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TIME OF ADJUSTMENT AHEAD: CS

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THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS A WHOLLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE WILL REQUIRE A GOOD DEAL OF ADJUSTMENT ON THE PART OF CIVIL SERVANTS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

"HOW OFFICIALS MANAGE THEIR PART OF THE CHANGE WILL CLEARLY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON THE WAY HONG KONG WILL BE RUN," HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON "THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NINETIES" AT THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER, SIR DAVID SAID HE FORESAW THAT, UP TO AND BEYOND 1997, HONG KONG WOULD HAVE A STRONG EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BALANCED BY AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE AND CHECKED BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

"THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS A WHOLLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE IS, OF COURSE, A STIPULATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION," HE SAID.

"IT IS ALSO A NATURAL AND DESIRABLE THING IN ITSELF, CONSIDERING THE STATE OF HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY."

FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE BUREAUCRACY PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE, SIR DAVID SAID THE DEVELOPMENT SPELT ADJUSTMENT.

"THEY WILL NEED TO DEVELOP NEW PERCEPTIONS AND SKILLS, TO MANAGE THE POLITICS SURROUNDING THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF THEIR PRINCIPLES," HE SAID.

"THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT THOSE WHO SUCCEED WILL FIND THAT THE POLITICAL COVER THEY OBTAIN WILL GIVE THEM GREATER STRENGTH, AND A GREATER CONFIDENCE IN MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS."

WHILE PRAISING THE QUALITY, MOTIVATION AND DEDICATION OF HONG KONG'S CIVIL SERVICE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID CIVIL SERVANTS MUST BE "EQUIPPED TO COPE WITH CHANGE" -- NOT JUST POLITICALLY, BUT TECHNOLOGICALLY AND MANAGERIALLY.

"WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR PROFESSIONALS UP-TO-DATE WITH THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND SKILL," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR ADMINISTRATORS WELL INFORMED WITH MODERN MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR SENIOR STAFF WELL IN TOUCH WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS ELSEWHERE.

"WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE OUR STAFF ARE OPEN-MINDED, ADAPTABLE TO OPERATING IN AN EVOLVING ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL BE RESILIENT IN FACE OF THE INEVITABLE PRESSURES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE TRANSITION."

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID GREAT EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON TRAINING STAFF, FROM JUNIOR TO SENIOR.

"NO LESS THAN 18,000 CIVIL SERVANTS ATTEND LOCAL COURSES EACH YEAR, WITH 100 OR SO OF THEM GOING ON OVERSEAS COURSES."

THE $400 MILLION SPENT ON THIS ANNUALLY -- ABOUT THREE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE -- WAS A GOOD INDICATION OF THE EMPHASIS THE GOVERNMENT PLACED ON STAFF TRAINING, SIR DAVID NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID MUCH OF THE WORK BEING DONE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT NORMALLY THE SORT OF HIGH-PROFILE STUFF THAT WOULD CATCH THE HEADLINES.

FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS THE STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURAL PLANNING WHICH WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, THE DETAILED YET NO LESS IMPORTANT WORK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JLG AGREEMENTS, AND THE WORK IN IMPROVING RESOURCE ALLOCATION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION.

"THESE MAY NOT BE NOTICEABLE TO THE PUBLIC BUT THEY ARE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT IN SHAPING OUR FUTURE," HE SAID.

"TO MANAGE THE DYNAMISM OF HONG KONG SUCCESSFULLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO MOVE WITH THE TIMES AND FACE THE CHANGES WITH CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE.

"THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IN 1990'S IS GOING TO BE ABOUT AND IS WHAT WE ARE ALL AIMING FOR."

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE NEW RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM, WHICH INVOLVED GIVING SECRETARIAT POLICY BRANCHES A MUCH LARGER ROLE IN DETERMINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES AMONG THE PROGRAMMES FOR WHICH THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE, HAD BEEN IN PLACE FOR TWO YEARS, AND THERE WAS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE IT COULD BE REFINED TO SATISFACTION.

"BUT IT IS ALREADY PROVING TO BE A MORE FLEXIBLE AND RATIONAL MEANS OF ALLOCATING LIMITED RESOURCES TO SATISFY THE HIGHLY COMPETING DEMANDS," HE SAID.

ON STATUTORY BODIES -- ANOTHER CHANGING STYLE OF GOVERNMENT -- SIR DAVID SAID THESE BODIES WERE SET UP TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES WITH OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY WHILE MEETING THE DEMAND FOR MORE DIRECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES IN SETTING UP SUCH BODIES TO TAKE ON PUBLIC SERVICES WHERE IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE TO DO SO," HE SAID.

"THERE ARE POTENTIAL AREAS, SUCH AS THE AIRPORT AND THE SEWERAGE SERVICES, WHICH MAY BE SUITABLE FOR THE PURPOSE."

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RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO IMPROVE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR DISCIPLINED SERVICES

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THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, IN ITS FINAL REPORT RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY), HAS PROPOSED A PACKAGE TO IMPROVE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THE FIVE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES A REVISED SYSTEM ON ALLOWANCES; GROUPINGS OF THE FIVE SERVICES FOR PAY PURPOSES; AND THE SETTING UP OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY TO CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS RELATING TO THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THE FIVE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED IN APRIL THIS YEAR BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO REVIEW THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FIVE DISCIPLINED SERVICES --- THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

RELEASING THE REPORT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN, MR ARCHIE RENNIE, SAID THAT THE PROPOSED PACKAGE, IF ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IGNORING CHANGES IN ALLOWANCES, WOULD BRING ABOUT AN AVERAGE 9.4 PER CENT INCREASE IN BASIC PAY FOR THE POLICE FORCE; 10.5 PER CENT FOR THE FIRE SERVICES; 16.8 PER CENT FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; 16.5 PER CENT FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, AND 14.7 PER CENT FOR THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

"WITHIN EACH SERVICE THE FIGURES FOR DIFFERENT RANKS AND DIFFERENT LENGTHS OF SERVICE VARIED CONSIDERABLY, WITH THE LARGER INCREASES GOING TO THOSE IN THE MIDDLE RANKS AND TO LONGER-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ENTRY GRADES. THE NET EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOWANCES, SOME OF WHICH THE COMMITTEE PROPOSED SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND SOME INCREASED, WOULD BE TO REDUCE THESE FIGURES OVERALL BY ABOUT ONE PER CENT," HE SAID.

"THE COMMITTEE UNDERSTAND THAT PAY LEVELS WOULD BE BACKDATED TO APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, AND RECOMMEND THAT ANY CHANGES SHOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY FURTHER GENERAL PAY ADJUSTMENT THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY THAT HAS BEEN RECENTLY APPOINTED," MR RENNIE SAID.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE WORK OF ALL THE FIVE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AS THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PRESERVING THE SECURITY, STABILITY AND WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE NATURE AND CONTENT OF ALL FIVE SERVICES' RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE DEVELOPED AND GROWN OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS AND THAT THEY ARE NOW REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX TASKS," HE ADDED.

/"AS HONG .....

"AS HONG KONG BECOMES MORE SOPHISTICATED, THE COMMUNITY EXPECTS ITS DISCIPLINED SERVICES TO GROW IN EXPERTISE AND EFFICIENCY, AND TO CONTINUE TO BE RELIABLE AND AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED," MR RENNIE SAID.

IN STUDYING THE WORK CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED COMMON FACTORS APPLICABLE TO ALL THE SERVICES, INCLUDING SOME WHICH WERE PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE TO DISCIPLINED SERVICE WORK.

"THESE INCLUDED KNOW-HOW, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY, WHICH WERE IMPORTANT IN ALL THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

"FACTORS WHERE IN MANY CASES THERE WERE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE INCLUDED DANGER, LONG HOURS OF WORK, SHIFT PATTERNS, HARDSHIP, SOCIAL SEGREGATION, RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL FREEDOM, AND UNPREDICTABLE CALLS UPON STAFF TIME," MR RENNIE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT STRESS WAS ALSO LINKED TO MANY OF THESE FACTORS.

AFTER A CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF THESE FACTORS AND ITS EFFECT ON MEMBERS OF THE DIFFERENT SERVICES, THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE RANKED INTO THREE BROAD GROUPS FOR PAY PURPOSES.

THE POLICE FORCE WOULD CONSTITUTE A GROUP BY ITSELF; THE SECOND GROUP WOULD COMPRISE FIRE SERVICES (OPERATIONAL), CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE; AND THE THIRD GROUP CONSISTS OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE, FIRE SERVICES (AMBULANCE) AND FIRE SERVICES (CONTROL).

THIS GROUPING SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN NEW PAY SCALES AND THE EXISTING DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY SCALES FOR OFFICERS AND RANK AND FILE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, MR RENNIE SAID.

THESE SCALES WOULD BE REPLACED BY A SEPARATE NEW POLICE PAY SCALE TO COVER THE ENTIRE RANK STRUCTURE OF THE POLICE, AND A GENERAL DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY SCALE (GDS) FOR THE OTHER FOUR SERVICES WHICH WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS.

THESE ARE, GDS (COMMANDER) FOR SENIOR COMMANDERS (OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON THE CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE), GDS (OFFICER) AND GDS (RANK AND FILE).

"THE COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED A SEPARATE PAY SCALE FOR THE POLICE BECAUSE IT ACCEPTED THAT IF THE POLICE WERE PLACED ON THE SAME SCALE AS THE OTHER SERVICES, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEIR STAFF ASSOCIATIONS TO REPRESENT THEIR MEMBERS EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT SOMETIMES BEING REQUIRED TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH STAFF GROUPS REPRESENTED BY TRADE UNIONS.

/"THIS IS .....

"THIS IS AN UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE STATUTORY PROHIBITION ON TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP UNIQUE TO THE POLICE," MR RENNIE EXPLAINED.

THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED AN "AVERAGING" APPROACH IN DETERMINING THE PROPOSED SCALES, STRIKING RATES FOR EACH RANK WHICH REFLECTED THE AVERAGE EXPERIENCE IN WORK AND WORKING CONDITIONS, AND SWEEPING UP EXISTING JOB-RELATED ALLOWANCES IN BASIC PAY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

"MOST OF THE EXISTING EXTRANEOUS DUTIES ALLOWANCES AND HARDSHIP ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AND THE REMAINDER INCORPORATED INTO A NEW EXTRA DUTIES ALLOWANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

"THE PRESENT DISCIPLINED SERVICES SPECIAL ALLOWANCE, WHICH IS A FORM OF OVERTIME PAY, SHOULD BE REPLACED BY A DISCIPLINED SERVICES OVERTIME ALLOWANCE TO BE PAID AT A HIGHER RATE THAN THE CURRENT ALLOWANCE," MR RENNIE SAID.

CEILINGS RELATED TO THE PAY OF THE RANK ABOVE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SET ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OVERTIME PAY ANY OFFICER COULD EARN, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED.

"THE NEW OVERTIME ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO CHIEF INSPECTORS OF POLICE, WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY INELIGIBLE FOR THE ALLOWANCE.

"THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT CHIEF INSPECTORS WERE REGULARLY REQUIRED TO WORK OVERTIME WITH THEIR STAFF IN A WAY NOT MATCHED BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER SERVICES," MR RENNIE NOTED.

IN EXAMINING STATISTICS ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IN THE FIVE SERVICES, THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT THE SITUATION WAS WORST IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THE SETTING UP OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY, SEPARATE FROM THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, TO CONSIDER ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE FIVE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

THE NEW BODY CALLED THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, WOULD HAVE A SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND ONE ON THE OTHER FOUR SERVICES.

MEMBERSHIP OF THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ACADEMICS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE JUDICIARY AND THE BUSINESS SECTOR, MR RENNIE SAID.

"ON CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, THE COMMITTEE HAS SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF A NEW GENERAL DISCIPLINED SERVICES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO REPRESENT ALL THE SERVICES OTHER THAN THE POLICE WHO WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED THROUGH THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

/MR RENNIE .....

MR RENNIE EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD REACHED ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT AND AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY EXTERNAL INFLUENCE OR PRESSURE.

THE FINAL REPORT, HE SAID, WAS THE PRODUCT OF SIX MONTHS' INTENSIVE WORK BY THE COMMITTEE WHICH INVITED AND CONSIDERED REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISCIPLINED SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENTS, STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS, PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

"THE COMMITTEE MADE EXTENSIVE FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO EACH OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES; SEEING VARIOUS UNITS, INSTITUTIONS AND FACILITIES; OBSERVING THEIR ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE TERRITORY AND MEETING STAFF AT ALL LEVELS," MR RENNIE SAID.

"WE ALSO HELD FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENTS AND STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS," HE ADDED.

MR RENNIE POINTED OUT THAT RESPONSES TO THE COMMITTEE'S PRELIMINARY REPORT PUBLISHED IN JULY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN PREPARING THE FINAL REPORT.

THE TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE, SIR ROGER LOBO, AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS RITA FAN, ALSO TOOK PART IN TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

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COMPREHENSIVE SET OF PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN FINAL REPORT

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COMMENTING ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, PUBLISHED TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE REPORT CONTAINED A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

"THE FINAL REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WIDE-RANGING AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES WILL NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE OVERALL ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PACKAGE AND ANY PROBLEMS WHICH IT PRESENTS TO THEM, BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A FINAL DECISION," HE SAID.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED IN APRIL 1988 TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD SINCE THE CREATION OF SEPARATE DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY SCALES IN 1979, AND ALSO OF THE NEED TO RECRUIT, TO MOTIVATE AND TO RETAIN SUITABLE OFFICERS SO AS TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

/AT PRESENT, ...

AT PRESENT, THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES NUMBER OVER 44,000 AND MAKE UP ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT FOLLOWING THIS REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER INVITING THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF GRADES IN THE NON-DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

"SINCE THE LATEST GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CIVIL SERVICE STRUCTURE WAS CONDUCTED NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO IN 1979, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO START ANOTHER REVIEW COMMENCING NEXT YEAR TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ANY CHANGES IN WORKLOAD AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL GRADES DURING THIS PERIOD," HE SAID.

"AS THERE ARE OVER 400 GRADES COMPRISING ABOUT 1,200 RANKS, ANY COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW WOULD BE A MAJOR TASK AND WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL PLANNING," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE: SES

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THE COMING DECADE WILL SEE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK DIRECTORS, MRS CHAN SAID THESE INVESTMENTS SHOULD HELP HONG KONG MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE POSITION AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING COMMERICAL, FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES.

ON THE AIRPORT, MRS CHAN SAID CONSULTANTS HAD CONFIRMED THAT, DESPITE THE SITE CONSTRAINTS OF KAI TAK AIRPORT, FURTHER EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

"THE CONSULTANTS HAVE RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS TO THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, ADDITIONAL APRON PARKING FACILITIES FOR AIRCRAFT AND MEASURES TO OPTIMISE USAGE OF THE SINGLE RUNWAY.

"TAKEN TOGETHER, THE IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD ENABLE KAI TAK TO COPE WITH AIR TRAFFIC WELL INTO THE 1990'S.

"THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE EXPENSIVE BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL BE NECESSARY TO KEEP KAI TAK GOING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAVE A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO CONSIDE THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN DECIDING THE QUESTION OF THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S TASK WAS TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE REMAINED ADEQUATE TO UNDERPIN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"BEFORE WE EMBARK ON THIS DEVELOPMENT, WE NEED TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE PROJECT IS VIABLE AND THAT THE ECONOMY HAS THE CAPACITY TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS PLACED UPON IT BY SUCH A MASSIVE PROJECT WHICH WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO COMPLETE.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS TO CONSIDER THE OPTIMUM BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS THE MACHANISMS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE SMOOTH CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE FACILITY ONCE A DECISION TO PROCEED IS TAKEN," SHE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF WHERE THE NEW AIRPORT SHOULD BE, MRS CHAN SAID TWO STUDIES WERE TAKING PLACE ON THIS -- ONE EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF HAVING A NEW AIRPORT IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR AREA TO THE EAST OF LANTAU ISLAND AND THE OTHER SEEKING TO REVISE AND UPDATING THE 1982 MASTER PLAN FOR A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, NORTH OF LANTAU.

SHE SAID THAT BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT COULD NARROW THE CHOICE TO ONE, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY VITAL FOR THE RELATIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE SITES TO BE VERY THOROUGHLY EXAMINED FROM THE AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS OF VIEW.

"THEN, OF COURSE, THE PROGRAMMING FOR BUILDING NEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT MUST TIE IN WITH THE EXPECTED LIFE SPAN OF KAI TAK," SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS HONG KONG'S PORT FACILITIES, MRS CHAN SAID THE RELATIVE EASE OF ESTABLISHING A COMMERICAL PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, TOGETHER WITH EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS, HAD LED TO A REMARKABLE GROWTH IN THE OPERATIONS OF SHIPPING SUPPORT COMPANIES, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE BANKING, INSURANCE AND SERVICE SECTORS.

"ADDED TO A VERY STRONG SHIP OWNERSHIP BASE, THIS HAS CONSOLIDATED HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A LEADING SHIPPING CENTRE IN WORLD TERMS," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S DENSE POPULATION AND THE LARGE VOLUMES OF TRAFFIC GENERATED BY A HIGHLY ACTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEANT THAT FURTHER COMPETITION IN THIS SECTOR OF THE MARKET WAS NOT ONLY FEASIBLE BUT HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

SHE SAID THE RECENT GOVERNMENT DECISION IN FAVOUR OF A SECOND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR TRANSMITTING CABLE TELEVISION AND NON-FRANCHISED SERVICES SUCH AS DATA AND FACSIMILE WAS A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP IN TAPPING THE POTENTIAL OF THIS FAST EXPANDING COMPETITIVE SECTOR.

MRS CHAN SAID THE INVITATION FOR CABLE TELEVISION PROPOSALS WAS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON SEPTEMBER 19 AND WOULD BE OPEN FOR SIX MONTHS.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PROVIDING THE NEW NETWORK FOR CABLE TELEVISION AND NON-FRANCHISED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEIR INTERESTS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO SUBSTANTIVE BIDS AT THE END OF THE DAY.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SUBSTANTIVE AND COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS FROM DIFFERENT PARTIES WHICH WILL SECURE FOR HONG KONG A SOPHISTICATED NETWORK CAPABLE OF TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE RAPIDLY EVOLVING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

"IN THIS WAY, THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY SERVED WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY," SHE SAID.

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GOVERNOR SEES YUEN LONG DEVELOPMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED YUEN LONG DISTRICT TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE EFFORTS MADE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS NEW TOWN.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SIR DAVID ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER AT THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

HE WAS MET BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, MR A.N. SAVAGE, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN WONG.

THE GOVERNOR WAS TOLD THAT AS THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN HONG KONG AFTER THE ONE IN TAI PO, THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HAD PROVED EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE TO HI-TECH INDUSTRIES WHICH COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS. SO FAR, 40 PER CENT OF THE SITES HAD BEEN ALLOCATED.

AFTER TOURING THE ESTATE, THE GOVERNOR WENT TO WANG CHAU SERVICE RESERVIOR FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE TIN SHUI WAI LANDHOLDING.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER (TIN SHUI WAI/YUEN LONG), MR Y.Y. NG, ON PROGRESS OF THE LAND FORMATION AND THE ANCILLARY VILLAGE FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT SAND WAS BEING DREDGED FROM A MARINE BORROW AREA IN DEEP BAY AS FILL MATERIAL FOR RECLAMATION OF THE FISHPONDS IN THE LANDHOLDING.

/LAND FOR .....

LAND FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR 39,000 PERSONS WOULD BE READY BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

THE GOVERNOR THEN WENT TO THE LONG PING ESTATE IN THE NORTHWEST OF YUEN LONG TOWN.

THERE HE SAW MANY FORMER VILLAGERS OF THE TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE AS WELL AS NEWCOMERS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY WHO WERE ABLE TO ENJOY SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED AND COMFORTABLE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THIS NEWEST GENERATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES DESIGNED FOR A POPULATION OF 35,000.

SIR DAVID VISITED THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, INDOOR GAMES HALL AND COMMUNITY HALL. HE ALSO PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO THE HOME OF THE CHAIRLADY OF ONE OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES RECENTLY FORMED IN THE ESTATE.

THE NEXT STOP WAS NAM PIN WAI, A WALLED VILLAGE SITUATED AT THE EASTERN EDGE OF YUEN LONG TOWN.

THE GOVERNOR WAS GREETED BY THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR OF THE TRADITIONAL VILLAGE.

HE WAS ALSO BRIEFED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER ON PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE VILLAGE.

THE GOVERNOR THEN MADE A BRIEF STOP AT SAU FU STREET NEAR THE YUEN LONG NULLAH.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER ON WORKS WHICH ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO IMPROVE THE YUEN LONG NULLAH OVER WHICH HE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN DURING HIS VISIT TO THE DISTRICT LAST YEAR.

SIR DAVID ENDED HIS VISIT BY MEETING MEMBERS OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AT A TEA RECEPTION.

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PLANS TO IMPROVE YUEN LONG NULLAH

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THERE ARE PLANS TO IMPROVE THE YUEN LONG NULLAH, STARTING FROM NEXT YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER TOURING YUEN LONG, SIR DAVID SAID THE COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE ABOUT $92 MILLION.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT ALL THE RESEARCH WORK HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED. A SOLUTION HAS BEEN WORKED OUT," HE SAID.

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WHEN THE WORK WAS COMPLETED IT WOULD PROVIDE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF YUEN LONG.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND THE WAY THAT IT WAS NOW DEVELOPING BECAUSE TAI PO WAS ALMOST FULL.

"SO A LOT OF INDUSTRY WILL BE COMING HERE INSTEAD OF TAI PO, AND THAT WILL BE HELPED BY THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD," HE SAID.

ON TIN SHUI WAI, THE GOVERNOR SAID DEVELOPMENT WAS GOING AHEAD VERY FAST AND THERE WOULD BE A LARGE AMOUNT OF HOUSING, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

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DO OUTLINES DEVELOPMENTS IN TUEN MUN

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT TUEN MUN HAS BECOME A PLACE IN WHICH RESIDENTS CAN TAKE PRIDE.

THIS AROSE FROM WELL-BALANCED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE SECTOR AND IN THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, COUPLED WITH RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOLO HARBOUR, MR WAN SAID THAT SINCE ASSUMING DUTY IN MARCH THIS YEAR HE HAD BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED BY DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

THIS DEVELOPMENT SPANNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR ENTERPRISES.

CITING THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SYSTEM AS AN EXAMPLE, MR WAN SAID THIS COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT AND MODERN MODE OF TRANSPORT HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A BIG CHANGE.

ON OVERALL DEVELOPMENT, MR WAN ENVISAGED AN ECONOMIC BOOM ARISING FROM LONG-TERM GROWTH IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND THE PRIVATE SECTORS, COUPLED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF NEW LAND.

"IN THE HEART OF THE NEW TOWN, THERE ARE PROVISIONS OF OVER 130,000 SQUARE METRES OF COMMERCIAL FLOOR SPACE FOR SHOPS AND OFFICES AS WELL AS RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES IN A TOWN CENTRE COMPLEX, INCLUDING ONE OF THE LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," MR WAN SAID.

"INDEED, THE COMPLEX HAS BECOME TUEN MUN'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CENTRE."

/MR WAN .....

MR WAN ADDED THAT OTHER COMMERCIAL SCHEMES WOULD BE DEVELOPED AT THE HARBOUR CENTRE, THE NEW TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, AND THE SO KWUN WAT MARINA, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A HOTEL.

TURNING TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THAT OVER 1,200,000 SQUARE METRES OF INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE IN THE DISTRICT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED AND WAS NOW OCCUPIED BY SOME 2,000 MANUFACTURING COMPANIES, PROVIDING JOBS FOR OVER 30,000 WORKERS.

MR WAN SAID THE PLAN FOR TUEN MUN LAND RESERVES COULD, ON FULL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ANOTHER 100,000 MANUFACTURING JOBS FOR RESIDENTS.

HE ADDED THAT CERTAIN AREAS TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN HAD BEEN RESERVED TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS THOSE REQUIRING LARGE SITES WITH SEA ACCESS AS STATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT STUDY OF AREA 38B.

REGARDING HOUSING, MR WAN SAID TUEN MUN AT PRESENT HAD EIGHT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES,PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR 176,000 PEOPLE.

"THE EXISTING POPULATION FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME IS 50,000 AND FOR PRIVATE HOUSING IT IS 60,000."

HE NOTED THAT DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN TO THE FOREFRONT IN THE DISTRICT AND, WITH MANY PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PLANNING, SOME 12,000 FLATS WOULD PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR 50,000 INHABITANTS.

REFERRING TO GOVERNMENT POLICY, MR WAN EXPLAINED THAT IN FACE OF RAPID INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH AND A BURGEONING POPULATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT NEGLECTED A BALANCED PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL, MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND WELFARE COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

"A TOTAL OF $170 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR SEVEN CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES," HE SAID.

"AMONG THEM ARE BUTTERFLY BEACH RECREATION AREA, TOWN PARK PHASE II, A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN AREA 32, AND A NULLAH PROMENADE COMPRISING A CYCLING TRACK."

CONCERNING COMMUNITY FACILITIES, HE SAID THE 1,600-BED TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF 16 GOVERNMENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN THIS FIELD.

MR WAN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT DESPITE CONCURRENT PROBLEMS CONCERNING TRANSPORT AND BOAT PEOPLE IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION WOULD HELP IN SOLVING ALL ISSUES.

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SEMINAR FOR TECHNICAL WORKERS IN PLASTICS INDUSTRY

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TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY ARE BEING INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON THE USE OF COLORANTS IN PLASTICS PROCESSING, TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16.

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, AIMS AT UPGRADING THE COLOURING TECHNIQUES USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PLASTICS PRODUCTS.

TWO EXPERTS FROM THE CIBA-GEIGY (H.K.) LIMITED AND DAI NIPPON INK AND CHEMICAL (H.K.) LIMITED - THE LEADING SUPPLIERS OF COLOURING MATERIALS WILL BE INVITED TO SPEAK ON THE TECHNIQUES REQUIRED IN THE USE OF COLORANTS AND DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS IN COLOURING WITH PARTICIPANTS.

THE SEMINAR IS FREE OF CHARGE AND IS SUITABLE FOR IN-SERVICE PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS, MATERIALS TECHNICIANS, PLASTICS MACHINE SETTERS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS DECEMBER 2. FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD ON 5-8932341 EXT. 256.

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CS TO VISIT USA NEXT MONTH

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, WILL MAKE A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NEXT MONTH TO UPDATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ACADEMICS AND BUSINESSMEN ON THE LATEST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

HE WILL VISIT WASHINGTON, BOSTON AND NEW YORK FROM DECEMBER 5 TO 9.

IN BOSTON, HE WILL GIVE A LUNCHEON SPEECH AT THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

SIR DAVID WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK AND THE ASIA SOCIETY IN NEW YORK.

WHILE IN NEW YORK, HE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN NEW PREMISES FOR THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE THERE.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN LONDON BEFORE HIS AMERICAN TOUR.

SIR DAVID WILL ALSO CALL ON MINISTER AND OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORY.

HE WILL ALSO HOST A RECEPTION FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS AS WELL AS UK AND HONG KONG SCHOLARS AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

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CAREER EXHIBITIONS SERVE VALUABLE PURPOSE

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CAREER EXHIBITIONS ARE IMMENSELY VALUABLE AS A WAY FOR FUTURE GRADUATES TO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE 1988 CAREERS' EXHIBITION, LADY WILSON SAID THAT CAREER CHOICE WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST, IF NOT THE MOST, IMPORTANT DECISIONS A PERSON WOULD HAVE TO MAKE IN LIFE.

A CAREER EXHIBITION WAS A BEGINNING FOR IT PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET MORE DETAILED INFORMATION BY MEETING AND TALKING TO PEOPLE IN VARIOUS CAREERS, LADY WILSON SAID.

WHETHER ONE WAS INTERESTED IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTORS, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO ENJOY WHAT ONE WAS DOING, SHE SAID IN EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE.

LADY WILSON ALSO NOTED THAT MORE THAN 650 STUDENTS HAD LEFT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE LAST YEAR TO TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY.

"THIS ANNUAL INFUSION OF QUALIFIED AND TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE REPRESENTS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING," SHE SAID.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COLLEGE, THROUGH ITS ONGOING PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DEGREE COURSES, STAFF, AND CAMPUS FACILITIES, IS CONTRIBUTING A VERY GREAT DEAL TO OUR SOCIETY," LADY WILSON ADDED.

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"GOOD CITIZEN AWARD SCHEME" FOR WONG TAI SIN

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THE WORKING GROUP ON CIVIC EDUCATION OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE IS ORGANISING A "WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT GOOD CITIZEN AWARD SCHEME" WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

"THE SCHEME IS ALSO AIMED AT RECOGNISING GOOD CITIZENSHIP, AND ESTABLISHING A CLEAR IMAGE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AMONG WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE EXPLAINED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SCHEME IS OPEN TO THOSE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT, AND WHO HAVE A GOOD RECORD IN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

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THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATING PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME CANNOT THEMSELVES BE NOMINATED.

THE CATEGORY OF NOMINATORS IS RESTRICTED TO THOSE WHO ARE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CIVIC EDUCATION, WONG TAI SIN AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WONG TAI SIN CIVIC EDUCATION TEAM MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS IN WONG TAI SIN, OR KAIFONG ASSOCIATION CHAIRMEN IN WONG TAI SIN.

THEY MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE RELEVANT ORGANISATION ON THE GIVEN DATE OF JANUARY 6 NEXT YEAR.

EACH NOMINATION FORM HAS TO BE SIGNED BY THE NOMINATOR AND FOUR SECONDERS, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE NOMINEES' AREAS BEFORE JANUARY 6.

EACH AREA COMMITTEE MAY NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN FIVE NOMINATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY AN ADJUDICATION PANEL WHICH WILL SELECT TWO WINNERS FOR EACH AREA.

THE ADJUDICATION PANEL WILL COMPRISE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE.

THE MAIN SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHEME ARE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

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SEMINAR ON HOME SAFETY IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN

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A SEMINAR ON HOME SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT AND A LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE 6TH PHASE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) EVENING AT THE EXCHANGE CLUB, CONNAUGHT GARDEN IN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST.

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED UNDER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN WITH A VIEW TO EDUCATING RESIDENTS ON HOME SECURITY.

OFFICIATING AT THE FUNCTION WILL BE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER (CENTRAL), MR W.H. KIRKHOPE; DISTRICT COMMANDER (WESTERN), MR R.C. TOAL; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR WU CHOR-NAM; FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR WONG CHUNG-YING AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE HOME SAFETY SEMINAR, MR NGAI WAI-MING.

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AN EXHIBITION ON THE LIFT DISPLAY PROJECT WILL ALSO BE STAGED IN THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE EXCHANGE CLUB AT CONNAUGHT GARDEN, 153 TO 157, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS NOISE PROBLEM

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING TRAFFIC NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURES ON THE SECTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR LAI KING CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS A REPORT PREPARED BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL ON A SURVEY ENTITLED "HOW TO ABATE AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION FROM POLLUTING INDUSTRIES".

MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT A STRANGE SMELL EMITTING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL AREA IN FRONT OF KWAI CHUNG ESTATE AND PROGRESS OF ROAD WORKS IN TSING YI AND KWAI CHUNG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10/F, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

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CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN SHEUNG SHUI SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT THE SECOND FLOOR, BLOCK 38, AND FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS, BLOCK 39, ON KWOK VILLAS, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JUNE 1985 REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 19 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER A CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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OPEN SPACE IN KWAI CHUNG

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TWO SITES IN SOUTH KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO A LOCAL OPEN SPACE TO SERVE RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

ONE OF THE SITES IS SITUATED AT KWAI SHING CIRCUIT AND THE OTHER AT HING SHING ROAD.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED INCLUDE A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND REST GARDENS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN FEBRUARY 1989 AND TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 9, 1988.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT ON HK ISLAND

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON HONG KONG ISLAND FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

CANNON STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN JAFFE ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR WATER MAIN LAYING WORK.

SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ON CANNON STREET HEADING FOR GREAT GEORGE STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA JAFFE ROAD, PERCIVAL STREET, LOCKHART ROAD AND EAST POINT ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING TWO ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE MADE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS : THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE OF KING KWONG STREET IN HAPPY VALLEY FOR ABOUT SEVEN WEEKS, AND WELLINGTON STREET IN CENTRAL BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 98 AND 112 FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH.

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

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE THE REPLACEMENT OF POWER CABLES, THE EASTERN SECTION OF ROAD 3C BETWEEN ROAD 3A AND ROAD 3E1 IN TUEN MUN AREA 3A WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

MOTORISTS MAY USE ROAD 3A FOR ACCESS TO THE CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OFFICE, AND USE ROAD 3E1 FOR ACCESS TO THE CASTLE PEAK GOVERNMENT FARM AND THE CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL STAFF QUARTERS.

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTIONS
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) INTERRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

* THE SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN LUEN WO MARKET, FANLING, INCLUDING LUEN ON STREET, LUEN CHEONG STREET, LUEN WO ROAD, LUEN SHING STREET, LUEN HING STREET, LUEN FAT STREET, WO TAI STREET AND WO LUNG STREET, WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 23) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

* THE SUPPLY TO PAK WAN STREET, PAK TIN STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 1-3 AND 9-17, PAK TIN ESTATE, WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 23) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

* THE SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES ALONG MAN KAM TO ROAD BETWEEN FU TEI AU ROAD AND MUK WU, INCLUDING LO WU BARRACK CAMP, LO WU TSUEN, POLMIL HQ, TAK YUET LAU, LIU POK TSUEN, SHA LENG SAN TSUEN, SAN UK LENG TSUEN, MUK WU TSUEN AND NGA YIU TSUEN, WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 41.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 242.100 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 382.310 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 65.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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