



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON DRAFT BASIC LAW

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) PASSED A MOTION ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW AFTER TWO DAYS OF DEBATE.

THE MOTION, WHICH WAS MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, WAS THAT "THE COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF 'THE DRAFT BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (FOR SOLICITATION OF OPINIONS)' AND URGES THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO STUDY THE DRAFT AND TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON IT".

FIFTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION TODAY AND A CONCLUDING SPEECH WAS GIVEN BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

TWELVE MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

AS HE WAS PRESIDING OVER A SITTING OF THE PRESENT COUNCIL FOR THE LAST TIME, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, GAVE A SPEECH AT THE END OF THE DAY'S BUSINESS, AND PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HARD WORK DONE BY COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY.

IN OTHER BUSINESS DURING THE SITTING, A PRIVATE BILL, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WAS PASSED.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO WORK OF COUNCILLORS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT ONLY DURING THIS SESSION BUT IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE OCTOBER 1985.

SIR DAVID, WHO WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM ON SATURDAY AND WILL BE AWAY FOR A MONTH, WAS PRESIDING OVER THE COUNCIL FOR THE LAST TIME THIS SESSION AND ALSO FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE THE COUNCIL IS DISSOLVED ON AUGUST 25.

"THOSE WHO ARE STATISTICALLY MINDED WILL LIKE TO NOTE THAT EACH OF THE LAST THREE SESSIONS HAS BROKEN NEW RECORDS," HE POINTED OUT.

HE NOTED THAT IN 1985-86 A RECORD NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED, WHILE IN 1986-87 THE COUNCIL HELD AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF DEBATES AND SAT FOR MORE HOURS THAN IN ANY OTHER SESSION IN ITS HISTORY.

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"BY THE TIME THAT THIS SESSION IS COMPLETED, IT IS LIKELY THAT WE SHALL HAVE ESTABLISHED A RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF BILLS PASSED INTO LAW," SIR DAVID SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE STATISTICS TOLD ONLY A FRACTION OF THE REAL STORY.

"THEY DO NOT REVEAL THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME AND WORK MEMBERS HAVE PUT INTO SCRUTINISING LEGISLATION IN AD HOC GROUPS; IN MONITORING GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN OMELCO PANELS; AND IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THAT BOTH THE STATISTICS AND THE UNDERLYING REALITY DEMONSTRATED THE IMMENSE EFFORTS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MADE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS, DRAFT LEGISLATION PASSED DOWN TO THE COUNCIL FOR ENACTMENT WAS OFTEN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.

FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNOR ADDED, CONSTRUCTIVE MONITORING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES COULD, AND DID, CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES WHICH REFLECTED THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"AT THE END OF THE LIFE OF THIS COUNCIL, I BELIEVE THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD RIGHTLY FEEL PROUD OF THE WAY IN WHICH THEY HAVE HELPED TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WORK TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THANKING MEMBERS GENERALLY, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SPECIAL MENTION OF THOSE APPOINTED MEMBERS WHO WOULD SOON HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TERMS.

NOTING THAT ALL SUCH APPOINTED MEMBERS HAD SERVED HONG KONG AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH DISTINCTION, ENERGY AND DEDICATION, HE SAID THAT SOME HAD SERVED THE COMMUNITY IN THE COUNCIL FOR UP TO 12 YEARS.

"THE COMMUNITY HAS REASON TO BE GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THEY HAVE SERVED US WELL. I THANK THEM ALL MOST WARMLY."

HE SAID THERE MIGHT ALSO BE SOME ELECTED MEMBERS WHO, THROUGH THE INEVITABLE VAGARIES OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, WOULD NOT RETURN IN OCTOBER.

/SHOULD THERE

SHOULD THERE BE ANY SUCH MEMBERS, SIR DAVID SAID, THEY WOULD TAKE WITH THEM THE GOOD WISHES OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL AND THE THANKS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNCIL DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS.

SIR DAVID ALSO THANKED THOSE WHO HAD WORKED SO TIRELESSLY BEHIND THE SCENES TO SERVICE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THESE INCLUDED THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HIS STAFF; THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OMELCO AND HER STAFF; THE INTERPRETERS AND CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS; THE TECHNICIANS; AND THE MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA WHO HAD COVERED THE PROCEEDINGS.

IN CONCLUSION, SIR DAVID SAID NO WORDS ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

"SHE HAS PERFORMED HER DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING ROLE WITH A SKILL, HUMOUR, GRACE AND PATIENCE WHICH HAVE WON HER THE ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION OF EVERYBODY," HE SAID.

"AS SENIOR MEMBER FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS SHE HAS HELPED GUIDE A COUNCIL WHICH HAS A CHANGED COMPOSITION, AND A NEW WORKING STYLE, BUT THE SAME UNSWERVING COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG."

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT HE WAS SURE COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND INDEED THE PUBLIC, WOULD WISH TO JOIN HIM IN THANKING MISS DUNN MOST WARMLY FOR A JOB WHICH HAD BEEN SUPERBLY WELL DONE.

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CLOSING SPEECH BY CS IN DEBATE

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH MADE TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, IN CONCLUDING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

SIR, I HAVE LISTENED TO THE TWO DAYS' DEBATES WITH GREAT ATTENTION. MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN ON THIS MOTION HAVE DISPLAYED A DEEP SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THEIR STUDY AND CLOSE ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, WHICH WILL LAY DOWN THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. I PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR HARD WORK.

/THE SINO-BRITISH

THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDES THAT THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHALL STIPULATE CHINA'S BASIC POLICIES REGARDING HONG KONG AS SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ELABORATED IN ITS ANNEX I, RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DRAFTING AND THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW OF COURSE RESTS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. BUT AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IN PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 20 THIS YEAR, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS A CO-SIGNATORY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, HAVE THE RIGHT TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT THE EVENTUAL PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW FULLY AND ACCURATELY REFLECT THE JOINT DECLARATION. TO THIS END, WE SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, AND TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR FUTURE EXCHANGES WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

IN THIS DEBATE, MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, E.G. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BASIC LAW FULLY REFLECTING THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT; THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PROMISED TO THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION BY THE JOINT DECLARATION, A FIRM GUARANTEE IN THE BASIC LAW OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY; AND THE PROTECTION OF BASIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, THE NEED FOR THE BASIC LAW TO GIVE THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT POINTS OVER WHICH MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN. I HAVE TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THEM. IF MEMBERS SO WISH, WE SHALL FORWARD THESE VIEWS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW HAS BEEN A VERY OPEN PROCESS AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IN THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT AND TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS. CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS FIRST DRAFT IS FAR FROM PERFECT AND WILL REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE COMMENTS MADE ON IT AND TO MEET HONG KONG CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THIS SPIRIT, THEY HAVE SAID THEY WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REVISING THE PRESENT DRAFT. IT IS THEREFORE VITAL THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORDING OF THE MOTION BEFORE MEMBERS, THE HONG KONG PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT AS IT NOW STANDS.

I HAVE NOTED OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS, AND INDEED IN RECENT WEEKS, THAT ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE BASIC LAW, THERE IS A CLEAR CONSENSUS OF VIEW WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. IN OTHER AREAS, THERE ARE STILL DIVERGENT VIEWS. I HOPE THAT ALL CONCERNED WILL COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN A FLEXIBLE AND POSITIVE WAY IN ORDER TO FIND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMMON GROUND. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY, AND I AM SURE FROM THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS' POINT OF VIEW AS WELL, A MEASURE OF CONSENSUS WILL HELP ENSURE THAT THE BASIC LAW IN ITS FINAL FORM WILL BE A WIDELY ACCEPTABLE, AND EFFECTIVELY WORKABLE, DOCUMENT.

SIR, WITH THESE REMARKS, I SUPPORT THE MOTION.

THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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DRAFT BASIC LAW LIMITS HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY

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MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HAVE CONSIDERED SOME AREAS OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW AMBIGUOUS, CONTRADICTORY AND NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

DR CHIU WAS THE FIRST SPEAKER ON THE SECOND DAY OF DEBATE ON A MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW AND URGE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO STUDY THE DRAFT AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON IT.

HE SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING THE BASIC LAW WAS TO TRULY AND HONESTLY TRANSLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION INTO LAW SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A LEGAL MANDATE TO SEE THAT THE PROMISES OF THE JOINT DECLARATION MATERIALISED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE PRINCIPLE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION HAD NOT BEEN REALISED BY THE DRAFT, ALTHOUGH THE PHRASES "HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY", "INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER" AND "INDEPENDENT LEGISLATURE" APPEARED REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT.

FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, SOME PEOPLE FELT THAT THE BASIC LAW, EVEN IN ITS DRAFTING STAGE, HAD TURNED INTO A POLICY GUIDELINE TO SET A LIMIT TO THE "HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY", HAMPER THE EXISTING INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND EXERCISE POLITICAL CONTROL.

DR CHIU LISTED THOSE AREAS IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW THAT WERE CONSIDERED TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION.

FIRSTLY, HE SAID, PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE 16, WHICH EMPOWERED THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE TO REVOKE LAWS DEVELOPED AND PASSED BY THE SAR LEGISLATURE, THAT THE NPC CONSIDERED TO BE NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE BASIC LAW, NOT ONLY CONTRADICTED THE SPIRIT OF COMMON LAW PRACTICE BUT ALSO DEPRIVED THE SAR LEGISLATURE OF ITS LEGISLATIVE POWER.

THE SECOND AREA CONCERNED PARAGRAPHS 2 TO 4 OF ARTICLE 17 WHICH ALLOWED THE LAW THAT GAVE EXPRESSION TO NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ENACTED BY NPC OR ITS STANDING COMMITTEE TO BE APPLIED IN THE SAR.

DR CHIU SAID THAT PROVISION WENT AGAINST THE PROVISION OF ANNEX II OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"AS THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION OF THE SCOPE OF THE LAWS TO BE APPLIED HERE, ANY LAWS CAN BE INTERPRETED AS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY RELATING TO 'NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY'.

/"THEREFORE, IF

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"THEREFORE, IF THIS ARTICLE REMAINS AS IT IS, THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE JEOPARDISED," HE SAID.

THIRDLY, HE SAID ARTICLE 18 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, WHICH PROVIDED THAT COURTS OF THE SAR SHOULD HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER CASES RELATING TO DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE EXECUTIVE ACTS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT, HAD CONTRAVENED PARAGRAPH 2 OF SECTION 3 IN ANNEX I OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

FOURTHLY, HE SAID, ARTICLE 22, WHICH PROVIDED THAT THE SAR SHOULD PROHIBIT BY LAW ANY ACT DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE NATIONAL UNITY OR SUBVERT THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT, WAS SO WIDE AND SO VAGUE THAT ANY ACTIONS COULD BE CITED UNDER THIS CATEGORY.

DR CHIU ALSO SAID THAT ARTICLE 169 ON THE POWER OF INTERPRETATION VESTED IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC WOULD LEAD TO CONFLICT WITH THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, IT WAS DEEMED NECESSARY TO CLARIFY THE VAGUE LANGUAGE OF A NUMBER OF PHRASES IN THE DRAFT.

DR CHIU CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO REFLECT TO CHINA, THROUGH THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNEL, THE CONCERNS THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF HIS MEDICAL COLLEAGUES, SO THAT NECESSARY AMENDMENTS WOULD BE MADE.

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DETAILED CONSIDERATION MAY CONFUSE 'MAN IN STREET'

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THE INTENTION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN AGREEING TO DRAFT THE BASIC LAW IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN LEGAL PRECISION IN THE DOCUMENT, THE HON THOMAS CLYDESDALE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR CLYDESDALE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE CHINA WAS DOING ITS UTMOST TO LEAVE HONG KONG AS A POLITICAL, EXECUTIVE-LED, ECONOMICALLY ORIENTED AND SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ENTITY, IT MUST ALSO HAVE REGARD FOR ITS OWN SOVEREIGN AND CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND RIGHTS.

"WE SHALL ARGUE OUT THE LEGAL INTERPRETATION AND EVEN THE POLICY CONTENT OF THE BASIC LAW, BUT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT CHINA TO PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH DE FACTO INDEPENDENCE," HE SAID.

/HE FEARED

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HE FEARED THAT THE EXTREMELY DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF EVERY WORD IN THE DRAFT, AND THE PRECISE MEANING VARIOUSLY ASCRIBED TO WORDS, GROUPS OF WORDS, PARAGRAPHS AND PROVISIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLIED BY EVERY LEGAL, ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE EXPERT IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE, COULD HAVE TWO UNFORTUNATE RESULTS.

"THE FIRST IS THAT THE UBIQUITOUS 'MAN IN THE STREET', THAT IS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WILL BECOME TOTALLY CONFUSED AS TO THE OVERALL WORTH OF THE BASIC LAW AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT CAN BE TRUSTED TO DO WHAT IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY REQUIRED TO DO," HE SAID.

"THE SECOND UNFORTUNATE RESULT MAY BE THAT THE CONFUSION OVER WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS BAD, OR MERELY INDIFFERENT IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW WILL ADD TO THE ALREADY HIGH LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY AFFECTING OUR CHINESE MIDDLE CLASS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO VOTE WITH THEIR FEET."

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE COMMERCIAL CONSTITUENCY WHICH HE REPRESENTED, MR CLYDESDALE HOPED THAT ENGLISH WOULD BE RECOGNISED AS A SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

"IT MUST BE OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE THAT HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS STATUS AND PERFORMANCE OWES A GREAT DEAL TO THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, NOT ONLY IN OUR EXTERNAL BUSINESS BUT ALSO IN LOCAL COMMERCE AND IN GOVERNMENT.

"RECOGNITION OF THIS IMPORTANT MATTER IN THE BASIC LAW WOULD PROVIDE BOTH ASSURANCE OF A CONTINUATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG AND ALSO AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO LOCAL PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN A BILINGUAL PHILOSOPHY," HE OBSERVED.

MR CLYDESDALE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT POLICY GUIDELINES SHOULD BE LIFTED OUT OF THE BASIC LAW AND PLACED INTO AN ANNEX WHICH NEED NOT HAVE PRECISE LEGAL EFFECT.

POLICY WAS FLEXIBLE AND MUST BE CAPABLE OF ADJUSTMENT TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM LAW, HE NOTED.

MOREOVER, HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY ABOUT THE RIGHT OF THE SAR TO HAVE, TO MODIFY, TO OPERATE, AND TO ENJOY, THE FRUITS OF ITS OWN TAXATION SYSTEM.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLES 106 AND 108 BE AMALGAMATED WITH ARTICLE 108 TAKING PRECEDENCE. ARTICLE 107, WHICH STIPULATED A LOW TAX POLICY FOR HONG KONG, COULD SERVE AS A POLICY GUIDELINE.

/WHILE STRESSING

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WHILE STRESSING THE NEED TO KEEP THE EXPORT QUOTAS AND PREFERENCES OF HONG KONG AND CHINA SEPARATE, MR CLYDESDALE DREW ATTENTION TO A MISTAKE IN THE DRAFTING OF ARTICLE 121.

"THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN THE DRAFT FOR THE SAR TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN DOES NOT INCLUDE CERTIFICATES OF FOREIGN ORIGIN, INCLUDING CHINESE ORIGIN, WHICH ARE NEEDED FOR THE HUGE AND EXPANDING RE-EXPORT MARKET.

"IN FACT, ALTHOUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN FOR RE-EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG, THE OTHER ORGANISATIONS APPROVED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN DO, IN FACT, ISSUE MANY THOUSANDS OF THESE DOCUMENTS EVERY MONTH.

"I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT REMAINS CENTRALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MOREOVER, CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS SHOULD REFER TO HONG KONG ORIGIN AND NOT, AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME, AS HONG KONG, CHINA ORIGIN - WHICH COULD LEAD TO CONFUSION.

MR CLYDESDALE SAID HIS CONSTITUENCY RECOGNISED THE ANOMALIES AND PROBLEMS WITH NATIONALITY WHICH COULD LIMIT THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE BRAINPOWER AND SKILLS THAT HONG KONG HAD.

"WE ARE AN INTERNATIONAL CITY IN MOST SENSES OF THE WORD AND OUR CONTINUING SUCCESS MUST RELY ON THE MOST LIBERAL INTERPRETATION POSSIBLE OF THE RIGHT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO STAY HERE, TO TAKE PART IN ALL ASPECTS OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE MANY MINORITIES HERE AND OFTEN THEY REPRESENT THIRD OR FOURTH GENERATION COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG. THEY HAVE TO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR TALENTS ARE NEEDED AND THAT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SAFEGUARDED.

"WE ARE A MULTINATIONAL SOCIETY AND OUR ECONOMIC VITALITY HAS BEEN FOUNDED ON THE HOMOGENEITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

"NATIONALITY IN THE BASIC LAW SHOULD HAVE REGARD TO THIS UNDENIABLE SITUATION."

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ARTICLES ON JUDICIARY, INTERPRETATION SHOULD BE AMENDED

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ARTICLE 18 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW CONCERNING THE JUDICIARY AND ARTICLE 169 CONCERNING INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY AMENDED, THE HON MARTIN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, MR LEE SAID THAT A PROVISION IN ARTICLE 18 WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

THIS WAS THE PROVISION THAT "COURTS OF THE HKSAR SHALL HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER CASES RELATING TO DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AND CASES RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE ACTS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT".

THE FORMULATION IN ARTICLE 18 WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT CAST A WIDER NET OF EXCLUSION THAN UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT JUSTICIABLE IN THE COURTS DID FALL WITHIN THE DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NOT EVERY CASE RELATING TO DEFENCE OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE HONG KONG COURTS TODAY.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE LIMITS OF JURISDICTION SOUGHT TO BE IMPOSED ON THE COURTS OF THE HKSAR BY THE PRESENT ARTICLE REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION," HE SAID.

"AND THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF MEMBERS OF THE BLDC WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT WHAT THE COURTS CAN TRY TODAY, THE COURTS OF THE HKSAR CAN ALSO TRY AFTER 1997."

AS TO THE EXCLUSION FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE HKSAR COURTS "CASES RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE ACTS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT", HE SAID THE RATIONALE BEHIND THIS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT UNDER THE CROWN PROCEEDINGS ORDINANCE, ALTHOUGH ANY PERSON WHO HAD SUFFERED DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF A CIVIL WRONG DONE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, MIGHT BRING AN ACTION IN HONG KONG AGAINST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, NO SUCH PROCEEDINGS MIGHT BE BROUGHT IN HONG KONG AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF ANY ACT, NEGLIGENCE OR DEFAULT OF ANY OF ITS OFFICERS OR AGENTS.

AND IN SUCH CASES, THE AGGRIEVED PARTY WOULD HAVE TO INSTITUTE HIS ACTION AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN AN ENGLISH COURT.

HE SAID: "BUT THE ANALOGY IS NOT APPROPRIATE BECAUSE THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM IS ALMOST THE SAME AS OURS, AND THEIR LEGAL PROCEDURES ARE ALSO SIMILAR.

/ "SO EVEN

"SO EVEN IF AN AGGRIEVED CITIZEN IN HONG KONG HAS TO BRING HIS ACTION IN AN ENGLISH COURT, HE WILL NOT SUFFER ANY SIGNIFICANT DISADVANTAGE APART FROM HAVING TO BRING HIS ACTION IN ENGLAND."

BUT UNDER ARTICLE 18, HE NOTED, IF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT (CPG) HAD DONE A CIVIL WRONG IN THE HKSAR AND IF SUCH A WRONG COULD NOT BE REDRESSED IN THE COURT OF THE HKSAR UNDER THE LAWS WHICH APPLIED TO THE HKSAR, THEN THE AGGRIEVED PARTY WOULD SUFFER CERTAIN DISADVANTAGES.

MR LEE SAID: "IT IS NOT EVEN CLEAR WHETHER A HONG KONG RESIDENT CAN BRING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CPG IN THE PEOPLE'S SUPREME COURT IN MAINLAND CHINA."

"EVEN IF HE CAN, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER HE CAN ENFORCE LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH ARE ONLY RECOGNISED IN THE HKSAR AND NOT IN MAINLAND CHINA."

HE GAVE AN ILLUSTRATION TO SHOW THAT UNLESS ARTICLE 18 WAS AMENDED, ALL THE ARTICLES IN CHAPTER 3 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW PERTAINING TO CIVIL LIBERTIES MIGHT BE RENDERED NUGATORY.

HE SAID: "A PERSON IS ARRESTED IN THE HKSAR ON BEHALF OF THE CPG ON THE GROUND THAT HE IS SUSPECTED TO BE A SPY."

"HIS WIFE GOES TO A LAWYER WHO INSTITUTES AN ACTION IN THE HIGH COURT FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS SO THAT HE COULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT AND DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO LAW."

"BUT UNDER ARTICLE 18, THE COURT WILL HAVE NO JURISDICTION TO ENQUIRE INTO THE MATTER, AS IT IS AN EXECUTIVE ACT OF THE CPG."

MR LEE SAID MEMBERS OF THE OMELCO CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL WERE OF THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE UP TO THE COURTS TO DECIDE WHETHER A PARTICULAR ACT WAS OR WAS NOT AN ACT OF STATE; AND THAT IN RELATION TO FACTS OF STATE, THE COURT SHOULD BE GIVEN A DISCRETION TO ASK FOR A CERTIFICATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES ONLY WHEN IN DOUBT, AND NOT WHEN THE MATTER WAS CLEAR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THESE VIEWS COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY AMENDING SECTION 18 AS FOLLOWS:

'THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IS VESTED WITH INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER, INCLUDING THAT OF FINAL ADJUDICATION.

'THE COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ALL CASES IN THE REGION EXCEPT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS OF THEIR JURISDICTION IMPOSED BY HONG KONG'S PREVIOUS LEGAL SYSTEM AND PRINCIPLES SHALL BE MAINTAINED.

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'THE COURTS OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHALL SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS OF THE COMMON LAW WHEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE ARISE IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REGARDING SUCH QUESTIONS SHALL BE BINDING ON THE COURTS.

'BEFORE ISSUING SUCH A STATEMENT, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHALL OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OR THE STATE COUNCIL.

'REGULATIONS REGARDING THE HANDLING BY COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CASES RELATING TO ORGANISATIONS, ORGANS OF STATE POWER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED IN ARTICLES 13 AND 21 OF CHAPTER 2) OR THEIR PERSONNEL AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING COMPENSATIONS BY ORGANISATIONS, ORGANS OF STATE POWER AND THE PERSONNEL CONCERNED, SHALL BE STIPULATED BY THE LAW OF THE REGION'.

TURNING TO ARTICLE 169, MR LEE SAID ONE PROVISION IN THAT ARTICLE WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

IT PROVIDED, IN EFFECT, THAT WHENEVER A CASE CAME UP BEFORE THE SAR COURTS INVOLVING THE INTERPRETATION OF AN ARTICLE OF THE BASIC LAW REGARDING "DEFENCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR OTHER AFFAIRS WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT", THE SAR COURTS MUST NOT CONSTRUE THE RELEVANT ARTICLE.

INSTEAD, THEY MUST ADJOURN THE CASE AND REFER THE QUESTION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR A DETERMINATION.

AFTER THAT, THE HEARING WOULD RESUME BUT THE JUDGE WAS BOUND BY THE INTERPRETATION PUT ON THE RELEVANT ARTICLE BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC.

MR LEE ALSO SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL HAD REACHED CONSENSUS ON THIS ARTICLE.

HE SAID MEMBERS OF THE PANEL FELT THAT SAR COURTS SHOULD HAVE POWER TO INTERPRET ALL THE ARTICLES OF THE BASIC LAW.

AND WHILE RECOGNISING THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC HAD THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWER AND DUTY TO INTERPRET THE BASIC LAW, MEMBERS FELT THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE SHOULD IRREVOCABLY DELEGATE ITS POWER TO INTERPRET THOSE ARTICLES OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH WERE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SAR'S AUTONOMY TO THE SAR COURTS WHEN ADJUDICATING CASES.

/AS TO

AS TO THE OTHER ARTICLES WHICH FELL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE SAR'S AUTONOMY, MR LEE SAID THE MEMBERS FELT THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC COULD, IF IT THOUGHT FIT, INTERPRET ANY SUCH ARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT ITS INTERPRETATION, IF CONTRARY TO THAT PUT ON THE SAME ARTICLE BY THE SAR COURTS, SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE RESULT OF ALL CASES PREVIOUSLY DECIDED.

HE BELIEVED THE PANEL MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THIS ARTICLE COULD BE DEALT WITH BY AMENDING IT AS FOLLOWS:

'THE POWER OF INTERPRETATION OF THIS LAW IS VESTED IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. THE COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION MAY INTERPRET ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS LAW.

'REGARDING THE PROVISIONS WHICH ARE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE AUTONOMY OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WILL IRREVOCABLY DELEGATE ITS POWER TO THE COURTS OF THE REGION TO INTERPRET THEM WHEN ADJUDICATING CASES.

'WHEN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS MAKES AN INTERPRETATION OF A PROVISION OF THIS LAW WHICH IS OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF THE AUTONOMY OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, THE COURTS OF THE REGION, IN APPLYING SUCH A PROVISION, SHALL FOLLOW THE INTERPRETATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, CASES UNDER ADJUDICATION AND JUDGEMENTS PREVIOUSLY RENDERED SHALL NOT BE AFFECTED.

'THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SHALL CONSULT ITS COMMITTEE FOR THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION BEFORE GIVING AN INTERPRETATION OF THIS LAW.

'THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTERS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 10 OF THIS LAW ARE OR ARE DEEMED TO BE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE AUTONOMY OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE PROVISIONS OF THE OTHER CHAPTERS OF THIS LAW ARE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE AUTONOMY OF THE REGION MAY BE DECIDED BY THE COURTS OF THE REGION OR BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. THE STANDING COMMITTEE WILL CONSULT THE COMMITTEE FOR THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. THE DECISION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SHALL BE FINAL'.

TURNING TO THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE, MR LEE SAID THE DRAFT BASIC LAW DID NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT POWERS TO THE LEGISLATURE TO ENABLE IT TO EXERT THE NECESSARY CHECKS AND BALANCES ON THE EXECUTIVE.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO SPOKE AGAINST THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONCEPT AS PUT FORWARD BY THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP OF 81. HE SAID THAT FROM THE BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY THE GROUP, ONE COULD SEE THAT THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE WOULD CONSIST OF MAINLY PEOPLE FROM THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

THEREFORE, THE PERSON CHOSEN BY THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE TO BE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THESE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, AND YET HE WAS NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE OF THE SAR.

"IF SUCH A CHIEF EXECUTIVE WISHES TO SEEK ANOTHER TERM, HE WILL MAKE SURE THAT HE HAS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS FROM THESE SECTORS BY MAKING PROMISES TO THEM WHICH MAY NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HKSAR AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

AS TO THE LEGISLATURE, IT WAS PROPOSED BY THE GROUP OF 81 THAT 25 PER CENT OF THE MEMBERS SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

"BUT THIS IS REALLY AN APPOINTMENT SYSTEM, FOR THE RESULT CAN BE VERY EASILY MANIPULATED," HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ONE OBJECT FOR THIS PROPOSAL WAS TO ENABLE PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS TO BE "ELECTED" INTO THE LEGISLATURE, SO AS TO PRESERVE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF HAVING OFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE WAS PROPOSED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A PRE-DETERMINED RESULT.

"BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO PROVIDE FOR SUCH AN ELABORATE AND UNSATISFACTORY SYSTEM OF ELECTION JUST TO CATER FOR THESE PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS. SURELY THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES," HE SAID.

THE FIRST WAS TO HAVE WHAT WAS COMMONLY CALLED THE MINISTERIAL SYSTEM WHEREBY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE NOMINATED FROM THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO WOULD THEN BE APPOINTED BY CHINA AS PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WAS TO PROVIDE IN THE BASIC LAW THAT PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN ALL MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BUT WITHOUT A VOTE.

THEY WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND MOVE BILLS ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE.

THIS WAS REALLY FOLLOWING THE PRESENT PRACTICE IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, WHERE THE EX-OFFICIO GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WERE NOT GIVEN A VOTE.

/MR LEE

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MR LEE ALSO SPOKE AGAINST FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS. HE SAID IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WOULD PUT THE SECTIONAL INTERESTS OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES ABOVE THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"AND IF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WERE TO BE ELECTED BY THIS METHOD, THEN THE LEGISLATURE WOULD BECOME VERY LOOSE OR EVEN FRAGMENTED. AND IT WOULD ALSO REDUCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG'S INTERESTS NOT GIVEN DUE ATTENTION

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THE DRAFT BASIC LAW HAD ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE AND EMPHASIS TO CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT WHILE THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN DUE ATTENTION, THE HON LIU LIT-FOR SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE GREAT EMPHASIS ON CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT WOULD UNDERMINE HONG KONG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE, MR LIU SAID DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID THAT DUE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AMENDING OR DELETING CERTAIN CLAUSES WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE CONSIDERABLE ANXIETIES AND FEARS AMONG THE COMMUNITY.

AN EXAMPLE WAS THE CONTROVERSIAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 22, HE SAID.

HONG KONG HAD ALL ALONG HAD VERY LITTLE IDEA ABOUT OFFENCES THAT "UNDERMINE NATIONAL UNITY" OR "SUBVERT THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT".

THEIR INCLUSION IN THE BASIC LAW IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INTERPRETATION OR DEFINITION REGARDING THOSE OFFENCES WOULD SIMPLY AROUSE UNDUE ANXIETIES AND FEARS.

FURTHERMORE, MR LIU SAID, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROVISION THAT "THE HKSAR WILL ENJOY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY" AS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION HAD BEEN OMITTED IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

THIS HAD CAUSED GREAT CONCERN OVER WHETHER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD INTERFERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG OTHER THAN IN DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REGARDING THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE RESIDENTS, MR LIU MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE DEFINITION OF "THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE HKSAR".

/ACCORDING TO

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ACCORDING TO THE DRAFT, ONLY THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO STAND FOR ELECTION.

IN ADDITION, ONLY CHINESE NATIONALS AMONG THESE PERMANENT RESIDENTS MIGHT FILL SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSTS.

IF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN HONG KONG AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WITH DUAL NATIONALITY FELT THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS TO THEIR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT AND LEFT HONG KONG FOR GREENER PASTURES ELSEWHERE, IT WOULD BE A BIG LOSS FOR HONG KONG AND WOULD AFFECT STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, HE SAID.

ON THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE, MR LIU SAID THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE METHODS FOR SELECTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONSTITUTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND FORMING THE FIRST GOVERNMENT AND THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE SAR HAD GIVEN RISE TO HEATED ARGUMENTS AMONG PEOPLE WHO HELD DIFFERENT VIEWS.

HE HOPED THAT THROUGH SENSIBLE AND REASONABLE DISCUSSION, AN ELECTION SYSTEM THAT SUITED HONG KONG BEST COULD BE FORMULATED.

MR LIU SAID THE ALTERNATIVES LISTED IN THE DRAFT WERE NEITHER COMPLETE NOR MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE TO EACH OTHER.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE METHODS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE THE OUTCOME OF COMPROMISE AND THAT THEY CAN BE COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER, MEETING THE INTERESTS OF ALL SECTORS," HE ADDED.

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GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONCEPT SUPPORTED
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SUPPORT FOR THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONCEPT PUT FORWARD BY THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP OF BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WAS EXPRESSED BY THE HON EDWARD HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE PROPOSED GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE WOULD COMPRISE 600 REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG, MR HO SAID DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE WOULD BE ELECTED FROM THEIR OWN ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL AND LABOUR BODIES, BY A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THEY IN TURN WOULD ELECT TO THE LEGISLATURE 25 PER CENT OF ITS MEMBERS.

THOSE WHO CRITICISED THE MODEL CHARGED THAT IT WAS UNDEMOCRATIC AND THAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE VESTED INTERESTS OF THE RICH, MR HO NOTED.

"THE TRUTH IS THAT THE GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, ALL DULY ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY," HE SAID.

THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP OF 81 WAS FRANKLY CONCERNED THAT OTHER ALTERNATIVES OF POLITICAL STRUCTURE FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WOULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATIONAL PARTY POLITICS WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE SOCIAL ORDER AND TRADITIONAL HARMONY OF THE COMMUNITY, AND EVEN INCITE THE ENTRY OF EXTERNAL POLITICAL INFLUENCE, HE SAID.

MR HO WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT NO CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED AMONG HONG KONG MEMBERS OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON SUCH CRUCIAL ISSUES AS HOW THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE CHOSEN AND HOW THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD BE FORMED.

"IF HONG KONG PEOPLE DO NOT AGREE, THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES WILL BE DECIDED ON THEIR BEHALF," HE SAID.

"I AM HOPING THAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN AT LEAST AGREE THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WHEN FORMULATING THE MODEL OF OUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THAT IT WILL ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE AND FURTHERANCE OF PROSPERITY AND STABILITY FOR HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

MR HO ALSO WARNED THAT IT WOULD BE A FATAL MISCONCEPTION THAT DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE USED AS A MEANS TO AVOID INTERVENTION BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

IF HONG KONG REMAINED PROSPEROUS AND STABLE, THE CHINESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SAR.

"BUT LET US BE REALISTIC ABOUT IT: IF HONG KONG SHOULD SUFFER SEVERE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION AND CIVIL DISORDER FROM WHICH IT CANNOT EXTRICATE ITSELF, CHINA WILL HAVE TO INTERVENE, DEMOCRACY OR NOT," HE SAID.

TURNING TO ARTICLE 150 CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, MR HO SAID MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES FELT THAT THE POWER TO DEAL WITH MATTERS CONCERNING THE PROFESSIONS SHOULD BE VESTED WITH THE SAR RATHER THAN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

BESIDES, THE SAR GOVERNMENT SHOULD ONLY BE CONCERNED WITH THE STATUTORY FUNCTION OF LICENSING, WHILE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE CONFERRED BY THE RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH SHOULD RETAIN THEIR AUTONOMY.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE BASIC PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN MET IN THE DRAFT, BUT THAT FURTHER REFINEMENTS IN THE TEXT ARE NECESSARY TO GIVE ABSOLUTE CLARITY," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF NINE PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING THE LEGAL, MEDICAL, DENTAL, ACCOUNTANCY, ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND PLANNING PROFESSIONS HAD FORMED A WORKING GROUP TO MEET REGULARLY TO STUDY THIS PARTICULAR CLAUSE AS WELL AS THE BASIC LAW GENERALLY.

IT WAS HOPED THAT A JOINT SUBMISSION WOULD BE MADE TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

MR HO SAID THAT HE, AS CONVENER OF THAT WORKING GROUP, WAS MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THAT NINE PROFESSIONS WOULD HAVE WORKED TOGETHER FOR A COMMON OBJECTIVE.

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MEASURES TO MEET CONTAINER PARKING NEEDS

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PLANS ARE IN HAND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LAND FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING AND REPAIR AS WELL AS CONTAINER STORAGE IN BOTH THE SHORT AND LONG TERMS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR CANICE MAK, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR MAK ALSO ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A KWAI TSING DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP.

HE SAID WHILE THE WORKING GROUP LOOKED INTO THE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTAINER BACKUP FACILITIES IN THE KWAI TSING CONTAINER PORT AREA, THE LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS WERE BEING EXAMINED BY CONSULTANTS AS PART OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDY.

THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK, WAS SET UP IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS TO LOOK AT THE EXISTING LAND STOCK WITHIN KWAI TSING AND TSUEN WAN - THE CONTAINER PORT AREA - AND COME TO A VIEW ON THE SHORT TERM SUPPLY AND DEMAND POSITION. THE INTENTION WAS TO GIVE THE TRADE AN IDEA OF LAND AVAILABILITY WITHIN THE DISTRICT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE WORKING GROUP HAS ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS AIMED TO IMPROVE THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF BACKUP FACILITIES AT THE CONTAINER PORT AREA.

MR MAK SAID THAT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, IN VIEW OF THE COMPETING DEMAND FOR LAND USE FROM OTHER PROJECTS IN THE PORT AREA, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT TO AT LEAST MAINTAIN THE CURRENT AMOUNT OF LAND USED FOR THE CONTAINER TRADE IN THE SHORT TERM.

"AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE LAND AVAILABLE IN THE KWAI TSING AREA OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING. THE REMAINING ONE-THIRD WOULD BE FOR CONTAINER STORAGE," HE SAID.

"IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING, THE GOVERNMENT WILL INCLUDE A PRICE CONTROL CLAUSE IN THE LEASE CONDITIONS OF NEW SHORT-TERM TENANCY SITES FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING.

"THIS CLAUSE WILL EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO VETO INCREASES IN PARKING CHARGES IF HE FINDS THAT THE INCREASE IS UNREASONABLY HIGH AND WILL SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE UTILISATION OF THE SPACES FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD.

/ "THE CONTAINER

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"THE CONTAINER VEHICLE PARK OPERATORS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO GIVE THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER ONE MONTH PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF ANY INCREASE IN PARKING FEES," HE ADDED.

THE HONG KONG CONTAINER TRACTOR OWNER ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR A DIRECT GRANT OF LAND FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION TO DEPART FROM THE PRESENT POLICY OF LETTING LAND ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY WAY OF OPEN TENDER.

MR MAK SAID THAT AN ADDITIONAL SHORT-TERM TENANCY SITE FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING IN TSING YI (STT 3026) WAS AVAILABLE AND WOULD SHORTLY BE PUT OUT TO TENDER TOGETHER WITH STT 716 WHICH WAS AT PRESENT OCCUPIED BY THE HONG KONG CONTAINER TRACTOR OWNER ASSOCIATION.

THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP, WILL CONSIDER MAKING ADDITIONAL LAND IN OTHER AREAS AVAILABLE FOR BACKUP FACILITIES SUCH AS REPAIRS AND STORAGE WHICH NEED NOT BE LOCATED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CONTAINER PORT AREA.

PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND MAY ALSO CONTINUE TO BE USED TO MEET ADDITIONAL DEMAND. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WAYS TO EXPEDITE COMPLETION OF THE RECLAMATION WORK FOR THE TERMINAL 7 BACKUP AREAS.

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URBAN COUNCILLORS VISIT EPD
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR GERRY FORSGATE, AND FELLOW COUNCILLORS TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) AND WERE BRIEFED ON THE MANY ASPECTS OF EPD'S WORK THAT RELATE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL.

AFTER A GENERAL BRIEFING BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK, THERE WERE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON A NEW STRATEGY WHICH IS BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTES COLLECTED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

EPD STAFF DREW THE COUNCILLORS' ATTENTION TO THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING LOCAL REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS (RTS) AT CONVENIENT LOCATIONS SO THAT USD'S REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES COULD DISPOSE OF THE WASTES AFTER A SHORT ROAD JOURNEY.

NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALREADY STARTED WITH THREE GROUPS WHO HAVE TENDERED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST OF THESE RTS'S AT A SITE IN KOWLOON BAY.

OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT WERE THE PLANS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AT THE BEACHES ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND, THE HANDLING OF POLLUTION COMPLAINTS AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL.

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TSUEN WAN DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY REPORT

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DISTRICT STRATEGY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR 1988-91.

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER THREE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE AN ENQUIRY HOTLINE SERVICE FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS, TO LAUNCH A DISTRICT ORGANISATION NURTURE SCHEME AND TO HOLD A GATHERING FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE COMMITTEE'S VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION COMMITTEE TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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KWAI TSING DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS TWO WORKING GROUP REPORTS, ON EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS AND ON A QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY OF THE DISTRICT, AT A MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CLEARANCE OF FUNG SHUE WO TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AND THE NUMBER OF BURGLARY CASES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN TYPE Y HOUSING ESTATES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO.3 AND ON REHABILITATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

THE COMMITTEE'S NINE WORKING GROUPS WILL GIVE PROGRESS REPORTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

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ISLANDS DB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW WORKS PROGRESS

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL REVIEW THE PROGRESS REPORT ON APPROVED PROJECTS FOR 1988-89 AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AMONG THE 14 PROJECTS LISTED IN THE REPORT, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PAVILION NEXT TO THE NGONG PING CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT TAI O, LANTAU, HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THE 14 PROJECTS INVOLVE OVER \$1 MILLION.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A SCHEDULE FOR VISITS TO THE PROJECT SITES.

THE YEAR'S GRASS-CUTTING PROGRAMME IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT IS ALSO ON THE AGENDA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MARCH - MAY

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL IN THE THREE MONTHS MARCH - MAY 1988, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS HAVE REMAINED TIGHT, WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE FULLY EMPLOYED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1988 WAS 1.7 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 AND 1.9 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD AND THE DECREASE OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

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THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN MARCH - MAY 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 47,700, COMPARED WITH 44,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 AND 50,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1988 WAS 0.8 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1988. THE RATE FOR MARCH - MAY 1987 WAS 1.1 PER CENT.

THE DECREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR MARCH - MAY 1988 WAS 22,600, COMPARED WITH 22,700 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 AND 29,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1987.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION. THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1988 WAS 1.8 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.7 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 49,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1988 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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SEMINAR ON STAFF RETENTION, LABOUR RELATIONS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A SEMINAR TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR SOME 100 EMPLOYERS, PERSONNEL MANAGERS AND EXECUTIVES IN THE RETAIL TRADE IN HONG KONG.

THE SEMINAR IS AIMED AT PROVIDING A FORUM FOR PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION, CURRENT STATUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE TRADE.

GUEST SPEAKERS INVITED TO GIVE TALKS INCLUDE MR WILLIAM WONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE, RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION; DR TSE KA-KUI, GENERAL MANAGER OF PAT DAVIE LTD.; MISS ELLEN SIU, MANAGER OF THE INDUSTRY TRAINING DEPARTMENT, HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION; MR ORLANDO CHAN, PERSONNEL MANAGER OF A.S. WATSON AND CO. LTD.; AND MR CHOW TUNG-SHAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, WILL ADDRESS THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR AT 9 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY). THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, 14TH FLOOR, FAIRMONT HOUSE, 8 COTTON TREE DRIVE, CENTRAL.

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ONE-DAY SEMINAR FOR CAREERS TEACHERS

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MORE THAN 100 CAREERS TEACHERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION TO BE HELD AT THE Y.C. LIANG HALL OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE ONE-DAY EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS.

THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR IS TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK IN THE 90'S. GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE MRS GRACE CHOW, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, CHINESE UNIVERSITY; MR CHAN HIN-SANG, PERSONNEL OFFICER, CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. LTD.; AND MR RAYMOND LEUNG, LABOUR OFFICER, LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

/THEY WILL

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THEY WILL SPEAK RESPECTIVELY ON PREPARATION FOR JOINING THE WORLD OF WORK, LADDER OF SUCCESS FOR YOUNG SCHOOL LEAVERS, AND JOB-SEEKERS AND CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DAVID LAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, MR CHAN JOE-CHAK, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TOMORROW.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE Y.C. LIANG HALL, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SHA TIN, AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY). YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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CARNIVAL TO START OFF SYP IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL START OFF ON SUNDAY (JULY 17) WITH A FOUR-HOUR CARNIVAL AT THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE CARNIVAL, LASTING FROM 1.15 PM TO 5.30 PM, WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW, VIDEO SHOW, AN EXHIBITION ON TRAVEL MATTERS AND STALL GAMES.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS BRANCH OFFICES, AND AT THE ABERDEEN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE DISTRICT'S SYP WILL BE HELD AT 1.30 PM DURING THE CARNIVAL.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE SYP COMMITTEE, MR PETER LEE; CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR YUNG CHEK-CHOW; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ABERDEEN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MR SHIH CHEN-CHI.

UNDER THE SYP, 240 ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD FOR YOUNGSTERS IN THE DISTRICT. DETAILS OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE CONTAINED IN A COLOURFUL BOOKLET NOW OBTAINABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS BRANCH OFFICES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO BE HELD AT 1.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 17) AT THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE.

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EXHIBITIONS TO PUBLICISE VOCATIONAL TRAINING
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AN EXHIBITION ON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN.

IT IS ONE OF FOUR EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO PUBLICISE COURSES OFFERED BY THE COUNCIL'S EIGHT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND 16 TRAINING CENTRES.

THE VENUES AND DATES OF THE EXHIBITIONS ARE:-

SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA	:	JULY 15 TO 22
TAIKOO SHING CITYPLAZA	:	JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2
TUEN MUN NEW TOWN PLAZA	:	AUGUST 4 TO 9
NEW WORLD CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI	:	AUGUST 10 TO 16

THE EXHIBITIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM.

TEACHERS, PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE EXHIBITIONS. VTC STAFF WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULA, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, CAREER PROSPECTS OF GRADUATES AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

TO TIE IN WITH THE EXHIBITION, A VARIETY SHOW ORGANISED BY THE VTC AND PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL BE STAGED AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA ON SATURDAY (JULY 16), STARTING AT 4 PM. IT WILL FEATURE GAMES AND PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS.

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NEW SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX FOR TAI PO
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TAI PO RESIDENTS WILL HAVE A NEW SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS NOW CALLING FOR TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPLEX AND WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER.

THE COMPLEX WILL COMPRISE A MAIN POOL AND A PADDLING POOL.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A SUN-BATHING AREA, A 600-SEAT RESTAURANT, A SPECTATOR STAND FOR 600 PEOPLE, CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS, AN EXERCISE ROOM, A FIRST-AID ROOM, PLANT ROOMS AND OFFICES.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JULY 29.

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MORE CONVENIENT COLLECTION OF REGISTERED LETTERS

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FROM JULY 18, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO COLLECT A REGISTERED LETTER, WHICH A POSTMAN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER, FROM THE POST OFFICE NEAREST TO THEIR HOMES, OR, IF THEY DECIDE, FROM ANY POST OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

AT PRESENT, TWO ATTEMPTS ARE MADE BY THE POSTMEN TO DELIVER REGISTERED ITEMS TO ADDRESSEES' PREMISES.

IF THE REGISTERED ITEMS STILL CANNOT BE DELIVERED AFTER THE SECOND ATTEMPT (FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE ADDRESSEES OR THEIR FAMILIES ARE NOT AT HOME) THE ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE TO COLLECT THE ITEMS FROM THE DELIVERY OFFICE THAT SERVES THEIR AREAS.

THIS DELIVERY OFFICE, ONE OF 23 SUCH OFFICES, MAY BE SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE HOMES OR OFFICES OF THE ADDRESSEES AND HENCE NOT CONVENIENT TO THEM.

IN FUTURE, THE POSTMEN WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE TWO ATTEMPTS TO DELIVER REGISTERED ITEMS.

HOWEVER, SHOULD THE ITEMS BE UNDELIVERABLE AT THE SECOND ATTEMPT, THE ADDRESSEES WILL BE REQUESTED TO COLLECT THEM FROM THE NEAREST POST OFFICE.

IF THE ADDRESSEES PREFER, THEY MAY MAKE A TELEPHONE REQUEST TO CHANGE THE COLLECTION OFFICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL BE SHOWN ON THE NOTIFICATION CARD.

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DEADLINE NEAR FOR RETURNING C & S QUESTIONNAIRES

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED RESPONDENTS TO COMPLETE AND RETURN QUESTIONNAIRES CONCERNING FIVE ECONOMIC SURVEYS FOR THE YEAR 1987.

THE SURVEYS ARE:

- (I) SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION;
- (II) SURVEY OF WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS;
- (III) SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS;
- (IV) SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES; AND
- (V) SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES.

/THESE SURVEYS

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THESE SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AS PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME OF COLLECTING ECONOMIC STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT SECTORS IN THE ECONOMY.

SUCH ECONOMIC DATA ARE NEEDED FOR ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC SECTORS TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF HONG KONG.

THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEYS WILL ALSO BE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL IN APRIL AND MAY THIS YEAR TO SOME 27,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN SAMPLED FOR THE SURVEYS. THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31 THIS YEAR.

IN APPEALING TO THE MANAGERMENTS OF THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES WITHOUT DELAY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS POINTED OUT THAT ANY RESPONDENT WHO FAILS TO DO SO MAY BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE HAS BEEN SO DESIGNED THAT RESPONDENTS MAY COMPLETE THE FORM THEMSELVES. IF NECESSARY, CENSUS AND SURVEY OFFICERS, WHO CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, CAN VISIT THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED TO ASSIST MANAGERMENTS IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATIONS WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF RETURNS.

THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED THEREFORE NEED NOT WAIT FOR THEIR AUDITED ACCOUNTS BEFORE COMPLETING THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND THAT ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE RELEASED.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE LATEST GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGULARLY ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THE E. COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A TWO AND A HALF MONTH PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF BEACHES, AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY. SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, FIVE BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

/THESE BEACHES

THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY. THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE FIVE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 30.6.88)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 14.7.88)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	B	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	B	A
DEEP WATER BAY	A	A
HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	C	C
REPULSE BAY	B	B
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	A	A
ST STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	B	A
ROCKY BAY,	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A

/ISLAND DISTRICT

ISLAND DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	B
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A
KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	B	B
SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	A
TUNG O*	A	A

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	A	A
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	A	A
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	B	A
CASAM	B	B
GEMINI	B	B
HOI MEI WAN	B	B
LIDO	B	B
TING KAU	C	B
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	A	A
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE BEACH	B	A
BUTTERFLY	A	A

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

BIG WAVE BAY, CHUNG HOM KOK, STANLEY MAIN, APPROACH AND KADOORIE, FROM "B" TO "A", AND TING KAU, FROM "C" TO "B".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL HOLMES, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, AT 3-7211044.

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WAN CHAI TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY SERVICE TO BE WITHDRAWN

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THE PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND JORDAN ROAD OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SATURDAY (JULY 16), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED FERRY PASSENGERS.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE CANCELLATION OF THE FERRY ROUTE, A NEW FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND KOWLOON POINT HAS STARTED OPERATION IN APRIL THIS YEAR AND IS OPERATING AT A BASIC FREQUENCY OF 10 MINUTES.

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KWAI CHUNG URBAN CLEARWAYS REARRANGED

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN KWAI CHUNG INDUSTRIAL AREA WILL BE REARRANGED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 16), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE REARRANGEMENTS AIM AT IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA AND, AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES FOR CERTAIN FACTORIES.

AFFECTED ROADS INCLUDE SECTIONS OF KWAI CHEONG ROAD, TAI LIN PAI ROAD, KUNG YIP STREET, WAH SING STREET AND WING YIP STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS ON THE EXTENSION AND OPERATING HOURS OF THE URBAN CLEARWAYS. NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE DESIGNATED RESTRICTED HOURS.

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FANLING GMB ROUTE TO INCREASE FARE
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APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 52 TO INCREASE ITS FARE FROM SATURDAY (JULY 16), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE ROUTE OPERATES BETWEEN FANLING KCR STATION AND SING PING SCHOOL DAILY FROM 5.50 AM TO 11.35 PM.

THE FULL FARE WILL BE INCREASED BY 50 CENTS TO \$2.5, WHILE THE SECTION FARES FOR JOURNEYS FROM PING CHE TO LUEN WO HUI AND FROM LUEN WO HUI TO FANLING KCR STATION WILL BE \$2 AND \$1.5 RESPECTIVELY.

STUDENTS TRAVELLING ON THE ROUTE WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY A CONCESSIONARY FARE OF \$1.3, WHICH IS 30 CENTS HIGHER THAN THE PRESENT CHARGE.

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SALT WATER CUT IN YAU MA TEI
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAY (JULY 16) FOR WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE AREA BOUNDED BY JORDAN ROAD, GASCOIGNE ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD, YIM PO FONG STREET, ARGYLE STREET, SAI YEE STREET, BOUNDARY STREET AND THE SEAFRONT.

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