



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WHITEHEAD INCIDENT INQUIRY REPORT PUBLISHED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PUBLISHED THE REPORT OF THE INQUIRY BY TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE REMOVAL OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS FROM THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE ON APRIL 7, 1994.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE FINDINGS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (JPS).

THE REPORT GIVES A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE REMOVAL OPERATION, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILD-UP OF TENSION IN THE CAMP BEFORE APRIL 7, THE RATIONALE FOR THE OPERATIONAL PLAN, THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ON THE DAY AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE INJURIES RECEIVED DURING THE OPERATION.

THE JPS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE DECISION TO EMPTY SECTION 7 OF WHITEHEAD WAS A CORRECT ONE AND THAT THE DECISION NOT TO FOREWARN THE INMATES OF SECTION 7 OF THE MOVE WAS ON BALANCE APPROPRIATE, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOMMEND THAT THIS PRACTICE SHOULD NOT BECOME THE NORM.

THE JPS ALSO AGREE THAT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACTED CORRECTLY IN DEPLOYING SUCH A LARGE CONTINGENT IN THE OPERATION.

THE REPORT CONFIRMS THAT THERE WAS NO DELIBERATE COVER-UP BY THE GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO CONFIRMS THAT THE INCIDENT RESULTED IN NO FATALITIES OR SERIOUS INJURIES, THOUGH BURNS AND MINOR INJURIES WERE, REGRETTABLY, SUSTAINED.

THE JPS ACCEPT THAT THE USE OF MACE, AND WHEN THAT WAS NOT EFFECTIVE, THE USE OF TEAR GAS, WAS THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF FORCE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE REPORT IS, HOWEVER, CRITICAL OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION. IT CONCLUDES THAT MACE AND TEAR GAS WERE FIRED TOO SOON, THAT AT A LATER STAGE ATTEMPTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE VIETNAMESE BEFORE FURTHER AND EXCESSIVE TEAR GAS WAS USED, THAT THE PROCESSING OF VIETNAMESE TRANSFERRED TO CHI MA WAN WAS UNSATISFACTORY, THAT INADEQUATE CARE WAS TAKEN WITH THE BELONGINGS OF THE VIETNAMESE AND THAT THE HANDLING OF THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC WAS INEPT.

"WE AGREE WITH THE JPS THAT THERE ARE VERY IMPORTANT LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOR THE FUTURE. WE ACCEPT THE CRITICISMS AND WE WILL ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HANDLING OF SUCH OPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE JPS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SOME VIETNAMESE WERE ASSAULTED DURING THE OPERATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS IS A SERIOUS AND DISTURBING FINDING. SUCH BEHAVIOUR BY OFFICIALS IS UNACCEPTABLE. COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE POLICE BY A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY.

"A REPORT WILL BE MADE TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS AND HE WILL DECIDE ON WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FOR A PROSECUTION.

"THE QUESTION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE CONSIDERED FOLLOWING A DECISION ON WHETHER PROSECUTIONS ARE TO BE LAUNCHED.

"THE REPORT IS THE PRODUCT OF TWO MONTHS' HARD WORK. THE JPS HAVE FULLY DISCHARGED THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO MR LI AND PROFESSOR TODD FOR A REPORT WHICH PROVIDES CLEAR DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE."

COPIES OF THE REPORT IN ENGLISH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT DISTRICT OFFICES' PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE VERSIONS OF THE REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS THE TRANSLATION WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

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JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO MEET NEXT WEEK

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THE 29TH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM JUNE 21 TO 23.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR HUGH DAVIES.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MR ALAN PAUL (COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP), MR NICHOLAS NG (SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT), MR ROBERT PEIRCE (POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG) AND MR SHERARD COWPER-COLES (HEAD OF HONG KONG DEPARTMENT IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE).

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PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS BILL

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO LOCALISE A UK ENACTMENT APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG, WHICH PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN AND COMPANIES AGAINST DEMANDS PLACED ON THEM BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND COURTS WHICH OVERSTEP THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS NORMALLY ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS BILL, WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (JUNE 17), REPEALS AND REPLICATES WITH MINOR CHANGES THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS ACT 1980 (HONG KONG) ORDER 1990 (THE 1990 ORDER).

UNDER THE BILL, THE GOVERNOR MAY DIRECT THAT CERTAIN EXTRATERRITORIAL MEASURES TAKEN UNDER THE LAW OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE COMPLIED WITH IF IT APPEARS THAT SUCH MEASURES MAY DAMAGE THE TRADING INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR MAY ALSO DIRECT THAT ORDERS FOR PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS OR COMMERCIAL INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE COMPLIED WITH IF SUCH ORDERS WOULD INFRINGE THE JURISDICTION OF HONG KONG.

THE BILL STIPULATES THAT OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS FOR MULTIPLE DAMAGES OR OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS RESTRAINING TRADE AS SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE UNENFORCEABLE IN HONG KONG.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 29.

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ICAC REVIEW COMMITTEE RECEIVES 91 SUBMISSIONS  
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THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION REVIEW COMMITTEE, SET UP TO EXAMINE THE POWERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE ICAC, HAS SO FAR RECEIVED 91 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN RESPONSE TO ITS PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE, THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, MRS LILY YAM, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE WAS HELD FROM APRIL 17 TO MAY 31.

APART FROM INVITING SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AS PART OF THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO WRITTEN TO SOME 260 ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVITING THEM FOR VIEWS.

"THE VIEWS COLLECTED WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS BEFORE IT MAKES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR," MRS YAM SAID.

SHE SAID TWO PUBLIC SESSIONS HAD BEEN ARRANGED THIS WEEK FOR PEOPLE WHO HAD REGISTERED THEIR WISH TO MAKE ORAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMITTEE IN PUBLIC AND FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE FIRST HEARING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (JUNE 17) IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE NEW ANNEXE, LOWER ALBERT ROAD. ONE ORGANISATION AND THREE INDIVIDUALS WILL MAKE SUBMISSIONS AT THE SESSION, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

THE SECOND HEARING, FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS, WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE. SEVEN DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO ATTEND.

THE NINE-MEMBER REVIEW COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DR HELMUT SOHMEN, WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO REVIEW THE POWERS OF THE ICAC AND ADVISE HIM WHETHER THESE POWERS REMAIN APPROPRIATE, NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT.

THE REVIEW WILL ALSO LOOK INTO THE PRESENT SYSTEMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE ADEQUATE OR SHOULD BE MODIFIED.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH HEARINGS. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 17) IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, NEW ANNEXE, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE HEARING FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CNTA HEADQUARTERS, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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REPORT ON SECRETARY'S RETIREMENT DENIED

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COMMENTING ON A REPORT IN A CHINESE NEWSPAPER TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE APPLICATION FOR EARLY RETIREMENT FROM THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH SAID THE REPORT WAS TOTALLY UNTRUE AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

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NEW TUEN MUN IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGE TO OPEN NEXT MONDAY

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THE NEW TUEN MUN IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGE LOCATED SOUTH OF PAK KOK AND DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE CLEARANCE OF RIVER TRADE VESSELS HAS BEEN GAZETTED AS AN APPROVED IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT WOULD COMMENCE OPERATION NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 20).

THIS IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A LANDBASE OFFICE - THE TUEN MUN IMMIGRATION ANCHORAGE OFFICE AT UNITS 6 AND 7, GROUND FLOOR, CHUN YU HOUSE, SAM SHING ESTATE, TUEN MUN, WHICH WILL ALSO BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY.

THE IMMIGRATION SPOKESMAN SAID: "AS A RESULT OF GROWING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, THE TRAFFIC OF SMALL CHINESE RIVER TRADE VESSELS HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

"THE SETTING UP OF A NEW ANCHORAGE WOULD THEREFORE HELP RELIEVE THE CONGESTION OF THE WESTERN QUARANTINE ANCHORAGE AND REDUCE THE TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE KAP SHUI MUN AND MA WAN CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THE CHINESE RIVER TRADE VESSELS TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE WESTERN QUARANTINE ANCHORAGE.



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| 3. | A PROPOSED NEW BUILDING FOR WHICH THERE IS NO ACCOUNTABLE GROSS FLOOR AREA, SUCH AS A TRANSFORMER STATION, AN OIL STORAGE INSTALLATION, A PETROL FILLING STATION, A JETTY OR SIMILAR STRUCTURE | \$9,370 FOR EACH SIZE OF 841 MM BY 594 MM OR PART THEREOF OF THE PLAN                         | \$10,300 FOR EACH SIZE OF 841 MM BY 594 MM OR PART THEREOF OF THE PLAN                        |
| 4. | A PROPOSED NEW NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OF A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 10,000 SQUARE METRES OR LESS   | \$2,860 FOR EVERY 100 SQUARE METRES OR PART THEREOF, SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$6,860   | \$3,145 FOR EVERY 100 SQUARE METRES OR PART THEREOF, SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$7,540   |
| 5. | A PROPOSED NEW NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OF A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF MORE THAN 10,000 SQUARE METRES   | \$2,290 FOR EVERY 100 SQUARE METRES OR PART THEREOF, SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$286,000 | \$2,515 FOR EVERY 100 SQUARE METRES OR PART THEREOF, SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$314,500 |
| 6. | A NEW PLAN OR A MAJOR REVISION OF SUCH PLAN OF ALTERATION AND ADDITION WORKS OR OTHER BUILDING WORKS NOT RESULTING IN A NEW BUILDING   | \$9,370 FOR EACH SIZE OF 841 MM BY 594 MM OR PART THEREOF OF THE PLAN                         | \$10,300 FOR EACH SIZE OF 841 MM BY 594 MM OR PART THEREOF OF THE PLAN                        |

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NGAU CHI WAN LOT TO LET  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LOT IN FUNG SHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN.

THE 3,770-SQUARE-METRE LOT IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS AND VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR PRIME MOVERS AND TRAILERS ATTACHED.

THE TENANCY IS FOR 18 MONTHS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

/THE CLOSING .....

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 1.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

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### SCA CALLS ON RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLS ON RESIDENTS TO SIGN UP AS VOTERS. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT UP TO YESTERDAY, THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO) HAD RECEIVED 560,000 RETURNED REGISTRATION FORMS, WHICH INCLUDE APPLICATIONS TO BECOME VOTERS AND NOTIFICATIONS ON CHANGE OF REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR NG POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST CONCRETE WAY OF PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL AFFAIRS WAS TO REGISTER AS A VOTER.

"BEING AN ELECTOR IS OUR RIGHT AS A CITIZEN AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY. THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN ELECTORAL SYSTEM, WE CAN ELECT PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THE THREE TIERS OF COUNCILS. APART FROM MONITORING THE GOVERNMENT, WE CAN REFLECT OUR EXPECTATIONS AND REQUESTS TO THE AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

"YOU CAN SIGN UP AS A VOTER IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE, HOLD A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, AND ARE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS (OR ARE A HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENT)."

MR NG SAID THREE MAJOR ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN HONG KONG THIS YEAR AND NEXT YEAR: THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18 THIS YEAR, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 5 NEXT YEAR AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) HAD STARTED A LARGE-SCALE THREE-MONTH VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN APRIL AND ITS PUBLICITY PLAN, WHICH WAS DRAWN UP WITH THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDED EXTENSIVE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEASURES AT BOTH THE CENTRAL AND THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL INCLUDE PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST, AS WELL AS POSTERS AND ADVERTISEMENTS TO GET ACROSS THE VOTER REGISTRATION MESSAGE. THE REO HAD WRITTEN TO LABOUR GROUPS, MAJOR BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AND CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

IN ADDITION, A "COUNTDOWN" WILL BE LAUNCHED 10 DAYS BEFORE JULY 1, THE DEADLINE OF REGISTRATION, TO REMIND THE PUBLIC NOT TO MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP AS A VOTER.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF HAVE BEEN VISITING HOUSEHOLDS, FACTORIES, OFFICES, SCHOOLS AND RESTAURANTS TO REGISTER VOTERS. TEMPORARY REGISTRATION COUNTERS ARE SET UP AT KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS AND MAJOR SHOPPING ARCADES.

OTHER MEASURES INCLUDE APPEALS BY DISTRICT OFFICERS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND SOCIAL SERVICE BODIES FOR SUPPORT TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE. SOME LARGE COMPANIES HAVE ALSO MADE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE STAFF AND CUSTOMERS TO SIGN UP AS VOTERS.

MR NG MADE A SPECIAL APPEAL TO THOSE BETWEEN 18 AND 20, WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE BECOME ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS THIS YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 200,000 PEOPLE IN THIS AGE GROUP.

"TO ENCOURAGE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SIGN UP, REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DISTRIBUTED AT IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES TO ADULT IDENTITY CARD APPLICANTS WHO HAVE JUST TURNED 18 WHILE THE BEC CHAIRMAN HAVE WRITTEN TO SCHOOLS, STUDENT UNIONS AND YOUTH CENTRES," HE SAID.

"THE BEC, TOGETHER WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS ORGANISATIONS, HAVE INTRODUCED A 'VOTER REGISTRATION AMBASSADOR SCHEME' WHOSE MEMBERS WILL HELP SPREAD THE VOTER REGISTRATION MESSAGE TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES," HE ADDED.

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#### FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) LAUNCHED A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN ON FOOD HYGIENE FOR PEOPLE IN THE FOOD BUSINESS.

UNDER THE CAMPAIGN ENTITLED "CONTROL TIME AND TEMPERATURE TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY", A TOTAL OF 24 SEMINARS WILL BE ORGANISED FOR ALL LICENSEES AND STAFF OF LICENSED FOOD PREMISES, COOKED FOOD STALLS, CANTEENS AND OTHER FOOD CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE CAMPAIGN-OPENING CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE, PROFESSOR LEUNG PING-CHUNG, URGED PEOPLE IN THE FOOD TRADE TO USE PROPER TIME AND TEMPERATURE CONTROL TO KILL MICRO-ORGANISMS WHICH THREATEN FOOD SAFETY.

PROFESSOR LEUNG SAID: "CONTAMINATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED WHEN SELECTING, HANDLING AND COOKING FOOD.

"THIS CAN ALSO PROTECT PEOPLE IN THE FOOD TRADE FROM POTENTIAL FINANCIAL LOSS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NEED TO DISPOSE FOOD THAT HAVE DETERIORATED," HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON PEOPLE IN THE TRADE TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, MR TING YIN-WAH, POINTED OUT THAT A TOTAL OF 63 FOOD POISONING CASES OCCURRED IN FOOD PREMISES IN 1993, AFFECTING 557 PEOPLE.

NOTING THAT MOST FOOD POISONING CASES COULD BE AVOIDED, MR TING SAID THE CHANCE OF FOOD BEING CONTAMINATED BY MICRO-ORGANISMS WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED IF PEOPLE IN THE FOOD TRADE COULD STRICTLY OBSERVE FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PERSONAL HYGIENE IN THE MANUFACTURING OF FOOD.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, TWO SEPARATE SEMINARS WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

MR TING HOPED THAT THE TEACHERS ATTENDING THE TWO SEMINARS WOULD CONVEY THE KNOWLEDGE OF FOOD HYGIENE TO THEIR STUDENTS.

EACH FOOD HYGIENE SEMINAR WILL CONSIST OF A TALK BY A CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR, A FILM SHOW AND A DISCUSSION SESSION ON THE HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT CONCEPT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

IN ADDITION, A 24-HOUR HOTLINE - 723 0013 - WILL PROVIDE TAPED MESSAGES ON FOOD SAFETY DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST.

CALLERS CAN LEAVE THEIR QUESTIONS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS WITH THE HOTLINE. STAFF OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT WILL CALL BACK.

FURTHERMORE, MOBILE BROADCASTING TEAMS OF THE UNIT WILL BE DEPLOYED TO DISSEMINATE FOOD HYGIENE MESSAGES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

PRINTED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SUCH AS LEAFLETS AND POSTERS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

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#### MAY AIR QUALITY REPORT

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR LAST MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS FROM MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG. THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY :

- \* LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS;
- \* COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; AND
- \* DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO<sub>2</sub>), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO<sub>2</sub>), TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) WHICH COMPRISE ALL SIZES OF DUST PARTICLES, AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE THE RESPIRABLE FRACTION OF THE DUST.

ALL THESE POLLUTANTS CAN AFFECT RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION.

THERE WERE TWO MAIN FEATURES OF NOTE IN THE MEASUREMENTS FOR MAY.

THE FIRST WAS THE HIGH NITROGEN DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS AT ALL STATIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH AND THE SECOND WAS A LOCAL PEAK IN SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS AT MONG KOK.

THE NITROGEN DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS EARLY IN THE MONTH WERE SUFFICIENT AT MONG KOK FOR THE 24-HOUR NITROGEN DIOXIDE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE TO BE EXCEEDED ON MAY 8.

IT IS THOUGHT THAT LOW WIND SPEEDS ALLOWED LOCAL EMISSIONS IN THE TERRITORY TO ACCUMULATE OVER THE PRECEDING DAYS.

THE GASES AND PARTICLES DESCRIBED ORIGINATE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. SO<sub>2</sub> IS MOSTLY PRODUCED WHEN FUELS THAT CONTAIN SULPHUR ARE BURNED. NO<sub>2</sub> IS FORMED DURING COMBUSTION BY THE COMBINATION OF NITROGEN AND OXYGEN.

HOWEVER THE MAJORITY OF IT IS FORMED IN THE ATMOSPHERE BY THE OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO), ALSO A PRODUCT OF COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUSTS ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF NITRIC OXIDE AND NO<sub>2</sub> IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY.

THESE EXHAUSTS ARE ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER RESPIRABLE PARTICLES.

OTHER SOURCES OF PARTICLES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND THE SOIL.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WHILST THE WEATHER AND CLIMATE ALWAYS AFFECT THE CONCENTRATIONS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR, THE ONLY SURE WAY OF REDUCING THE LEVELS IS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THE MAN-MADE SOURCES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

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POK OI HOSPITAL DIRECTORS VISIT SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

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THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF POK OI HOSPITAL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE KA-CHUNG, OUTLINED THE HOSPITAL'S MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES AS WELL AS PLANNED PROJECTS.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO POK OI HOSPITAL FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY, MR STRACHAN ASSURED THE BOARD THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE FULLEST SUPPORT TO THEIR PLANS.

AT PRESENT, THE HOSPITAL PROVIDES 32 SERVICE UNITS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, CHILD CARE CENTRES, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS, HOSTELS FOR SINGLE PERSONS, AFTER-SCHOOL CARE SERVICES AND CHINESE HERBALISTS' CLINICS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STOOD AT 64.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 380.304 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 371.395 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 63.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

- 12 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	15 JUN 94	15 JUN 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q424	Y490
AMOUNT APPLIED	\$3,990 MN	\$2,070 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	\$1,500 MN	\$500 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.08 PCT	5.15 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.08 PCT	5.15 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 96 PCT	ABOUT 80 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.11 PCT	5.19 PCT

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 20 JUN 1994 -

TENDER DATE	21 JUN 94	21 JUN 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q425	H467
ISSUE DATE	22 JUN 94	22 JUN 94
MATURITY DATE	22 SEPT 94	21 DEC 94
TENOR	92 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	\$1,500 + 300 MN	\$800 + 160 MN

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/13 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,980	0930	-1,036
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,094	1000	-986
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-736
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-656	1200	-635
LAF TODAY	+770	1500	-656
		1600	-656
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 124.5 *-0.2*	15.6.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.88	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.22	5.53
1 MONTH	3.88	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.88	5.94
3 MONTHS	4.08	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.65	6.30
6 MONTHS	4.52	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.85	6.45
12 MONTHS	5.05	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	99.21	6.56

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 48,093 MN

CLOSED 15 JUNE 1994

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

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NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSURED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE AND DEPLOY RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT BOTH IN THE NEW TOWNS AND OTHER DEVELOPABLE AREAS TO MEET THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MOTION DEBATE ON PLANNING FOR NEW TOWNS, MR EASON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO REFINED ITS PROGRAMMES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC, THROUGH DISTRICT BOARDS, STATUTORY PLANNING AND OTHER MECHANISMS.

MR EASON SAID OF HONG KONG'S SIX MILLION POPULATION, 2.5 MILLION WERE NOW LIVING IN THE EIGHT NEW TOWNS, AND WHEN THE NEW TOWN PROGRAMME WAS COMPLETED IN 10 TO 15 YEARS' TIME, IT WOULD HAVE A TARGET POPULATION OF 3.5 MILLION.

"THE FIRST GENERATION NEW TOWNS SUCH AS TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN ARE NEARING COMPLETION. THE SECOND GENERATION ONES SUCH AS TAI PO, YUEN LONG AND SHEUNG SHUI/FANLING WILL BE LARGELY COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE 1990S. TSEUNG KWAN O AND TIN SHUI WAI ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND TUNG CHUNG IS AT ITS BEGINNING."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FIRST LAUNCHED THE NEW TOWN PROGRAMME IN THE 1970S WHEN HONG KONG FACED A PROBLEM THAT THREATENED TO OVERWHELM IT: THE POPULATION OF THE SMALL TERRITORY WAS GROWING AT AN ALARMING RATE AND HOUSING WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS THEREFORE TO OPEN UP THE SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NORTH OF THE KOWLOON HILLS AND DEVELOPED THEM INTO SELF-SUFFICIENT NEW CITIES.

"WHEN DRAWING UP THE MASTER PLAN FOR A NEW TOWN, FACTORS SUCH AS HOUSING MIX POPULATION LEVEL, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES NEED TO BE CAREFULLY ASSESSED AND CONSIDERED."

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-CONTAINMENT WHEN PLANNING THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SUCH AS SCHOOLS, CLINICS AND OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

MR EASON SAID SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW TOWN PROGRAMME WAS ALSO A RESULT OF JOINT EFFORTS OF BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

"THE GOVERNMENT SETS THE SCENE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SITES WITH SUPPORTING FACILITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS ABLE TO BUILD PRIVATE HOUSING AND TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES," HE SAID.

MOTION DEBATE ON DRUG ABUSE BY ADOLESCENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON DRUG ABUSE BY ADOLESCENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

DRUG ABUSE IS A PROBLEM WHICH HAS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTS A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM, AIMED AT REDUCING BOTH THE SUPPLY AND THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS. VIGOROUS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS TAKEN TO REDUCE THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT DRUGS. MEASURES TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS INCLUDE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PUBLICITY, AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES.

BEFORE I DESCRIBE WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO OUTLINE THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM. IN 1993, JUST OVER 3,000 YOUNG DRUG ABUSERS AGED UNDER 21 WERE REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE. THIS NUMBER IS ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF ONE PER CENT OF THE POPULATION AGED BETWEEN 11 AND 20. SO, BY AND LARGE, OUR YOUTH STAYS AWAY FROM ILLICIT DRUGS. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THIS. ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING TREND IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE REPORTED TO THE REGISTRY. THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME REPORTED YOUNG DRUG ABUSERS ROSE BY 50 PER CENT FROM 1992 TO 1993.

OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF YOUNG DRUG ABUSERS TAKE HEROIN. THE MAJORITY OF THE OTHERS ABUSE CANNABIS, OR COUGH MEDICINE. FEW ABUSE OTHER PRESCRIBED MEDICINES WHICH DOES NOT MEAN WE DO, OR SHOULD IGNORE THE PROBLEM.

AS REGARDS EXISTING LEGISLATION CONTROLS ON DRUGS, THE ILLEGAL SUPPLY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IS A FELONY AND IS ALREADY SUBJECT TO HEAVY PENALTIES UNDER OUR LEGISLATION. THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE STIPULATES STRICT CONTROLS ON THE SUPPLY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND AUTHORISED SELLERS OF POISONS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS PHARMACIES, HAVE TO COMPLY WITH STRICT REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS MAY SUPPLY A DANGEROUS DRUG IN BONA FIDE CONSULTATIONS. THOSE SUPPLYING OR PRESCRIBING DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE RECORDS OF PURCHASE AND SUPPLY. PHARMACIES MAY SUPPLY DANGEROUS DRUGS BY PRESCRIPTION ONLY UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A REGISTERED PHARMACIST. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A REGISTER OF THE DRUGS SUPPLIED. FORENSIC PHARMACISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGULARLY INSPECT PHARMACIES AND AUDIT THEIR STOCK OF DANGEROUS DRUGS AGAINST RECORDS OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY.

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, IN ADDITION, PROVIDES FOR CONTROL OVER THE SUPPLY OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS. THE RETAIL SALE OF POISONS AND DRUGS BY AUTHORISED AND LISTED SELLERS IS REGULATED BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD. DRUGS ARE CLASSIFIED INTO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETAIL SALE, AND DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONTROL APPLY TO THEM.

/IN GENERAL, .....

IN GENERAL, THE EXISTING LEGISLATION PROVIDES ADEQUATE CONTROL OVER DRUGS. THE LEGISLATION IS KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT IT IS UP-TO-DATE AND EFFECTIVE. AMENDMENTS ARE MADE AS AND WHEN NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE -

- \* PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES OF THE BENZODIAZEPINE GROUP WERE SCHEDULED AS DANGEROUS DRUGS IN 1992 IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE STRICTEST FORM OF CONTROL OVER THEM;
- \* STRICTER CONTROLS ON THE SALE OF COUGH MEDICINE CONTAINING MORE THAN 0.1 PER CENT OF CODEINE WERE INTRODUCED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR TO BRING ITS SALE UNDER THE DIRECT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PHARMACISTS. AS A RESULT, THE ABUSE OF COUGH MEDICINE HAS REDUCED; AND
- \* FURTHER CONTROLS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CODEINE SYRUP ARE PROPOSED IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL LAST MONTH TO BRING COUGH PREPARATION WITH A LOWER CONCENTRATION OF CODEINE OF LESS THAN 0.1 PER CENT UNDER PROPER LICENSING CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE ABUSE OF COUGH MEDICINE.

WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED TO BRING FORWARD GENERAL AMENDING LEGISLATION TO TIGHTEN OR EXTEND EXISTING CONTROLS. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN LOOPHOLES ARE IDENTIFIED, WE WILL TAKE ACTION TO CLOSE THEM AS IN THE PAST.

AS REGARDS LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, LARGE SEIZURES BY POLICE AND CUSTOMS OF ILLICIT DRUGS WERE ACHIEVED IN 1993 : 270 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN, 43 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM, 547 KILOGRAMS OF HERBAL CANNABIS, AND SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF VARIOUS NARCOTICS, ANALGESICS AND TRANQUILLISERS WERE MADE.

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD, SUPPORTED BY THE PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TAKES A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CONTROL THE ILLEGAL SALE OF DRUGS. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS PLANS TO STRENGTHEN PROGRESSIVELY ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. PLANS ARE IN HAND TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF TEST PURCHASES AND INSPECTIONS OF DRUG RETAIL PREMISES. THE NUMBER OF PHARMACY INSPECTORS WILL BE INCREASED AND ADDITIONAL CASUAL WORKERS WILL BE EMPLOYED. THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS WILL BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY MORE EFFECTIVE STAFF DEPLOYMENT AND RE-PRIORITISATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO ESTABLISH, A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN THE PROSECUTION OF OFFENDING DRUG RETAILERS.

THE EXISTING PENALTIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE LEGISLATION ARE CONSIDERED, BY AND LARGE, APPROPRIATE. REVISION OF THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES HAS BEEN SOUGHT WHERE WARRANTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR THE OFFENCE OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS WERE INCREASED IN 1992 FROM \$10,000 TO \$1 MILLION, AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS.

/THE MAXIMUM .....

THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE WERE REVISED UPWARDS IN 1992 TO A FINE OF \$30,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS. OUR STATISTICS SHOW THAT THIS HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY PROPORTIONATE INCREASE IN THE PENALTIES IMPOSED ON OFFENDING MEDICINE RETAILERS. THIS DOES CONCERN US AND WE ARE PREPARED TO ASK THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SEEK A REVIEW OF SENTENCE WHERE APPROPRIATE. IN ADDITION, THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD HAS RECENTLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY SHOULD BE FURTHER REVISED TO \$100,000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS BEING PURSUED BY THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH.

AS REGARDS THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP, THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, ACAN, IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICY MATTERS AND STRATEGY. IT MONITORS DRUG ABUSE TRENDS, EXAMINES DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS AND ADVISES ON WAYS TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS. THE MEMBERSHIP OF ACAN AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES COMPRISES DISTINGUISHED AND EXPERIENCED COMMUNITY PERSONALITIES FROM THE FIELDS OF SOCIAL WORK, EDUCATION, MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE; AS WELL AS RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

UNDER THE OVERALL STRATEGY TO REDUCE SUPPLY, BY VIGOROUS LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND TO LIMIT DEMAND, BY PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES, ACAN HAS GIVEN PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO ADDRESSING THE INCREASING TREND IN DRUG ABUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS. ACAN'S PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES SEEK TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE AND AT RISK. ON THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF YOUNG ABUSERS, ACAN HAS SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSERS; AND MORE RECENTLY A PILOT PROJECT FOR A TREATMENT CENTRE SPECIFICALLY TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF YOUNG ABUSERS.

WE BELIEVE THAT NO CAMPAIGN CAN HOPE TO SUCCEED WITHOUT THE BACKING OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. A CO-ORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PUBLICITY PROGRAMME, WITH CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, FORMS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR DEMAND REDUCTION EFFORTS. THE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF OUR ACTIVITIES ARE SCHOOL TALKS AND SEMINARS, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS AND PROMOTIONS, EDUCATION PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA, AND THE PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS FOR EDUCATION PUBLICITY.

DRUG EDUCATION IS INTEGRATED INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. TEACHERS ARE ADVISED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ITS EFFECTS, BUT ALSO TO GIVE EMPHASIS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHY AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND THE LEARNING OF LIFE SKILLS, SUCH AS THE HANDLING OF PEER PRESSURE. THESE MESSAGES ARE REINFORCED IN REGULAR SCHOOL TALKS BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TO PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS.

EDUCATION ABOUT DRUGS IS AN ON-GOING PROCESS, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH THE SCHOOLS AND PARENTS IS NECESSARY. SEMINARS ARE ORGANISED FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS TO KEEP THEM BETTER INFORMED, SO THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND HELP STEER YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY FROM DRUGS.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF ACAN'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME. THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP UNDER ACAN COMPRISES ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN TRAINING AND ENCOURAGING OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE AND DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS. A COMMUNITY AGAINST DRUGS SCHEME FUNDS PROJECTS BY STUDENTS, YOUTH GROUPS AND THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES. COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS ARE ORGANISED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND ENLISTING COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

OUR PUBLICITY PLACES SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON YOUNGSTERS, AND THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN STEERING THEIR CHILDREN AWAY FROM DRUGS. POSTERS, LEAFLETS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST ARE PRODUCED. A COMPREHENSIVE DRUG EDUCATION TEACHING KIT FOR SCHOOL USE WAS PRODUCED AT THE END OF 1991. LAST YEAR, OUR DRUG ABUSE TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE WAS AUTOMATED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF COMMON SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE, AND TO GIVE ADVICE ON COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT.

TURNING TO TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, DRUG ADDICTION IS SEEN AS A MEDICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEM AND ADDICTS ARE TREATED AS PATIENTS. YOUNG ABUSERS CAN JOIN THE VOLUNTARY OUT-PATIENT METHADONE PROGRAMME PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OR THE VOLUNTARY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMME RUN BY THE SARDA. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE, A COUNSELLING CENTRE KNOWN AS PS33 WAS SET UP BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS CLIENTS IS YOUNG ABUSERS. A PILOT PROJECT FOR A TREATMENT CENTRE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ACAN AND PLANNING IS UNDERWAY.

BESIDES ACAN, THE WORKING GROUP ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH AT RISK, SET UP UNDER THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WAS FORMED IN JULY 1993. THE WORKING GROUP PROVIDES A FORUM FOR CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONALS TO EXAMINE CURRENT YOUTH PROBLEMS, IDENTIFY SERVICE GAPS AND RECOMMEND WAYS OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT RISK. AMONG THE AREAS OF EXAMINATION, THE WORKING GROUP HAS RECENTLY STARTED TO LOOK AT ILLICIT USE OF DRUGS BY YOUNG PEOPLE.

WITH THE EXISTENCE OF ACAN AND THE OTHER MULTI-DISCIPLINARY GROUPS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DRUG ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE, WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO DUPLICATE THE EFFORTS.

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM GLAD THAT THIS COUNCIL HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT. I AM GRATEFUL FOR MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS WE SHOULD MAKE IN OUR APPROACH TO TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE. WE SHALL CERTAINLY CONSIDER AND PURSUE THESE SUGGESTIONS.

/I AGREE .....

I AGREE WITH THE THRUST AND INTENT OF THE MOTION : DRUG ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE IS A TRAGEDY WHICH WE MUST SEEK TO PREVENT, AND WE MUST CONSTANTLY SEEK AND PURSUE NEW INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO DO SO. BUT, WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR WHOLESAL AMENDMENT TO OUR EXISTING LAWS, NOR FOR WHOLESAL REPLACEMENT OF OUR EXISTING MACHINERY FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY FORMULATION, AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE OVERALL ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMMES. WE ALREADY HAVE COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM, AND AN EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATING BODY IN ACAN. CERTAINLY, WE SHOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT, AND WE ACCEPT THE NEED CONSTANTLY TO GIVE EFFECT TO NEW INITIATIVES TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM, AND TO PLUG LOOPHOLES WHEN THEY COME TO LIGHT. THIS WE HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO. WE SHOULD DO SO BY BUILDING ON AND IMPROVING OUR PRESENT STRATEGIES, LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES, NOT BY DEMOLISHING AND SEEKING TO REBUILD THEM.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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BILL TO ESTABLISH ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRIME MISSION OF THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS TO PLAN, PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE BROAD DEVELOPMENT AND APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS.

IT WILL PLACE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE LITERARY, PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS, WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MRS RACHEL CARTLAND, WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL 1994.

MRS CARTLAND SAID THE BILL, WHICH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AND SUPPORTED BY THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A STRONG MANDATE ON WHICH TO BASE ITS WORK.

UNDER THE BILL, THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE 20 MEMBERS, OF WHICH 16 INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL BE NON-OFFICIAL WHILST FOUR WILL BE EX-OFFICIO.

ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE COUNCIL TO RECEIVE SUBVENTION FROM GOVERNMENT THROUGH FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL IS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING GIFTS, DONATIONS, FEES AND RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS.

THE PROVISIONS ALSO ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO MAKE INVESTMENTS AND TO BORROW, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

MRS CARTLAND HOPED THAT THE BILL COULD BE PROCESSED IN TIME FOR ENACTMENT BY APRIL 1995.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TWO BILLS HELP GROWTH OF SECURITIES MARKET  
\* \* \* \* \*

TWO BILLS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ARE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTIVE STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING MARKET IN HONG KONG.

THEY ARE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994 AND INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994.

"THIS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE OUR COMPETITIVENESS WITH OTHER MAJOR SECURITIES MARKETS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ATTRACT MAJOR PLAYERS FROM THE HONG KONG MARKET TO ESTABLISH STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING OPERATIONS IN THEIR OWN JURISDICTIONS," THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994, MR CARTLAND SAID IT PRIMARILY SOUGHT TO RELAX THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON STAMP DUTY RELIEF FOR STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED SUBMISSIONS THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WERE HINDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING MARKET, HE SAID.

THAT IN TURN HAS BEEN DISCOURAGING SHORT-SELLING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER MARKET DEVELOPMENT MEASURES, HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT STAMP DUTY IS NOT PAYABLE ON A STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING TRANSACTION UNDER CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

THE TRANSACTION HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY AN "APPROVED BORROWER" FOR THE "SOLE PURPOSE" OF SETTLING A SALE OF HONG KONG STOCK EFFECTED IN THE LOCAL STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE BORROWED STOCK MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN 14 DAYS.

THE BILL PROPOSES TO EXTEND THE STOCK RETURN PERIOD FROM 14 DAYS TO 12 MONTHS OR SUCH LONGER PERIOD AS THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE MAY ALLOW AND TO REMOVE THE "APPROVED BORROWER" REQUIREMENT.

IT ALSO SEEKS TO REPLACE THE "SOLE PURPOSE" REQUIREMENT WITH A NUMBER OF "SPECIFIED PURPOSES" SUCH AS THE BORROWING OF STOCK FOR SETTLING A FUTURE SALE, FOR ON-LENDING TO ANOTHER PERSON OR FOR SETTLING A SALE OF STOCK EFFECTED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

TO DETER NON-COMPLIANCE, THE PENALTY FOR A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE IS TO BE INCREASED FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000.

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994 SEEKS TO INTRODUCE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE TO CLARIFY THE PROFITS TAX TREATMENT OF A STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING TRANSACTION AND COMPENSATORY PAYMENTS ARISING THEREFROM.

IT PROPOSES TO TREAT A DISPOSAL AND REACQUISITION OF SECURITIES UNDER A STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING ARRANGEMENT AS A LOAN TRANSACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ORDINANCE. AS A RESULT, NO PROFIT OR LOSS WILL EMERGE FOR PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENT.

DEBATES ON THE TWO BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

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MOTIONS PASSED ON FEES FOR REGISTRATION  
OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED THREE MOTIONS TO PUT UP FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND THE RE-REGISTRATION OF LEGITIMATED PERSONS.

MOVING THE MOTION TO REVISE THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID A RECENT REVIEW HAD INDICATED THAT THE FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FAILED TO RECOVER ITS COSTS.

HE SAID THE THE SHORTFALL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS WAS ABOUT 33 PER CENT, THE SHORTFALL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES WAS ABOUT 59 PER CENT AND THAT FOR THE ISSUE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EIGHT PER CENT.

"IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC ON A COST-RECOVERY BASIS, UNLESS THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR DOING OTHERWISE," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE SAID THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN JUNE LAST YEAR AND THE NEW FEES WOULD BE INTRODUCED ON JULY 15.

MEANWHILE, FEES SPECIFIED IN THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE WILL GO UP.

THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE PROVIDES A MEANS WHEREBY COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS CAN GIVE A NOTICE OF MARRIAGE IN HONG KONG, EVEN THOUGH THE MARRIAGE HAS TAKEN PLACE AT A BRITISH EMBASSY ABROAD.

AFTER THE REVISION, THE FEE FOR A CERTIFICATE BY THE REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES WILL GO UP FROM \$20 TO \$40, AND FEE FOR A GOVERNOR'S LICENCE WILL GO UP FROM \$200 TO \$400.

FEES SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE LEGITIMACY ORDINANCE WILL ALSO BE REVISED. THE LEGITIMACY ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE RE-REGISTRATION OF THE BIRTHS OF LEGITIMATED PERSONS.

FOR THE RE-REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, THE FEE WILL GO UP FROM \$100 TO \$200 AND FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF THE BIRTH WILL GO UP FROM \$40 TO \$80.

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LAND AUCTION REVIEW TO ENSURE FAIR COMPETITION

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THE PURPOSE OF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAND DISPOSAL IS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF FAIR AND GENUINE COMPETITION WHICH UNDERPINS THE LAND AUCTION SYSTEM IS UNIMPAIRED, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON FRED LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID THE EXERCISE WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT AUCTION AT THE END OF JULY.

MR EASON SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE PRICES ACHIEVED AT THE RECENT AUCTION WERE BELOW MARKET VALUE.

"THEY WERE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPECTATIONS," HE SAID.

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POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INVESTIGATED

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INVESTIGATE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND HAS NOT DRAWN UP ANY "TARGET LIST" FOR SUCH INVESTIGATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID: "ALL INVESTIGATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE."

WHEN A SECURITY THREAT EXISTS, INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONDUCTED TO COUNTER THAT THREAT, HE SAID.

THE POLICE ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING SUCH INVESTIGATIONS. DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE OF THE THREAT, OTHER DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OR IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED.

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CAUSE OF STRIKES AT BORDER EXPLAINED

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THE SLOW PROCESSING TIME BY EITHER HONG KONG OR SHENZHEN BORDER CONTROL STAFF HAS BEEN THE MAIN REASON FOR THE FIVE STRIKES BY CONTAINER AND GOODS VEHICLE DRIVERS AT THE BORDER SINCE JUNE 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BARMA SAID THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF PREVENTING SUCH STRIKES AND THUS MINIMISING TRAFFIC CONGESTION OR STANDSTILL, WAS TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH CONTAINER AND GOODS VEHICLE DRIVERS SO THAT SPEEDY ACTION COULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT OBTAINED FEEDBACK FROM DRIVERS THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACT WITH STAFF OF THE POLICE, IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS.

"IN ADDITION, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HOLDS QUARTERLY CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY.

"MATTERS RAISED WITH US, WHICH RELATE TO CROSS-BORDER ISSUES AND ARE OF MUTUAL CONCERN, ARE REFLECTED TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES THROUGH OUR BORDER LIAISON CHANNELS," MR BARMA SAID.

HE SAID FOLLOWING THE STRIKE LAST MONTH, THE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIMONTHLY TRIPARTITE MEETINGS ON CROSS-BORDER MATTERS AMONGST THE DRIVERS' REPRESENTATIVES, THE SHENZHEN AND HONG KONG AUTHORITIES.

DRIVERS COULD ALSO REFLECT THEIR VIEWS DIRECT TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES THROUGH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE UNIONS AND FLEET OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS WHO HAD CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE, HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION ON THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE BORDER HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE MEDIA, HE SAID NO SUCH COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN LODGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION BY DRIVERS.

ONE COMPLAINT WAS RECEIVED BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION EARLIER THIS YEAR REGARDING SOLICITATION TO EXPEDITE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE BUT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE THE COMPLAINANT WAS ANONYMOUS, HE ADDED.

CUMULATIVE COST FOR PROSECUTING  
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF CARRIAN GROUP REVEALED  
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THE CUMULATIVE COST TO DATE OF THE SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN RELATING TO THE PROSECUTION AGAINST THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CARRIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES IS ABOUT \$223.1 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR MATHEWS SAID THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CARRIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES HAD FACED, OR WAS CURRENTLY FACING, PROSECUTION IN THREE CASES.

THE FIRST OF THESE CASES INVOLVED ALLEGED OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF THE CARRIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES. THE TRIAL OF THAT CASE ENDED IN 1987 ALTHOUGH THE PROCEEDINGS WERE NOT FORMALLY CONCLUDED UNTIL MAY 1988, MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE TRIAL OF THE SECOND CASE, RELATING TO BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE LTD (BMFL), HAD NOW FORMALLY STARTED UNDER THE COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

THE THIRD CASE INVOLVED ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION BY SENIOR EXECUTIVES IN THE HONG KONG BRANCHES OF TWO OVERSEAS BANKS.

THE TRIAL OF THAT CASE WAS PENDING IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND CASE, MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THE TOTAL COST OF THE CARRIAN CASE WAS \$91,546,984. THE TOTAL COMBINED COST TO DATE OF THE SECOND AND THIRD CASES, WHICH WERE CURRENT, WAS \$131,553,462.

THE COST OF THE CARRIAN CASE AND OF THE BMFL CASE WERE IN RESPECT OF ALL DEFENDANTS AND ALL PROCEEDINGS, HE NOTED.

AS REGARDS TIMING, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE TRIAL THAT HAD RECENTLY STARTED, IN RESPECT OF BMFL, WOULD BE CONCLUDED DURING THE COURSE OF 1995, MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF ANY FURTHER NECESSARY ACTION.

"AS I HAVE SAID, THE TRIAL OF ONE CASE HAS ALREADY FORMALLY STARTED, AND THE TRIAL OF ANOTHER CASE HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT TRIAL.

"THE COST OF FUTURE ACTION WILL DEPEND ON THE COURSE OF THOSE PROCEEDINGS AND IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR ME TO SPECULATE IN THAT REGARD," MR MATHEWS SAID.

NO REASON TO DO AWAY WITH ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS  
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THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95 ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE BASIC LAW AND PAST AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, AND ARE THEREFORE CAPABLE OF CONTINUING AFTER 1997.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE SEE NO REASON FOR CHINA TO DO AWAY WITH THESE ARRANGEMENTS IN 1997," MR NG SAID.

MR NG ADDED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG IN 1997.

"IT IS ALSO THE CLEARLY EXPRESSED WISH OF THE COMMUNITY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION," HE SAID.

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TRAMS OPERATION SUBJECT TO ORDINANCES  
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TRAM ACCIDENTS ACCOUNTED FOR LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE ABOUT 15,000 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, MR BARMA SAID TRAMS OPERATING ON THE ROADS WERE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND THE TRAMWAY ORDINANCE.

HONG KONG TRAMWAYS LTD (HKT) PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EIGHT-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ITS DRIVER TRAINEES, CONDUCTED BY THEIR EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN DRIVING TRAMS.

"TRAM DRIVERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO PASS AN ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION TEST BY THE COMPANY AND THIS INCLUDES A PRACTICAL DRIVING TEST AND A REFRESHER COURSE COVERING CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND SAFETY MATTERS.

"UNDER THE RULES MADE BY HKT, TRAM DRIVERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO EXCEED A SPEED LIMIT OF 25 KILOMETRES PER HOUR IN CONGESTED AREAS OR WHEN NEGOTIATING A BEND.

"IN ANY CASE, TRAMS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO GO FASTER THAN 40 KILOMETRES PER HOUR, WHICH IS WELL WITHIN STATUTORY SPEED LIMITS," HE SAID.

UNDER THE TRAMWAY ORDINANCE, HKT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ITS TRAM CARS AND TRACKS IN GOOD CONDITION, AND CONDUCTING REPAIRS WHERE NECESSARY TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES (DEMS).

THE BRAKING SYSTEMS ON ALL TRAMS ARE CHECKED BY THE COMPANY EVERY 10 DAYS UNDER ITS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME AND THIS HAS TO CONFORM WITH THE CRITERIA LAID DOWN BY DEMS.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS, THE BRAKING SYSTEMS ARE ALSO CHECKED AND TESTED IN THE PRESENCE OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S STAFF.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, NONE OF THE TRAMS INSPECTED FOLLOWING ACCIDENTS WAS FOUND TO HAVE A DEFECTIVE BRAKING SYSTEM.

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PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE TO ENSURE FERRY SAFETY

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AS MARINE WORKS ARE UNDER WAY NEAR FERRY ROUTES IN VICTORIA HARBOUR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF BERTHING FERRIES AND THAT ANY DELAY TO THEIR SCHEDULES IS MINIMISED.

SPELLING OUT THE MEASURES IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON LEE WING-TAT'S QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID SPECIFIC AREAS WERE DESIGNATED AND PROMULGATED WITHIN WHICH ONLY MARINE WORKS WERE ALLOWED.

MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS STEPPED UP PATROLS OF THE CENTRAL HARBOUR TO ENSURE THAT VESSELS ENGAGED IN MARINE WORKS DO NOT ANCHOR OR OPERATE OUTSIDE THE SPECIFIED WORKS AREAS, MR SIU SAID.

WHEN FLOATING PLANTS ENTER OR LEAVE THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION WORKS AREAS, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW A NORTH/SOUTH COURSE TO AND FROM THE CENTRAL FAIRWAY.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE FERRIES ARE NOT OBSTRUCTED BY CROSSING TRAFFIC," MR SIU EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MARINE WORKS CONTRACTORS AND FERRY OPERATORS HAD CONTINUOUS LIAISON SO THAT RAPID RESPONSE COULD BE INITIATED IN THE EVENT OF ANY UNUSUAL SITUATIONS.

MR SIU SAID NONE OF THE MARINE WORKS IN THE HARBOUR REQUIRED NARROWING OF FAIRWAYS.

THERE WERE 66 VESSEL COLLISIONS IN THE HARBOUR IN 1991, 69 IN 1992, 104 IN 1993 AND 22 IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT TAKES SERIOUS VIEW ON MATERNITY PROTECTION  
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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW ON MATERNITY PROTECTION.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SIMON IP SIK-ON IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED, UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993, TO MAKE LATE PAYMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE PAY AN OFFENCE.

"THE 26 WEEKS ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR MATERNITY LEAVE AND THE 40 WEEKS ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR MATERNITY LEAVE PAY ARE ALSO CLARIFIED UNDER THE BILL," HE SAID.

AS TO THE LEVELS OF PENALTIES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, MR LEUNG SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED A REVIEW, AND PROPOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM LEVELS OF FINES RELATING TO MATERNITY LEAVE PROVISIONS BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED.

"THE PROPOSALS ARE BEING EXAMINED AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID IN 1993, THERE WERE 41 COMPLAINTS RELATED TO DISMISSAL OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF THEIR PREGNANCY.

THE OTHER 38 COMPLAINTS WERE NOT RELATED TO TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. THEY CONCERNED PROVISION OF MATERNITY LEAVE PAY, SICKNESS ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF MEDICAL CHECK-UPS AND OTHER RELATED ENTITLEMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE OR THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

HE SAID ALL THESE COMPLAINT CASES HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT. FOLLOWING ARE THE DETAILS OF THE 40 CASES THAT HAD NOT RESULTED IN CONVICTION:-

- \* IN 18 CASES, THE FEMALE EMPLOYEES HAD FAILED TO SERVE NOTICE OF PREGNANCY AS REQUIRED BY LAW.
- \* IN SIX CASES, THE CAUSE OF DISMISSAL WAS FOUND TO BE UNCONNECTED WITH PREGNANCY.
- \* IN EIGHT CASES, THE EVIDENCE WAS FOUND TO BE VERY INADEQUATE OR WHERE THERE WAS NO PROSECUTION WITNESS.
- \* IN THREE CASES, THE EMPLOYERS HAD BECOME INSOLVENT.
- \* AND IN ANOTHER THREE CASES, THE EMPLOYERS TOOK PROMPT REMEDIAL ACTIONS AND CAME TO AMICABLE SETTLEMENT WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES.
- \* IN ONE CASE, THE FEMALE EMPLOYEE WAS FOUND NOT ENTITLED TO MATERNITY PAY.
- \* IN ANOTHER CASE, THE EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT TO MATERNITY LEAVE PAY WAS UNCERTAIN AND IS NOW PENDING A RULING OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENTS  
IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

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INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE ORDINANCES, ARE ENTITLED TO FREEDOM OF ACTION, WITHIN THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, IN MANAGING THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

THIS INCLUDES THE SELECTION, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THEIR OWN STAFF, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE ADMINISTRATION UNDERSTANDS THAT ALL UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS, BEING AUTONOMOUS STATUTORY BODIES, HAVE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE APPOINTMENT, RENEWAL, NON-RENEWAL AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR CONTRACT STAFF," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE PROCEDURES VARIED FROM ONE INSTITUTION TO ANOTHER IN TERMS OF DETAILS, OWING TO THEIR DIFFERENT HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

"BUT THEY SHARE BROADLY THE SAME PRINCIPLES WHICH INCLUDE APPRAISAL OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE, NOTIFICATION TO INDIVIDUALS IN CASE OF CONTRACT RENEWAL, NON-RENEWAL OR TERMINATION, AND PROVISION FOR APPEALS BY STAFF.

A STAFF MEMBER'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ARE STATED IN THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT AND MADE KNOWN TO HIM/HER UPON APPOINTMENT, HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT APPEAL CHANNELS WERE PROVIDED FOR IN ALL INSTITUTIONS.

"APPEALS ARE USUALLY HANDLED BY A PANEL OR COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO MINIMISE POSSIBLE ABUSE OF POWER BY ANY INDIVIDUAL," HE SAID.

WHILE THE DETAILED PROCEDURE MIGHT VARY FROM ONE INSTITUTION TO ANOTHER, MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS EXISTED IN THE INSTITUTIONS IN RESPECT OF PERMANENT STAFF.

HE SAID THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE INSTITUTIONS WERE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES WERE APPLIED FAIRLY AND REASONABLY.

"DISPUTES ABOUT CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TERMINATION OR NON-RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT TO THE COURTS IF A CONCERNED PARTY CHOOSES TO DO SO," HE ADDED.

MAJORITY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTED

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OF THE 102 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, 98 RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

MANY OF THE SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW INITIATIVES ARE BUILT ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ARE UNDERTAKEN PROGRESSIVELY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOWEVER, IN 1994/95, \$1,316.8 MILLION HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, REPRESENTING 67.9 PER CENT OF THE APPROVED ESTIMATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THAT YEAR.

MRS WONG SAID THE REMAINING FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNED THE INTRODUCTION OF A DOMICILIARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE, CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE FOR FEES AND CHARGES, THE REORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY.

"INSTEAD OF A DOMICILIARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE, WE ARE STUDYING THE INTRODUCTION OF A PILOT DISTRICT HEALTH NURSING SERVICE AS PART OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM," SHE SAID.

"THIS SERVICE WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION AND WILL BE INTEGRATED WITH THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT (GOP) SERVICE."

THE OTHER REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED TO BE FURTHER EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES AND MAJOR POLICY AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, SHE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THE REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AT THE TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION.

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PILOT SCHEME TO IMPORT CHINA PROFESSIONALS UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES OF THE PILOT SCHEME ON IMPORTATION OF PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS FROM CHINA, IN THE LIGHT OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WELCOMED ALL VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE PILOT SCHEME WHICH WAS AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT POLICY FOR ENTRY OF OVERSEAS PROFESSIONALS.

NOTING THAT THE SCHEME WAS GIVEN AMPLE PUBLICITY AND WAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY BY THE MEDIA, MR LEUNG SAID OVER 10,000 APPLICATION FORMS WERE DISTRIBUTED AND OVER 2,000 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT THE END OF PHASE I ON MAY 31.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE SCHEME THROUGH EXISTING CHANNELS," HE SAID.

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AMPLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS

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BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COURSES ARE AVAILABLE AS IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICERS ENGAGED IN PROVIDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE POINTED OUT THAT SHORT COURSES IN THE FORM OF SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, REFRESHER COURSES AND CLINICAL ATTACHMENTS WERE ORGANISED TO UPDATE THE OFFICERS' KNOWLEDGE ON SUBJECTS RELEVANT TO THEIR PRACTICES.

"LONG COURSES SUCH AS DIPLOMA OR DEGREE COURSES IN FAMILY MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE, OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND APPLIED STATISTICS, ETC. PROVIDE MORE IN-DEPTH TRAINING FOR THE PURPOSE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT," MRS WONG SAID.

AS AT JUNE 1, 1994, 297 OF THE 480 MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WERE ENGAGED IN PROVIDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, SHE SAID.

ON AVERAGE, ONE OUT OF 11 OFFICERS (9.09 PER CENT) IN THIS GROUP POSSESSED SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS, MRS WONG ADDED.

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LEGCO PROVIDED WITH DETAILS OF SCHOOL SITES

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AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE TOWN PLANNING PROCESS, SITES ARE RESERVED FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN PLANNING DISTRICTS TO MEET FORECAST REQUIREMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR LEUNG SAID THE NUMBER, SIZE AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL SITES REQUIRED WERE DETERMINED MAINLY WITH REFERENCE TO POPULATION FORECASTS AND APPROVED PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.

"SO FAR, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY DIFFICULTIES IN RESERVING SCHOOL SITES," SAID MR LEUNG IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT 157 RESERVED SCHOOL SITES: 105 FOR SECONDARY, 50 FOR PRIMARY AND TWO FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

"THEY ARE LOCATED IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND HAVE BEEN RESERVED TO ENABLE NEW SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN THE FUTURE TO MEET POLICY TARGETS."

MR LEUNG SAID THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME, DRAWN UP ON THE BASIS OF STUDENT POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND TO MEET APPROVED EDUCATION POLICIES, WAS REVIEWED EVERY YEAR.

"WITHIN THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED EACH YEAR, NEW SCHOOLS AS RECOMMENDED IN THE PROGRAMME ARE BUILT THROUGH PUBLIC TENDER UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY, USING THE APPROPRIATE SITES RESERVED.

"RESERVED SCHOOL SITES WHICH ARE NOT NEEDED BECAUSE OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, SITE LIMITATIONS AND OTHER PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS ARE SURRENDERED," HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT POLICY TO REDUCE FLOATATION THROUGH AN ONGOING SCHOOL EXTENSION PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS OF THE OLD DESIGN, MR LEUNG SAID THIS PROGRAMME HAD RECENTLY BEEN REINFORCED BY THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME INTRODUCED THIS YEAR.

"TOGETHER THESE TWO PROGRAMMES WOULD HELP TO ELIMINATE FLOATING CLASSES AT SECONDARY 1 TO 5 LEVELS BY THE YEAR 2000.

"THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE FLOATING OF CLASSES AT SECONDARY 6 TO 7 LEVELS TO BE REASONABLE, HAVING REGARD TO THEIR FREQUENT USE OF SPECIAL ROOMS FOR DIFFERENT SUBJECTS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT IF FLOATING CLASSES AT SECONDARY 1 TO 5 LEVELS WERE TO BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED WELL AHEAD OF THE YEAR 2000, 19 ADDITIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE REQUIRED AND SUITABLE SITES FOR THESE SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE RESERVED LIST.

THERE ARE 132 WHOLE-DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN INCLUDING THREE NEW SCHOOLS COMMISSIONED IN 1993.

"IT IS AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO OPERATE ON A WHOLE-DAY BASIS WHERE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE SUPPLY OF SCHOOL PLACES," MR LEUNG SAID.

"IF WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING WERE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL SHORTFALL OF 87 PRIMARY SCHOOL SITES IN 17 DISTRICTS, EVEN IF ALL THE RESERVED PRIMARY SCHOOL SITES WHICH ARE NEEDED ARE USED," HE ADDED.

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MORE MOTORCYCLES USED FOR VILLAGE PATROLS

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THE POLICE PLAN TO ACQUIRE TWO MORE MOTORCYCLES FOR PATROL DUTIES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LATER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT PRESENT 64 MOTORCYCLES ARE USED FOR SUCH DUTIES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN'S QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID MOBILE PATROL VEHICLES WERE ALSO USED IN REMOTE VILLAGES THAT COULD BE REACHED BY ROADS AND BICYCLE PATROLS WERE ALSO CONDUCTED IN YUEN LONG.

THEY ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY FOOT PATROLS DURING WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE VISITING THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MEMBERS OF THE FIELD PATROL DETACHMENT, WHO PATROL RURAL AREAS ALONG THE BORDER PRIMARILY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, ALSO DEAL WITH OTHER EMERGENCIES IF NECESSARY.

"THE POLICE MONITOR CLOSELY THE CRIME SITUATION IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND DEPLOY RESOURCES AS NECESSARY TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION," MR ASPREY SAID.

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NEED OF CHAPERON DURING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS  
A PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

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THE NEED OR OTHERWISE OF A CHAPERON WHEN CONDUCTING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS ON FEMALE PATIENTS IS A MATTER FOR PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT DEPENDING ON THE PATIENT'S CLINICAL CONDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MRS WONG SAID DOCTORS SHOULD ALWAYS BE FULLY AWARE THAT THEY SHOULD OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THEIR PATIENTS BEFORE COMMENCING ANY EXAMINATION.

/"IT MAKES .....

"IT MAKES GOOD COMMON SENSE FOR MALE DOCTORS TO CONDUCT A MEDICAL EXAMINATION ON A FEMALE PATIENT IN THE PRESENCE OF A CHAPERON IF THE EXAMINATION TO BE CARRIED OUT INVOLVES ANY DIRECT BODY CONTACT," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG EMPHASISED THAT BOTH DOCTORS AND DENTISTS WERE REQUIRED BY THEIR CODES OF PRACTICE TO REGARD THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PATIENTS AS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY.

"IF EVER THEY ARE ALLEGED OF HAVING DISREGARDED THEIR PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO PATIENTS, THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS OF THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCILS RESPECTIVELY," SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE INDECENT ASSAULT OF FEMALE PATIENTS CASES MENTIONED BY MISS LAU IN HER QUESTION, MRS WONG STATED THE DETAILS OF SOME CASES.

THE FIRST CASE INVOLVED A DOCTOR WHO WAS CHARGED IN THE DISTRICT COURT WITH SIX COUNTS OF INDECENT ASSAULT.

THE CASE WAS DISMISSED ON MARCH 18, 1994 AFTER THE COURT FOUND HIM NOT GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES.

THE SECOND CASE WAS CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, PURSUANT TO THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, AT A DISCIPLINARY HEARING HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 1993.

AFTER HEARING EVIDENCE FROM THE COMPLAINANT AND THE ACCUSED DOCTOR, THE COUNCIL WAS SATISFIED THAT THE DOCTOR WAS "GUILTY OF IMPROPER, IMMORAL OR INDECENT BEHAVIOUR IN THE COURSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL DUTIES TO HIS PATIENT (THAT IS, THE COMPLAINANT), AND THAT IN RELATION TO THE FACTS ALLEGED HE HAS BEEN GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT IN A PROFESSIONAL RESPECT".

THE COUNCIL FURTHER ORDERED THE DOCTOR'S NAME BE REMOVED FROM THE MEDICAL REGISTER FOR SIX MONTHS, THE APPLICATION OF WHICH WOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS SUBJECT TO THE DOCTOR NOT BEING FOUND GUILTY OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT DURING THE SAID PERIOD.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE DOCTOR'S RECENT DECISION TO WITHDRAW HIS APPEAL TO THE COURT OF APPEAL, THE MEDICAL COUNCIL'S DECISION AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER WERE GAZETTED ON JUNE 3, 1994.

THE THIRD CASE WAS HEARD BY THE DENTAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, AT ITS DISCIPLINARY ENQUIRY HELD ON FEBRUARY 22 AND APRIL 21, 1994.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ENQUIRY, THE COUNCIL WAS SATISFIED THAT THE DENTIST IN QUESTION WAS "CONVICTED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA ON DECEMBER 4, 1986 OF 17 CHARGES OF INDECENT ASSAULT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND THAT THE COURT OF APPEAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA HAD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1987 ALLOWED THE DENTIST'S APPEAL AGAINST SENTENCE AND IMPOSED A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT OF TWO YEARS LESS ONE DAY WITH PROBATION FOR TWO YEARS".

THE COUNCIL ORDERED AS A CONSEQUENCE THAT THE DENTIST BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE DENTISTRY IN HONG KONG WITH CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.

HOWEVER, HAVING SUBSEQUENTLY CONSULTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY TO THE DENTAL COUNCIL IS NOW SEEKING A JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE ABOVE ORDER OF THE COUNCIL AND AN APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO APPLY FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW HAS ALREADY BEEN FILED.

IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DIVULGE ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CASE AT THIS STAGE, PENDING DETERMINATION OF THIS APPLICATION.

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HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PR STAFF SALARIES COMPARABLE TO CIVIL SERVICE  
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THE SALARIES AT \$4.86 MILLION PER ANNUM FOR OFFICERS IN THE PUBLICITY AND NEWS SECTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ARE COMPARABLE TO SIMILAR RANKS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO, MRS WONG SAID THE PUBLICITY SECTION TOGETHER WITH THE NEWS SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE WAS HEADED BY A DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND STAFFED BY TWO CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS, THREE SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICERS, ONE INFORMATION OFFICER, TWO ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICERS AND TWO CLERICAL OFFICERS.

"SEPARATELY, A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$2.5 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY WORK," SHE ADDED.

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DECISION SOON ON RESOURCE CENTRE SITE  
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A DECISION WILL SOON BE MADE ON THE FINAL USE OF THE SITE AT THE PRESENT TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL WHICH HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY EARMARKED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST RESOURCE CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR LEUNG SAID LATELY, THERE HAD BEEN OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING WHETHER THE SITE SHOULD BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL HOUSING.

"IF THE DECISION IS TO PROCEED WITH THE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN ON THE PRESENT SITE, WE EXPECT THE CENTRE TO OPEN IN MARCH 1995, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONVERSION WORK AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$6.8 M.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, IF AN ALTERNATIVE SITE IS TO BE FOUND, THE TIMING FOR THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE AND THE COST INVOLVED WILL DEPEND ON THE CONDITION AND LOCATION OF THE NEW SITE," HE SAID.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING CHILDREN EXPLAINED

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SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IS PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS RUN BY THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION (ESF) WHICH RECEIVES SUBVENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE TWO SPECIAL UNITS EACH AT THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 84 PLACES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

THE JOCKEY CLUB SARAH ROE SCHOOL OF THE ESF ALSO PROVIDES PLACES FOR 40 SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN. DETAILS ARE:

		ENROLMENT -----		
		CAPACITY	MENTALLY HANDICAPPED	OTHER HANDICAPS
SPECIAL UNITS OF ESF	SECONDARY (11 - 18)	42	27	5
SCHOOLS	PRIMARY (5 - 10)	42	41	1
SARAH ROE SCHOOL	PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	40	29	0
TOTAL		124	97	6

MR LEUNG SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE THAT THERE WAS A WAITING LIST OF 24 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN FOR PLACES IN THE ESF SCHOOLS.

"BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOW ATTENDING SPECIAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES, THE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES AN ADDITIONAL DEMAND OF ANOTHER 26 PLACES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

"TO COPE WITH THIS ADDITIONAL DEMAND; THE DEPARTMENT IS DISCUSSING WITH THE ESF REGARDING PLANS FOR EXPANSION, AND WILL ALSO BE EXPLORING WITH OTHER AGENCIES THE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL PROVISION," MR LEUNG SAID.

AS AT APRIL 1994, THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AGED 15 AND BELOW IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 147.

RATE OF CAESARIAN SECTION OPERATIONS COMPARES  
FAVOURABLY WITH OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

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THE RATE OF CAESARIAN SECTION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG WAS 143.11 PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN 1992/93 AND 141.33 PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN 1993/94, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID THESE FIGURES COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH OVERSEAS COUNTRIES.

"SIMILAR STATISTICAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS IS NOT COLLECTED FOR THE TIME BEING BUT WE WILL CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUCH INFORMATION FROM THESE HOSPITALS," SHE ADDED.

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TRADING FUNDS HAVE SEPARATE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

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TRADING FUNDS OPERATE UNDER ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE SEPARATE FROM THE REMAINDER OF GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, EXPLAINED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TRADING FUND ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY, ONLY IN CERTAIN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS CLOSURE, TRANSFER CAPITAL FROM TRADING FUNDS TO THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE'S QUESTION, MR TSANG SAID ALTHOUGH THE ASSETS OF TRADING FUNDS REMAINED IN THE OWNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, THEIR CAPITAL, AS A RESULT OF THESE SEPARATE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS, DID NOT FORM PART OF THE FISCAL RESERVES.

THE FISCAL RESERVES REPRESENT THE ACCUMULATED BALANCES OF THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT, THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND (EXCLUDING THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT), THE LOAN FUND, THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND AND THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND, THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE EXPENDITURE.

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MOTION ON TOWN PLANNING PASSED

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A MOTION MOVED BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG ON COMPREHENSIVE TOWN PLANNING PROGRAMMES FOR NEW TOWNS WAS PASSED BY 33 TO THREE VOTES WITH AMENDMENTS BY THE HON CHRISTINE LOH AND THE HON WONG WAI-YIN DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANOTHER MOTION BY THE HON FRED LI WAH-MING ON THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE BY ADOLESCENTS WAS ALSO PASSED.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, REPLIED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTIVELY.

MR ASPREY ALSO MOVED THREE MOTIONS TO AMEND THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE AND THE LEGITIMACY ORDINANCE. ALL WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

FOUR BILLS, INCLUDING A PRIVATE BILL, WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL, THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1994, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1994, AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994.

THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON JAMES TIEN.

DEBATES ON THE FOUR BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

THREE OTHER BILLS WENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READINGS WITH AMENDMENTS. THEY WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND BILL AND THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993.

DURING THE MEETING TODAY, MEMBERS ASKED 20 QUESTIONS. THE TOPICS RANGED FROM TRAM SAFETY TO SURVEILLANCE OR INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.