IDENTITY, THE BILL SEEKS TO PROVIDE THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WITH THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE THE CARGO TO BE HELD AT AN AGREED LOCATION UNTIL COMPLETION OF VERIFICATION AND EXAMINATION.

+THIS AUTHORITY, WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN RESPECT OF PROHIBITED ARTICLES, SERVES TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE TO CARRIERS WHOSE AIRCRAFT, VESSELS OR VEHICLES MIGHT OTHERWISE BE DELAYED IF CARGO EXAMINATIONS WERE TO BE CONDUCTED ON BOARD,+ MR YUE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT THE MANIFEST REQUIREMENTS CAN BE PROPERLY APPLIED TO CARGO TRANSPORTED BY RAIL.

+SINCE RAIL CARGO IS IN PRACTICE HANDLED BY A LOCAL AGENT WHO ALONE HOLDS THE PARTICULARS OF THE CARGO, IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO HOLD THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION LIABLE FOR THE MANIFEST REQUIREMENTS. CLAUSE 3 (A) OF THE BILL, THEREFORE, EXPANDS THE AMBIT OF SECTION 15 TO PLACE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ON THE PERSON ACTING AS THE AGENT, OR THE OWNER, OF GOODS CARRIED BY TRAIN,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 25 -

PROVIDING FOR THE AGED  
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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO 3) 1983 BILL WAS READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILL SEEKS TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR PROFITS TAX PURPOSES FOR EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON THE ACQUISITION OF PATENT RIGHTS AND TRADE MARKS.

IT ALSO SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT PARENTS ALLOWANCE OF \$2 000 PER PARENT FOR THOSE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE FAMILY.

ON THIS ALLOWANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID, +I AM PARTICULARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE GROWING PROBLEM NOT JUST IN HONG KONG BUT IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE OF PROVIDING REASONABLY FOR THE AGED -- AND OF COURSE PEOPLE NOW LIVE MUCH LONGER AS A RESULT OF MEDICAL ADVANCES.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 13.

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THREE CORRIDOR SECTIONS READY MID-1985  
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ALL THREE SECTIONS OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1985, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW, HE SAID THAT THESE SECTIONS WERE FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO HEALTHY STREET WEST, FROM HEALTHY STREET WEST TO TAIKOO SHING AND FROM TAIKOO SHING TO SHAU KEI WAN.

+IN ORDER TO BRING EARLY RELIEF TO KING'S ROAD, THE SECTIONS FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO TAIKOO SHING WERE PLANNED TO BE COMPLETED AND OPENED TO TRAFFIC SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+DESPITE SETBACKS TO THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME DUE TO UNDERGROUND OBSTRUCTIONS TO PILING AND UNUSUALLY WET WEATHER, THIS OBJECTIVE WILL STILL BE ACHIEVED.+

REFERRING TO THE REMAINDER OF THE CORRIDOR FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CHAI WAN, HE SAID WORK WOULD COMMENCE FROM THE CHAI WAN END.

WORK ON THE SECTIONS IN CHAI WAN ITSELF AND FROM CHAI WAN TO PAK CHAI WAN ARE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 1985. THE FINAL SECTION FROM PAK CHAI WAN TO SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1987, MR MCDONALD SAID.

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/ 26 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 26 -

MOTORCYCLE PARKING NOW FREE  
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EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY ON MOTORCYCLE PARKING IS TO PROVIDE FREE ON-STREET SPACES, THE NUMBER OF WHICH IS BROADLY RELATED TO THE DEMAND AND TO AVAILABLE SPACE.

THERE ARE ABOUT 3 200 DESIGNATED MOTORCYCLE SPACES, OF WHICH 900 ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 1 500 IN KOWLOON AND 800 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+PROVISION OF MOTORCYCLE PARKING FACILITIES IS NOT RELATED SOLELY TO THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE MOTORCYCLES. THE PROVISION OF PARKING FACILITIES HAS TO BE BALANCED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

REFERRING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON K.C. CHAN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RESITING EXISTING TRAM STOPS NEAR TRAFFIC LIGHTS, MR SCOTT SAID RESITING THEM COULD INDEED BE A METHOD OF IMPROVING SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

+BUT OTHER SOMEWHAT MORE EASILY IMPLEMENTED MEASURES WERE ALSO AS EFFECTIVE,+ HE ADDED.

AT ONE SITE - THE DES VOEUX ROAD AND EASTERN ROAD JUNCTION - FOR INSTANCE, THE NUMBER OF PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS WAS REDUCED FROM 21 PER ANNUM TO ONE, BY BANNING MOTOR VEHICLES FROM TRAVELLING ON THE TRAM TRACKS ADJACENT TO A TRAM ISLAND, MR SCOTT SAID.

HE SAID ALSO THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE TRAM STOPS WERE NEAR ROAD JUNCTIONS, MANY OF WHICH HAD TRAFFIC SIGNALS, MR SCOTT SAID.

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/ 27 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 27 -

LEGCO THANKS LANDS AND WORKS SECRETARY  
\* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID MR MCDONALD HAD CONTRIBUTED IMMEASURABLY THROUGHOUT HIS 28 YEARS OF SERVICE, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST NINE YEARS, TO THE PLANNING AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S HOUSING PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

+MUCH THAT IS BEST IN THE LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT OF MODERN HONG KONG HAS BEEN CREATED UNDER HIS CREATIVE INFLUENCE. IN THIS CHAMBER, HE HAS BEEN A SPIRITED PERFORMER, AND A MEMBER WHO HAS BORNE HIS FULL SHARE OF THE LOAD OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK, WITH UNFAILING GOOD HUMOUR,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ADDED: +I AM SURE WE WOULD ALL WISH TO RECORD OUR THANKS TO HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT, AND OUR APPRECIATION OF HIS MOST VALUABLE SERVICES. WE WISH HIM AND MRS MCDONALD A VERY LONG AND HAPPY RETIREMENT.+

THE HON ROGER LOBO, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, SAID MR MCDONALD'S TIME HAD SEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANY NEW TOWNS, CROSS-HARBOUR AND ABERDEEN TUNNELS, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, SEVERAL SPAGHETTI JUNCTIONS, TO NAME BUT A FEW OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH HAD COME TO FRUITION UNDER HIS GUIDANCE IN RECENT YEARS.

HE SAID THE DEFEDERALISATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WHICH HAD EXISTED FOR 140 YEARS MUST HAVE BEEN A MOST DIFFICULT, IF NOT PAINFUL, TASK FOR HIM.

+BUT THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SIX DEPARTMENTS WHICH NOW OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY UNDER THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH HEADED BY HIM IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO HIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS,+ MR LOBO SAID.

HE ADDED: +MR MCDONALD'S HELPFUL AND FORTHRIGHT RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN THIS COUNCIL IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. WE KNOW HIM WELL IN THE UMELCO OFFICE, IN THIS CHAMBER, AS WELL AS AT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE, AND HIS PATIENT EXPLANATION OF COMPLEX ISSUES HAS BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO US.

+HE HAS DISCHARGED A MOST DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING JOB WITH DISTINCTION, AND WE SHALL MISS HIM VERY MUCH BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER.+

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/ 28 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 28 -

DEBATE ADJOURNED ON TEN BILLS  
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ONE BILL WAS APPROVED, AND DEBATE ON TEN OTHER BILLS WAS ADJOURNED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE APPROVED BILL WAS THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST BILL 1983.

THE FOLLOWING TEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 13:

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1983, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) BILL 1983, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983, THE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE CHILD CARE CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AND THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

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/29 .....

PROTECTION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES, ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE WORKERS AND RESIDENTS WITH ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR JAMES HAYES, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION (HKOSHA) AND A DELEGATION OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS AND SAFETY OFFICERS FROM THE PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CITIZEN AMBASSADOR IN THE UNITED STATES.

DR HAYES POINTED OUT THAT AS HONG KONG'S URBAN AREAS WERE CONSTANTLY EXPANDING AND LAND WAS SCARCE, THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY HAD IN MOST PLACES TO OPERATE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS, REQUIRING IT TO PAY DUE CARE AND ATTENTION TO SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AS WELL AS IN THE WORKPLACE.

AND THE FACT THAT 90 PER CENT OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE LESS THAN 50 EMPLOYEES AND ABOUT 65 PER CENT LESS THAN 10, ALSO PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES FOR THE CONTROL AND MONITORING OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH WORKERS AND RESIDENTS.

+THE LOCAL SITUATION REQUIRES THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE ALIVE TO PRESENT DAY AND FUTURE TRENDS ON INDUSTRIALISATION AND INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION, THAT THEY CONSULT WIDELY, AND THAT THEY WORK CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND BODIES CONCERNED WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SUCH AS THE HKOSHA,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, DR HAYES SAID THAT THE SUBJECTS OF THE SEMINAR ARE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO ANY LABOUR ADMINISTRATION, ANY ASSOCIATION CONCERNING ITSELF WITH SAFETY AND HEALTH, ANY FIRM ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING PROCESSES, AND TO WORKERS IN THESE INDUSTRIES, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

HE CONGRATULATED THE HKOSHA FOR ARRANGING THE SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHINA VISIT BY THE DELEGATION, AND THANKED THE VISITORS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AFTER THEIR STRENUOUS TOUR.

+IN FACT, TODAY'S FULL DAY EVENT STEMS FROM THE HALF DAY SEMINAR ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A VISIT FROM A SIMILAR DELEGATION FROM THE SAME ORGANISATION LAST YEAR. NO DOUBT, ITS SUCCESS HAS ENCOURAGED TODAY'S MORE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES,+ HE ADDED.

DR HAYES WAS INTRODUCED BY DR K.W. FUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE HKOSHA, WHO WAS ALSO A SPEAKER IN A DISCUSSION ON THE PROFILE OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE IN HONG KONG, AT WHICH THE GUEST SPEAKER WAS DR F.J. O'KELLY, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONSULTANT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

MR W.S. TANG, A DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, SPOKE ON NOISE HAZARDS IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 30 -

MAURINE GRANTHAM HEALTH CENTRE TO MOVE  
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THE MAURINE GRANTHAM HEALTH CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN WILL MOVE TO THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL ON AUGUST 1, AS THE SITE HAS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE HOSPITAL'S EXTENSION PROJECT.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE REMOVAL, THE MATERNITY WARD AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED IN THE HEALTH CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY (JULY 1) ALTHOUGH ALL OTHER FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF JULY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE MOVE HAS BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY THE EXPANSION OF YAN CHAI INTO AN ACUTE HOSPITAL OF 650 BEDS.

UNDER THE EXTENSION PLAN, THE EXISTING MAURINE GRANTHAM HEALTH CENTRE WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND THE SITE GRANTED TO THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL FOR CONSTRUCTING A NURSING TRAINING SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED QUARTERS, HE SAID.

ON COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE IN 1985, THE MAURINE GRANTHAM HEALTH CENTRE WILL MOVE BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL SITE WHERE MIDWIFERY SERVICE WILL AGAIN BE PROVIDED, HE ADDED.

+AS THE NEW CENTRE AT YAN CHAI HOSPITAL WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH A MATERNITY WARD, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THE NEARBY WARDS AT SOUTH KWAI CHUNG HEALTH CENTRE, MRS WU YORK YU HEALTH CENTRE AND YAN CHAI HOSPITAL WHEN THE NEED ARISES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LONDON DATE FOR GOVERNOR AND EXCO MEMBERS  
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THERE WILL BE A FACILITY FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE DEPARTURE OF BOTH THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND UNOFFICIAL EXCO MEMBERS FOR LONDON.

THE GOVERNOR WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON FLIGHT BA20 ETD 9 PM.

EXCO MEMBERS WILL LEAVE ON FRIDAY (JULY 1) ALSO ON FLIGHT BA20 ETD 9 PM.

PLEASE ADVISE THOSE ASSIGNED TO COVER BOTH THE DEPARTURES TO ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING NOT LATER THAN 7.45 PM ON BOTH OCCASIONS. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE THERE TO ASSIST.

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/31 .....

+ELDERLY NEED A DIFFERENT MIX OF SERVICES+  
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THERE IS A NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT THE GROWING PROPORTION OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL REQUIRE A DIFFERENT MIX OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE FUTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, HE SAID THAT RAPID URBANISATION AND PARTICULARLY THE PRESSURE ON LIVING ACCOMMODATION OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS HAD MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR MANY FAMILIES TO CONTINUE THE EXTENDED FAMILY SYSTEM.

OTHER SOCIOLOGICAL CHANGES HAD ALSO CONTRIBUTED THE DECAY OF THIS SYSTEM, HE ADDED.

+IT HAS THEREFORE HAD TO BE ACCEPTED THAT, AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO ASSUME A MUCH LARGER PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID RECENT STUDIES HAD SHOWN THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG DID RECEIVE A GREAT DEAL OF HELP FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

+BUT THERE ARE QUITE A LARGE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER OLD PEOPLE DO NEED HELP FROM WELFARE ORGANISATIONS IF THEY ARE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE SATISFACTORILY ON THEIR OWN,+ HE SAID.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL ACTIVE AND ABLE TO GET ABOUT, THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE SOCIAL CENTRES IN EACH DISTRICT. EVENTUALLY THERE WILL BE MORE THAN 180 SUCH CENTRES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

FOR THOSE WHO NEED MORE HELP, THERE ARE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES WHERE THEY CAN HAVE A MEAL OR A BATH OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A RANGE OF OTHER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

+A TOTAL OF 24 SUCH CENTRES ARE PLANNED,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

HE SAID A MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE ELDERLY TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE WAS THE HOME HELP SERVICE, WHICH ENABLED THEM TO COPE WITH THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN COOKING, LAUNDRY, PERSONAL HYGIENE AND HOME MANAGEMENT.

REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF FINDING SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT +WE NOW HAVE A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF FACILITIES.+

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT OPERATES A SCHEME WHICH ENABLES GROUPS OF THREE SINGLE ELDERLY PEOPLE TO OCCUPY FLATS IN HOUSING ESTATES.

THERE ARE ALSO HOSTELS RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH PROVIDE SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT IS THE +GOLD COIN+ SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME, WHICH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL START OPERATING IN AUGUST.

THIS SCHEME CONSISTS OF 80 FLATS IN A PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN, WHICH ARE BEING BOUGHT AND FURNISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE OCCUPANTS WILL BE LIKE NORMAL TENANTS, BUT THERE WILL BE A SMALL STAFF ACTING AS LIAISON OFFICERS AND PROVIDING HELP.

RENTS WILL BE SUBSIDISED TO KEEP THEM WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE LESS WELL-OFF.

+THIS SCHEME HAS GREAT POTENTIAL, AND IF IT PROVES SUCCESSFUL WE PLAN TO PROVIDE MORE SUCH ACCOMMODATION ELSEWHERE,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

TURNING TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE, HE SAID THAT EVEN IN THIS AREA THERE WAS ROOM FOR A VARIETY OF TYPES OF FACILITIES, INCLUDING HOSTELS WHERE MEALS WERE PROVIDED, TRADITIONAL OLD-AGE HOMES AND CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES.

HE SAID THE NEED FOR CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES WAS THE GREATEST. AT PRESENT THERE ARE ONLY 500 PLACES IN THIS TYPE OF HOME, AGAINST A WAITING LIST OF MORE THAN 3 400.

+BUT THIS YEAR WILL SEE THE BEGINNING OF A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION- THREE NEW HOMES WILL BE OPENED, DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF PLACES, AND BY 1986 WE SHOULD HAVE A TOTAL OF 2 500 PLACES, HE SAID.

THIS RAPID INCREASE, MR CHAMBERS SAID, WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE GENEROUS WAY IN WHICH ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE TUNG WAH GROUP HAD RESPONDED TO THE PLANS DRAWN UP BY THE GOVERNMENT.

TUNG WAH WAS IN FACT THE SINGLE BIGGEST PROVIDER OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, HE SAID.

+WHEN ALL ITS PRESENT PLANS HAVE COME TO FRUITION, THE GROUP WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR 1 800 ELDERLY PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND OLD-AGE ALLOWANCE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT THESE WERE NOT CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE TYPE FOUND IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+BUT THEY DO AT LEAST ENSURE THAT THE INCOME OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IS SUPPORTED AT A LEVEL WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE IF MODEST STANDARD OF LIVING.

+AN ELDERLY COUPLE WITHOUT OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT CAN NOW RECEIVE UP TO \$1 500 A MONTH FROM THIS SOURCE,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 33 -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

GROUP TO REPORT ON EX-MENTAL PATIENTS  
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A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE GIS THEATRE TO PRESENT THE REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP ON EX-MENTAL PATIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE OR ASSESSED DISPOSITION TO VIOLENCE.

IT WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, WHO WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, IN ENGLISH, AND A PRESS RELEASE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRIOR READING ONLY BY YOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM 2 PM AT THE GIS THEATRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

NEW FIGHT YOUTH CRIME DRIVE STARTING  
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A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE 1983-84 FIGHT YOUTH CRIME CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD AT 4.30 PM ON FRIDAY (JULY 1) IN THE GIS THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR ROY HENRY AND THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MRS SOPHIA HO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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/34 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 34 -

ARTS ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
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THE INAUGURATION OF THE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS ASSOCIATION SIGNIFIES YET ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND AFFAIRS OF THEIR DISTRICTS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR LAWRENCE MILLS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ASSOCIATION'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY THIS EVENING, MR MILLS SAID THE DISTRICT BOARD, SET UP IN 1982, WAS A BIG STEP TOWARDS THIS GOAL AND A LOT HAD SINCE BEEN DONE TO INVOLVE LOCAL RESIDENTS IN IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN SHAM SHUI PO.

HE SAID THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE ARTS ASSOCIATION WAS TO PROMOTE AND COORDINATE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK AND WILL DEPEND ON THE HARD WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND, ABOVE ALL, THE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION,+ HE SAID.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ASSOCIATION WILL DEVELOP INTO A GUIDING FORCE AND PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD OF ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION AND I HOPE IT WILL GET THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC AND THE DISTRICT BOARD.

UNDER THE ASSOCIATION, THERE ARE FOUR WORKING COMMITTEES, NAMELY THE SHAM SHUI PO CHILDREN'S CHOIR, THE CHINESE CULTURE, THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE RECREATION.

TODAY'S EVENT ALSO FEATURED A PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST, A CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION AND DEMONSTRATION, AS WELL AS A TWO-HOUR ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME OF FOLK DANCES, DRAMA PERFORMANCE, SINGING BY A CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND POPULAR SONGS BY LOCAL ARTIST MISS ANITA MUI.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

- 35 -

SIX YOUNG PEOPLE VISIT BRITAIN  
\* \* \* \*

SIX YOUNG PEOPLE LEFT HONG KONG FOR BRITAIN LAST NIGHT (TUESDAY) TO PARTICIPATE IN A THREE WEEK COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

THE THREE MEN AND THREE WOMEN WERE SELECTED FROM 37 NOMINEES FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND A MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THEY WILL SPEND THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN SOUTH GLAMORGAN, WALES VISITING VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING SCHOOLS, YOUTH CENTRES, BBC STUDIOS AND A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

FROM THE WEEK STARTING JULY 17, THEY WILL GO TO LONDON TO JOIN AND LIVE WITH DELEGATES FROM OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

THE PROGRAMME, WHICH BEGAN IN 1977, IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE COUNCIL IN LONDON TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE IN BRITAIN AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE EXCHANGE VISITS ON A BILATERAL AND RECIPROCAL BASIS.

ITS AIM IS TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AND SHARING OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE HONG KONG PARTICIPANTS ARE MR LEUNG SIU-TONG, MR LEE SHU-FAI, MR CHOW KAM-SIU, MISS LING KIT-CHING, MISS CHAN PUI-SHAN AND MISS CHAU LING-YU.

THEY WERE SELECTED BY A BOARD COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

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/36 .....

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IMPRESS VISITOR  
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HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S OFFICER TRAINING FACILITIES, THE CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH, MR MINORU SHIKITA SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING WHILE TOURING THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AND ITS NEWLY OPENED EXTENSION AT STANLEY. THE FACILITIES INCLUDE A TRAINING COURT, A TRAINING HOME NURSING WARD AND A TRAINING CONTROL ROOM, TRAINING CELLS AS WELL AS AN INDOOR FIRING RANGE.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, MR SHIKITA ALSO WENT TO TUNG TAU CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WHERE HE SAW PRISONERS AT WORK IN THE WORKSHOPS AS WELL AS PRISONERS' ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER FACILITIES.

EARLIER IN THE MORNING, HE HAD PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON.

MR SHIKITA WAS DUE TO LEAVE FOR BANGKOK IN THE AFTERNOON.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT NEW MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW IN YAU MA TEI FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (JUNE 30).

THE LEFT TURN MOVEMENT FROM WATERLOO ROAD EASTBOUND INTO NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE PROHIBITED. MOTORISTS WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA PORTLAND STREET AND CHANGSHA STREET BEFORE ENTERING NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND.

THE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON NATHAN ROAD TO THE NORTH OF THE ROAD'S JUNCTION WITH WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE CONTROLLED BY TRAFFIC SIGNALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

THE SECOND LANE FROM THE KERB ON NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE DESIGNATED FOR RIGHT TURNS ONLY, BUT THE SECOND LANE FROM THE KERB ON WATERLOO ROAD WESTBOUND WILL ALLOW FOR BOTH +STRAIGHT ON+ AND +LEFT TURN+ MOVEMENTS.

THE BUS STOP OBSERVED BY KMB ROUTES 2, 26 AND 112 ON NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN WATERLOO ROAD AND MAN MING LANE WILL BE RESITED TO THE SECTION OF NATHAN ROAD ON THE SOUTH OF WING SING LANE.

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/37 .....

- 37 -

## ROADS OPEN IN TAI PO

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A NEW ROAD (ROAD D3) CONNECTING TAI PO ROAD NEAR WONG SHIU CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH TING KOK ROAD EAST OF TAI YUEN ESTATE HAS BEEN OPENED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC, ENABLING VEHICLES TO REACH TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TAI MEI TUK FROM TAI PO ROAD WITHOUT HAVING TO PASS THROUGH TAI PO MARKET CENTRE.

ANOTHER NEW ROAD (ROAD D1) CONNECTING ROAD D3 WITH TING KOK ROAD NEAR TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICES HAS BEEN OPENED TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TRAFFIC.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE ROAD OPENING, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN FORCE:

- \* A SHORT SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD HAS BEEN REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND, WHILE A SHORT SECTION OF KWONG FUK ROAD WEST OF TING KOK ROAD IS NOW ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.
- \* RIGHT TURNS FROM KWONG FUK ROAD NORTHBOUND INTO TING KOK ROAD ARE PROHIBITED.
- \* THROUGH TRAFFIC FROM FANLING TO SHA TIN SHOULD PROCEED VIA THE NEW ROAD (ROAD A) LEADING FROM KWONG FUK ROAD WEST OF TING KOK ROAD TO ROAD D1. THESE VEHICLES SHOULD THEN USE ROAD D1, ROAD D3 AND TAI PO ROAD, BYPASSING TAI PO MARKET CENTRE.
- \* VEHICLES FROM FANLING HEADING FOR TAI PO MARKET SHOULD PROCEED VIA ROAD A EASTBOUND, TING KOK ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND KWONG FUK ROAD SOUTHBOUND.
- \* MOTORISTS FROM SHA TIN HEADING FOR TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TAI MEI TUK SHOULD TRAVEL VIA ROAD D3.
- \* MOTORISTS FROM TAI PO MARKET CENTRE HEADING FOR TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SHOULD USE KWONG FUK ROAD NORTHBOUND, ROAD A EASTBOUND AND TING KOK ROAD NORTHBOUND.
- \* BUSES ON KMB ROUTES 64K, 65K, 69, 69K AND 70 SOUTHBOUND, AND MAXICABS ON ROUTES 21K AND 25K SOUTHBOUND ARE DIVERTED VIA ROAD A, TING KOK ROAD AND KWONG FUK ROAD.
- \* THE BUS STOP ON KWONG FUK ROAD SOUTHBOUND NEAR THE PETROL STATION HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
- \* BUSES ON KMB ROUTES 72A, 72K, 72M, 73, 74A, 74K AND 75K NORTHBOUND AND MAXICABS ON ROUTES 20K NORTHBOUND ARE DIVERTED VIA KWONG FUK ROAD, ROAD A AND TING KOK ROAD.

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/ 38 .....

ROAD SECTION TO BE CLOSED

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THE SECTION OF KWAI TAI ROAD BETWEEN KWAI TAK STREET AND PILLAR ISLAND INTERCHANGE IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 1).

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI TSING ROAD AFTER THE CLOSURE.

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IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE ROAD CLOSING, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN FORCE:

\* A SHORT SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD HAS BEEN REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND. WHILE A SHORT SECTION OF KWONG FUK ROAD WEST OF TING KOK ROAD IS NOW ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

\* RIGHT TURN FROM KWONG FUK ROAD NORTHBOUND INTO TING KOK ROAD ARE PROHIBITED.

\* THROUGH TRAFFIC FROM PANING TO SHA TIN SHOULD PROCEED VIA TING KOK ROAD (ROAD 2) LEADING FROM KWONG FUK ROAD WEST OF TING KOK ROAD TO ROAD 21. THESE VEHICLES SHOULD THEN BE ROUTED TO ROAD 21 BY TAI PO ROAD, BYPASSING TAI PO MARKET CENTRE.

\* VEHICLES FROM PANING HEADING FOR TAI PO MARKET SHOULD PROCEED VIA ROAD 2 EASTBOUND, TING KOK ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND KWONG FUK ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

\* MOTORISTS FROM SHA TIN HEADING FOR TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TAI MET TUN SHOULD TRAVEL VIA ROAD 22.

\* MOTORISTS FROM TAI PO MARKET CENTRE HEADING FOR TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SHOULD USE KWONG FUK ROAD NORTHBOUND, ROAD 2 EASTBOUND AND TING KOK ROAD NORTHBOUND.

\* BUSES ON KMB ROUTES 644, 654, 655, 656 AND 756 SOUTHBOUND AND MAXIBUS ON ROUTES 654 AND 655 SOUTHBOUND ARE DIVERTED VIA ROAD 2, TING KOK ROAD AND KWONG FUK ROAD.

\* THE BUS STOP ON KWONG FUK ROAD SOUTHBOUND NEAR THE PETROL STATION HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

\* BUSES ON KMB ROUTES 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759 AND 75K NORTHBOUND AND MAXIBUS ON ROUTES 754 AND 755 NORTHBOUND ARE DIVERTED VIA TING KOK ROAD AND KWONG FUK ROAD.