



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISION FOR DUAL MEMBERSHIP OF URBCO, DB

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THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 SEEKS TO ENABLE A PERSON TO SERVE BOTH AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF A DISTRICT BOARD IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA BY REMOVING A RESTRICTION CONTAINED IN THE EXISTING LAW, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE STRONG WORKING LINKS BETWEEN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS.

"THE RESTRICTION OF DUAL MEMBERSHIP TO WITHIN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA REFLECTS, AND IS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF, THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING DUAL MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE BILL ALSO MADE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW TO CLARIFY THE POSITION OF AN URBAN COUNCILLOR WHO WAS ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF AN URBAN DISTRICT BOARD.

"HE WILL SIT ON THE DISTRICT BOARD AS AN ELECTED MEMBER, BUT HIS EX-OFFICIO SEAT ON THE SAME OR ANOTHER DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE LEFT VACANT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL STEMMED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT THE EXISTING PRACTICE, WHEREBY URBAN COUNCILLORS WERE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS, SHOULD CEASE IN MARCH 1989 WHEN THE TENURE OF THE PRESENT URBAN COUNCIL WOULD EXPIRE.

THE PROPOSAL WAS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO, BEFORE THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT SO THAT POTENTIAL CANDIDATES WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL COULD CONSIDER WHETHER TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO A DISTRICT BOARD, AND TO PLAN THEIR ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES IF THEY DID SO, SIR DAVID SAID.

"IF THE BILL IS PASSED, SUCH A CANDIDATE WILL BE ABLE, IF ELECTED, TO SERVE AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF A DISTRICT BOARD, WHILE RETAINING HIS MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL."

NOTING THAT THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE URBAN COUNCILLORS' EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT ALTERNATIVE LINKS WOULD BE PROVIDED BETWEEN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS, SIR DAVID SAID THE WORKING LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN A WHITE PAPER.

HE ADDED THAT THE BILL WAS A SELF-CONTAINED MEASURE WHICH DID NOT PREJUDGE THE CONTENTS OF THE WHITE PAPER IN ANY MATERIAL WAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL SEEKS TO ENHANCE OPERATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND TO PROVIDE A CLEAR DEFINITION FOR A DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, NOTED THAT THE PRESENT DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE ALREADY STIPULATED THAT THE OFFICE OF A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER SHOULD BECOME VACANT IF HE FAILED THROUGHOUT A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO ATTEND ANY MEETING OF THE BOARD UNLESS SUCH FAILURE WAS DUE TO SOME REASONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

THE ORDINANCE DID NOT, HOWEVER, REQUIRE THE MEMBER TO SEEK AND OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH ABSENCE.

HE COULD THUS DO SO RETROSPECTIVELY AFTER HE HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM BOARD MEETINGS FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, MR LIAO SAID, NOTING THAT ABSENCE OF THIS NATURE COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, THE BILL AMENDS THE ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF HIS BOARD PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS ABSENCE EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF PROLONGED ILLNESS," MR LIAO SAID.

THE BILL WOULD ALSO AMENDED THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO APPLY THE SAME PROVISIONS TO A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER WHO WAS A MEMBER BY VIRTUE OF HIS BEING A RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, HE ADDED.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE AMENDMENTS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEFINE THE MEANING OF A DISTRICT BOARD MEETING. THUS THE BILL STIPULATED THAT SUCH A MEETING SHOULD REFER ONLY TO A MEETING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ITSELF, HE EXPLAINED.

MR LIAO SAID THE BILL WOULD ALSO AMEND THE DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT OFFICER TO PRESIDE AT ANY MEETING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN.

"THE PRESENT ORDINANCE ALREADY EMPOWERS THE DISTRICT OFFICER TO PRESIDE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW TERM OF A DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE CHAIRMAN," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THIS PROVISION DOES NOT CATER FOR SITUATIONS WHEN THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN IS VACATED AND A TEMPORARY OR NEW CHAIRMAN HAS TO BE ELECTED DURING THE TERM OF A DISTRICT BOARD."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

LIMITED POWER OF ARREST PROPOSED FOR CSD OFFICERS

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THE PURPOSE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (POWERS OF ARREST) BILL 1988 IS TO EMPOWER CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON AFTERCARE DUTIES TO ARREST SUPERVISED PERSONS WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF RECALL ORDERS AND ARE UNLAWFULLY AT LARGE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EXPLAINING THE BILL DURING ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR JEAFFRESON SAID: "ALL INMATES DISCHARGED FROM DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES AND DETENTION CENTRES AND SELECTED YOUNG PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISONS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE ARE SUBJECT TO SUPERVISION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

"INMATES DISCHARGED FROM TRAINING CENTRES ARE SUBJECT TO SUPERVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

"DURING THE STATUTORY SUPERVISION PERIOD, IF A SUPERVISOR MISBEHAVES OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE SUPERVISION CONDITIONS, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IS EMPOWERED BY LAW TO ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORISING THE RECALL OF THE SUPERVISED PERSON FOR FURTHER TREATMENT OR TRAINING," HE ADDED.

MR JEAFFRESON NOTED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT SITUATION, CSD OFFICERS ON AFTERCARE DUTIES HAD TO CALL ON THE HELP OF THE POLICE AS THEY HAD NO POWER OF ARREST AND WERE UNABLE TO EXECUTE RECALL ORDERS ON THEIR OWN.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT IS UNSATISFACTORY. POLICE OFFICERS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO SPEND MANY HOURS WAITING FOR A SUPERVISED PERSON TO TURN UP AND THEY MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE IDENTITIES OF THE SUPERVISED PERSONS AND WHERE THEY FREQUENT," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WOULD FACILITATE THE EXECUTION OF RECALL ORDERS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MARINE FISH BILL WORTHY OF SUPPORT

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THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 IS WORTH SUPPORTING BECAUSE ONE OF ITS MAIN PURPOSES IS TO COUNTER ILLEGAL WHOLESALING OF MARINE FISH, THEREBY DETERRING CRIMINAL AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN THE FISH MARKETING BUSINESS, THE HON ANDREW WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING) ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHICH OPERATED AS A NON-PROFITING-MAKING CONCERN.

/THE SURPLUS .....

THE SURPLUS EARNINGS OF THIS ORGANISATION WERE SPENT ON PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE FISHING POPULATION IN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES, AND ON GRANTING LOANS TO FISHERMEN FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES, SUCH AS MODERNISING THEIR VESSELS AND INSTALLING NAVIGATIONAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT TO BOOST FISHING CAPABILITIES.

HOWEVER, ILLEGAL WHOLESALING OF MARINE FISH, OFTEN MASTERMINDED BY CRIMINAL OR TRIAD ELEMENTS, AND GONE ON FOR MANY YEARS AND HAD BECOME WORSE RECENTLY.

FISH SOLD ILLEGALLY OUTSIDE THE STIPULATED PLACES WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 40,000 TONNES LAST YEAR AT MEDIUM TO HIGH PRICES, RESULTING IN A LOSS OF REVENUE OF ABOUT \$24 MILLION TO THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION, MR WONG SAID.

THE RESULT WAS THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE ORGANISATION FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AND FOR MAKING LOANS WERE THUS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED AND THE FISHERMEN WERE VICTIMS OF SUCH ILLICIT TRADING.

"IN ADDITION, THE GENERAL CONSUMERS OF SEAFOOD HAVE TO PAY FOR INFLATED AND MARKED-UP PRICES, DUE TO PROFITEERING ON THE PART OF THE SYNDICATES."

MR WONG SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT STEP UP PUBLICITY TO EDUCATE FISHERMEN ABOUT THE UNDESIRABLE IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM WHOLESALE MARKETING OF THEIR CATCHES OUTSIDE THE DESIGNATED FISH MARKETS AND FROM THEIR COLLUSION WITH CRIMINAL OR TRIAD ELEMENTS FOR APPARENT, SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES.

"SECONDLY, APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR LOANS BY FISHERMEN FOR PRODUCTION REASONS SHOULD BE FURTHER SIMPLIFIED AND REPAYMENT TERMS SHOULD BE MADE EASIER, SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THE FISHERMEN TO DIVERT THEIR RELIANCE AWAY FROM THE SYNDICATES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE," HE SAID.

MR WONG HOPED THAT THE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND FURTHER MANAGEMENT OF THE EXISTING WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS WOULD BE STREAMLINED IN A BID TO ELIMINATE ALL POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND LOOPHOLES FOR SYNDICATED MALPRACTICES.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE JUDICIARY WOULD UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND OF THE BILL AND WOULD TAKE THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN IMPOSING FINES ON CONVICTED OFFENDERS.

FINALLY, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE VIEWS PRESENTED BY HIM ON THE SUBJECT HAD IN FACT BEEN PUT TO HIM BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WHO WAS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING TODAY DUE TO ILLNESS; AND THAT HE AGREED WITH THESE VIEWS.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID HE WOULD ASK THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY AND TO REVIEW THE PROCEDURES UNDER THE FISH MARKETING ORDINANCE IN THE LIGHT OF MR WONG'S SUGGESTIONS.

UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE'S DESIGN OBJECTIVES EXPLAINED

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IN SELECTING A DESIGN FOR THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S MAIN AIM WAS TO PRODUCE THE BEST POSSIBLE UNIVERSITY FOR HONG KONG'S NEEDS WITH THE SITE AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR BRIDGE SAID THE CRITERIA WERE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN THE 50-ODD PAGES OF THE PLANNING BRIEF.

"THE BRIEF ALSO DESCRIBED THE STRUCTURE, SIZE AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY, TO WHICH THE DESIGN MUST CONFORM," HE POINTED OUT.

"IT SAID THE AIM WAS 'TO CREATE A TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENT BY THE INTEGRATION OF BUILDINGS AND THE LANDSCAPE.'

"ARCHITECTS WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND TO SATISFY THE COMMITTEE THAT THEY HAD SUFFICIENT RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT."

MR BRIDGE SAID THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION WOULD BE SELECTED AS THE PROJECT ARCHITECT.

"IN THIS CONTEXT I MUST CLEAR UP A WIDESPREAD MISUNDERSTANDING THAT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE "OVER-RULED" THE ASSESSMENT PANEL. THIS IS NOT SO," HE SAID..

"THE ASSESSMENT PANEL DECIDED THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION AND THEIR DECISION WAS FINAL. THE DECISION ON THE PROJECT DESIGN WAS A SEPARATE ISSUE AND WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE."

MR BRIDGE SAID THE ASSESSMENT PANEL HAD DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE HIGH STANDARD OF ALL SIX SHORT-LISTED DESIGNS AND HAD ADVISED THAT ALL SIX MET THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE BRIEF.

"BEFORE DECIDING ON THE PROJECT DESIGN THE PLANNING COMMITTEE STUDIED ALL SIX DESIGNS VERY CAREFULLY AND REACHED THEIR DECISION UNANIMOUSLY IN A SECRET BALLOT," HE SAID.

"THEIR DECISION WAS TAKEN PROPERLY AND IN GOOD FAITH, IN WHAT THEY FELT WERE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

"THEY SELECTED THE DESIGN WHICH THEY FELT WAS MOST LIKELY TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS AND PRODUCE A UNIVERSITY WHICH WOULD BEST MEET HONG KONG'S NEEDS."

MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT COMMUNITY CENTRES

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS LOOKING INTO MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF COMMUNITY CENTRES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADVICE HAD BEEN SOUGHT FROM THE POLICE, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT CONCERNING THE OCCURRENCE OF BURGLARIES AT COMMUNITY CENTRES AND ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES.

MR LIAO SAID PROPOSED MEASURES INCLUDED THE INSTALLATION OF METAL ROLLER SHUTTERS, ANTI-BURGLAR BARS AND SLIDING METAL GATES.

WORK ON THESE MEASURES WOULD PROCEED ONCE FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE.

THERE WERE 27 GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY CENTRES AND ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES WHICH HAD REPORTED BURGLARIES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

"AMONG THEM, NINE CASES INVOLVED NO LOSS OF MONEY OR PROPERTY, AND THE REST WERE MAINLY MINOR OFFENCES INVOLVING SMALL SUMS OF MONEY OR PROPERTIES OF LITTLE VALUE," HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THAT WITH ONE EXCEPTION ALL COMMUNITY CENTRES AND ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES WERE PROVIDED WITH WATCHMEN OR CARETAKERS TO PATROL THE PREMISES AT NIGHT.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS THE LOK WAH ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR FOUR OUT OF THE 10 REPORTED BURGLARY CASES IN 1987.

"THE CARETAKER POST WAS DELETED BY MISTAKE WHEN THE CENTRE WAS TRANSFERRED TO CNTA FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND THIS IS BEING RECTIFIED," MR LIAO EXPLAINED.

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FUNDS SOUGHT FOR COUNSELLING CENTRE

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THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE (HKCS) IS SEEKING A GRANT FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO SET UP AS A PILOT PROJECT A COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR ABUSERS OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP SUCH A PILOT PROJECT WAS ENDORSED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS LAST SEPTEMBER.

/"SUBJECT TO .....

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"SUBJECT TO THE GRANT BEING OBTAINED, HKCS SHOULD BE ABLE TO START OPERATING THE CENTRE, WHICH WILL BE IN ITS EXISTING PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI, IN MARCH THIS YEAR," MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE OBJECT IN ESTABLISHING THE CENTRE WAS TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT WHERE PEOPLE WHO HAD ABUSED OR WHO WERE AT RISK OF ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS COULD OBTAIN INFORMATION, COUNSELLING, MEDICAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES.

MR JEAFFRESON FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE WOULD INCLUDE: PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES; PROVIDING INFORMATION ON EXISTING COMMUNITY SERVICES; COUNSELLING AND EARLY MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT; REFERRALS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING REFERRALS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE; AND PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN ALTERNATIVE TO PEER PRESSURE TO TAKE DRUGS.

"THE PILOT PROJECT WILL LAST FOR THREE YEARS AND WILL BE EVALUATED AT 18-MONTH INTERVALS.

"THE NEED FOR MORE SUCH CENTRES WILL BE ASSESSED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS THREE-YEAR PROJECT," HE ADDED.

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#### BETTER RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR AIDED SECTOR MASTERS

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CERTIFICATED MASTERS AND MISTRESSES WILL RECEIVE MUCH BETTER RETIREMENT BENEFITS UNDER CHANGES MADE IN 1980 TO THE RULES OF THE TWO STATUTORY PROVIDENT FUNDS FOR AIDED SECTOR SCHOOL TEACHERS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE STATED THIS WHEN EXPLAINING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE BENEFITS ENJOYED BY CERTIFICATED MASTERS AND MISTRESSES SINCE 1976, WHEN A SPECIAL COMMISSION MADE ITS REPORT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR BRIDGE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER ACCEPTED THAT FRINGE BENEFITS IN THE AIDED SECTOR SHOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

"THE GREAT MAJORITY OF TEACHERS ARE IN THE AIDED SECTOR AND IT DOES NOT SEEM SENSIBLE THAT THEIR BENEFITS SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THOSE OF THE SMALL MINORITY WHO ARE CIVIL SERVANTS," MR BRIDGE SAID. "TO DO SO WOULD BE INFLEXIBLE AND EXPENSIVE."

"AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS AND OUR EXISTING SYSTEM IS FLEXIBLE AND GIVES THE TAXPAYER GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY," HE ADDED.

/MR BRIDGE .....

MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATED MASTERS, IN ITS REPORT PUBLISHED IN 1976, NOTED THAT FRINGE BENEFITS FOR THE AIDED SECTOR WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

IN THIS CONTEXT, TWO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE BY THE COMMISSION: THAT AIDED SECTOR SCHOOL TEACHERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT A HOME PURCHASE LOAN FROM THE AIDED OR GRANT SCHOOLS PROVIDENT FUNDS; AND THAT AIDED SCHOOL TEACHERS SHOULD BE COVERED BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

"THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD HAVE HAD ON THE PROVIDENT FUNDS," HE SAID.

"THE TOTAL RESOURCES OF THE FUNDS WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO RECEIVE WORTHWHILE LOANS AND THE LOANS WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE CAPITAL GAINS AND RECURRENT EARNINGS OF THE TWO FUNDS.

"THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO APPARENT DEMAND FOR IT FROM TEACHERS."

MR BRIDGE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER FURTHER IMPROVING BENEFITS FOR THE AIDED SECTOR SHOULD THERE BE A SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IN THE FUTURE.

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#### BRITAIN TAKES NOTE OF SUGGESTIONS ON REFUGEES

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN JANUARY LAST YEAR ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE ISSUE WAS REPORTED IN FULL TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS TAKEN NOTE OF ALL SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER INITIATIVES ON THE SUBJECT MADE BY MEMBERS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF ITS DIPLOMATIC DEALINGS WITH ALL THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENTS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING EVERY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASISE THE NEED TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE WAS HELD ON JANUARY 7 LAST YEAR. MR CHEONG-LEEN HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO LIAISE WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT REGARDING EARLY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG.

TODAY HE ASKED WHETHER THIS SUGGESTION HAD BEEN PUT TO THE UK GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND WHAT FOLLOW-UP ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

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FULL INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN ON ASSESSING RATEABLE VALUES

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF WHICH EXPLAIN THE PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSING RATEABLE VALUES, THE PROCEDURAL STEPS, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE STAFF INVOLVED IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, MR JACOBS SAID VALUATIONS PREPARED BY JUNIOR STAFF WERE APPROVED BY SENIOR OFFICERS.

HE ALSO SAID SPOT CHECKS WERE CARRIED OUT BY SENIOR PROFESSIONAL AND DIRECTORATE STAFF TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE FOLLOWED AND THE ASSESSMENTS WERE CORRECT.

"OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS (JANUARY 1985 - DECEMBER 1987), THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED 30,195 OBJECTIONS TO NEW AND EXISTING ASSESSMENTS, MOST OF WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN PROCESSED," HE SAID.

"AS A RESULT OF THESE OBJECTIONS, THE RATEABLE VALUES OF 7,026 PREMISES WERE REDUCED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION AND A FURTHER FOUR BY THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOLLOWING APPEALS."

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SECURITY MEASURES AT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES OUTLINED

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THE SECURITY SITUATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAS ALWAYS BEEN BETTER THAN THAT IN PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LIAO SAID POLICE CRIME STATISTICS SHOWED THAT THE CRIME RATE IN 1976 WAS 79 CASES PER 10,000 PERSONS IN HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES AND 139 CASES PER 10,000 PERSONS FOR HONG KONG OVERALL.

/IN 1985, .....

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IN 1985, THE CRIME RATE IN HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES DROPPED TO 68 CASES PER 10,000 PERSONS WHILE THE OVERALL HONG KONG CRIME RATE ROSE TO 160 CASES PER 10,000 PERSONS.

OVER 45 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION WAS ACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING BUT ONLY 15.7 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED CRIME CASES IN THE TERRITORY IN 1986 TOOK PLACE IN HOUSING AUTHORITY RENTAL ESTATES.

MR LIAO WAS REPLYING TO THE HON SELINA CHOW, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONDUCTED ANY STUDY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP HOUSING ESTATES AND WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY WOULD BE MADE.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WERE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES DRAWN UP BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE POLICE.

FURTHERMORE, FEEDBACK ON BUILDING DESIGN WAS ALSO COLLECTED FROM TENANTS BY ESTATE MANAGEMENT STAFF FOR INCORPORATION INTO NEW DESIGNS WHICH INCLUDED THE INSTALLATION OF STRONGER DOORS AND METAL GATES, HE SAID.

"FOR THE OLDER ESTATES, EXISTING SECURITY FACILITIES HAVE BEEN UPGRADED BY IMPROVEMENTS TO LIGHTING, ANTI-BURGLAR BARS AND STRONGER PADLOCKS TO ALL SERVICE ROOMS. BLOCKS ARE REGULARLY PATROLLED BY UNIFORMED ESTATE CARETAKERS.

"AS TO HOME OWNERSHIP BLOCKS, ENTRANCE DOORS ARE MONITORED BY CLOSE-CIRCUIT TELEVISION AND ARE OPERATED BY A SECURITY DOOR-PHONE SYSTEM. THE BLOCKS ARE MANNED AND PATROLLED BY SECURITY GUARDS," MR LIAO EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT HOUSING MANAGEMENT STAFF MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS. SEMINARS ON SECURITY MEASURES WERE ORGANISED REGULARLY AND CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION WAS GIVEN IN ESTATE NEWSLETTERS.

TENANTS WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO FORM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES TO MAKE PATROLS AND TO KEEP LIFT LOBBIES AND COMMON AREAS UNDER WATCH AT NIGHT, HE SAID.

MR LIAO EMPHASISED THAT TENANTS' AWARENESS WAS THE KEY TO CRIME PREVENTION AS POLICE STATISTICS HAD INDICATED THAT A LOT OF CRIME CASES INVOLVED OCCUPANTS WHO DID NOT TAKE REASONABLE MEASURES TO SECURE THEIR HOMES.

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REVIEW UNDERTAKEN ON TSING YI INSTALLATIONS  
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FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS INSTALLATIONS ON TSING YI ISLAND WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF A REVIEW ON SUCH INSTALLATIONS ARE KNOWN AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A VIEW ON THESE, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, REITERATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSING YI ISLAND, FOR BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES, WAS BASED UPON A PARTICULAR STRATEGY.

THIS STRATEGY PLACED THE TOWN CENTRE AND ALL THE RESIDENTIAL SITES IN THE NORTH-EAST OF THE ISLAND, NEAREST TO TSUEN WAN, AND THE INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE SOUTH AND THE WEST; AND THEY WERE WELL SEPARATED BY THE INTERVENING LAND FEATURES.

"THE SITING OF POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS INSTALLATIONS ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF TSING YI IS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RESIDENTIAL USES ON THE EAST, AND THESE COMPETING DEMANDS ARE RECONCILABLE AS LONG AS WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PHI'S DO NOT POSE ANY SIGNIFICANT DANGER TO THE INHABITANTS," MR BARNES SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDERTAKING AN UPDATING OF THE REVIEW ON PHI'S ON TSING YI, TO LOOK AT WHERE WE NOW STAND AND TO ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY THE QUESTION OF THE SO-CALLED 'CUMULATIVE EFFECTS' ON TRAFFIC AND SO ON."

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THE POPULATION CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR TSING YI WAS 191,000, AND THERE WERE NOW NEARLY 100,000 PEOPLE LIVING ON THE ISLAND.

"THE FUTURE GROWTH IN POPULATION WILL ALL TAKE PLACE IN NORTH-EASTERN TSING YI AND THERE IS NO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANY SORT PROPOSED IN THE WESTERN OR SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND," HE ADDED.

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ONE BILL PASSED  
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THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE OTHER BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED. THESE WERE THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (POWERS OF ARREST) BILL 1988.

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EXCO ENDORSES MEASURES TO RELIEVE TUNNEL CONGESTION

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED MEASURES TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DELIBERATED ON THE RESULTS OF STUDIES ON THREE SCHEMES TO RESOLVE THE CONGESTION PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF TAI PO ROAD, THE CONVERSION OF BEACON HILL TUNNEL FOR ROAD TRAFFIC AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ONE-WAY TOLL AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS BRIEFED ON THE EXPECTED RELIEF IT WOULD BRING TO THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BY THE EARLIER DECISION TO WIDEN TAI PO ROAD AND ON THE IMPROVEMENT THE CURRENT TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT AT THE TUNNEL HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED.

THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR TO WIDEN TAI PO ROAD IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LANE FOR KOWLOON-BOUND TRAFFIC BETWEEN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON. ON COMPLETION IN 1989, THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF 1,500 VEHICLES PER HOUR TO TAI PO ROAD.

AS A RESULT OF THIS EXTRA CAPACITY, IT IS HOPED MUCH OF THE CONGESTION IN THE MORNING PEAK FROM SHA TIN WOULD BE RELIEVED UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BY THE END OF 1991.

THE DECISION TO WIDEN TAI PO ROAD HAD ALSO LARGELY REMOVED THE NEED FOR CONVERSION OF THE BEACON HILL TUNNEL FOR ROAD TRAFFIC.

THE CONVERSION, WHICH COULD COST UP TO \$125 MILLION, WAS FOUND TO BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, BUT THE SAFETY PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF A HIGH PRESSURE GAS MAIN COULD NOT BE RESOLVED. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THE SCHEME WOULD NOT BE PURSUED FURTHER.

BETWEEN NOVEMBER 23 AND DECEMBER 21 LAST YEAR, A ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT WAS CONDUCTED AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT SHOWED THAT NEITHER THE LIFTING OF TOLLS NOR THE VARIATIONS IN VEHICLE MERGING ARRANGEMENTS HAD ANY EFFECT ON TUNNEL CAPACITY. EXCO HAD THEREFORE ARRIVED THAT THE ONE-WAY TOLL SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE ADOPTED.

HOWEVER, A TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT, TESTED FOR TWO DAYS DURING THE FOURTH WEEK OF THE ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT, HAD PROVED EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING QUEUE LENGTH AND IN POSTPONING THE FORMATION OF TRAFFIC QUEUES ON SOUTHBOUND APPROACH ROADS OF THE TUNNEL.

/THE ARRANGEMENT .....

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THE ARRANGEMENT WAS TRIED OUT THE SECOND TIME EARLIER THIS MONTH TOGETHER WITH THE SIGNAL-CONTROLLED MERGING TECHNIQUE.

IT WAS AGAIN PROVED EFFECTIVE IN INCREASING THE SOUTHBOUND CAPACITY OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND HAS THEREFORE BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON A REGULAR BASIS DURING WEEKDAYS AS A SHORT-TERM MEASURE TO EASE TUNNEL CONGESTION.

THE CONSULTANTS ARE STILL STUDYING OTHER POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS BETWEEN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON, AND A FINAL REPORT WILL BE COMPLETED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

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DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT TALKS ADJOURNED

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THE HONG KONG AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TEAMS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADJOURNED THEIR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT.

THE TWO SIDES WILL NOW REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE POSITION REACHED.

THE TWO SIDES EXPECT TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE OFFERED FOR MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED A PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR MODEL SCALE 1 CIVIL SERVANTS TO MAKE UP FOR THE SHORTFALL IDENTIFIED BY THE 1986 PAY LEVEL SURVEY.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, AFTER MEETING THE STAFF SIDE OF THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ON THE WAY IN WHICH THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE PAY LEVEL SURVEY SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE TOTAL PAY PACKAGE OF MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF," HE SAID.

/THE PACKAGE .....

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THE PACKAGE INCLUDES AN UPWARD PAY ADJUSTMENT OF THREE PER CENT, RETROSPECTIVE FROM APRIL 1 LAST YEAR, TOGETHER WITH AN UPWARD EXTENSION OF THE MODEL SCALE 1 PAY SCALE.

ALSO, AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE, ALL MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF WILL HAVE THEIR CONDITIONED HOURS OF WORK REDUCED BY THREE HOURS TO 45 HOURS NET PER WEEK AS FROM A CURRENT DATE.

ALTHOUGH THE OFFER IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR GREWAL CONSIDERED IT TO BE FAIR AND REASONABLE AND THEREFORE COMMENDED IT TO THE STAFF SIDE.

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MEETING TO DISCUSS WESTERN DISTRICT TRAFFIC STUDY

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THE WESTERN DISTRICT TRAFFIC STUDY WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 29).

THE STUDY, COMMISSIONED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IN DECEMBER 1986 AND UNDERTAKEN BY TWO CONSULTANT COMPANIES, IS AIMED AT FINDING AN EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT WILL MEET TRAFFIC DEMANDS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT UNTIL 1996.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSULTANT COMPANIES AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND ENGINEERS OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S CONSULTANT MANAGEMENT SECTION WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE STUDY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 29) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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WAN CHAI CARE FOR ELDERLY CAMPAIGN CLOSES

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MORE THAN 500 ELDERLY AGED OVER 75 IN WAN CHAI WERE TREATED TO A BANQUET AND PERFORMANCES BY CANTONESE OPERA STARS THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY).

THE EVENT MARKED THE END OF A TWO-MONTH "CARE FOR THE OLD CAMPAIGN" IN THE DISTRICT, DURING WHICH MORE THAN 1,700 PEOPLE HAD PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES INCLUDING AN OPERA EVENING, VISITS TO ELDERLY HOMES, AND A "DIM SUM" LUNCH AND CANTONESE OPERATIC SONGS PERFORMANCE.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH THE SUPPORT OF COMMERCIAL AND DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY, DISTRICT OFFICER MR ALLAN CHOW SAID THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAD BEEN HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 1969, WAS ONE OF THE "OLDEST" COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS IN HONG KONG.

HE PRAISED THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP.

"THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WE HAVE TODAY ARE THE RESULTS OF THE HARD WORK OF THE ELDERLY AND THE CAMPAIGN IS JUST A GESTURE TO SHOW OUR RESPECT FOR THEM," MR CHOW SAID.

TURNING TO THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MR CHOW CALLED ON THOSE WHO ARE EAGER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS AND URGED REGISTERED ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON MARCH 10.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY WERE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMPAIGN, MR HSU CHUNG-CHI; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN; AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM.

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KWUN TONG SITE TO LET

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A SITE IN KWUN TONG IS TO BE LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE SITE AT TSUI PING ROAD, MEASURING ABOUT 730 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR A NURSERY FOR THE GROWING, STORAGE AND SELLING OF POTTED PLANTS AND/OR STORAGE OF UNLICENSED NEW MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FEBRUARY 12.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLYOVER OPENING

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THE FENWICK PIER STREET FLYOVER IN WAN CHAI AND THE EXTENSION OF LUNG KING STREET WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 30).

VEHICLES FROM WAN CHAI NORTH HEADING FOR CENTRAL CAN TRAVEL VIA HARBOUR ROAD, FENWICK PIER STREET AND THE FLYOVER TO JOIN HARCOURT ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, FENWICK PIER STREET FLYOVER AND FENWICK PIER STREET BETWEEN HARCOURT ROAD AND FENWICK STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES ROUND THE CLOCK, WHILE LUNG KING STREET WILL BE MADE A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY BUS DIVERSION IN SHAM SHUI PO

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WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, KMB ROUTE NOS. 2F AND 86A ON WOH CHAI STREET EASTBOUND IN SHAM SHUI PO HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET NORTHBOUND ARE DIVERTED VIA PAK TIN STREET, BERWICK STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE MEASURE, WHICH WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK, IS TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS CARRIED OUT BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AT THE JUNCTION OF WOH CHAI STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING BUS STOP FOR THESE TWO BUS ROUTES AT WOH CHAI STREET OUTSIDE BLOCK 29 OF SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. A TEMPORARY BUS STOP IS PROVIDED AT BERWICK STREET OPPOSITE HOUSE NO. 65.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN SHEUNG SHUI

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A NEW GREEN MINIBUS AND TAXI TERMINUS ON ROAD D5 OUTSIDE THE SHEUNG SHUI KCR STATION WILL BE OPENED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A NUMBER OF GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES CURRENTLY TERMINATING AT SAN FAT STREET AND SAN SHING AVENUE IN SHEK WU HUI WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE NEW TERMINUS.

MEANWHILE, NINE GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES SERVING SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING AND SHA TAU KOK AREAS WILL BE RENUMBERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING NUMBERING SYSTEM OF GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES IN THE NORTH DISTRICT.

THE AFFECTED ROUTES INCLUDE NOS. 11, 12K, 16, 17, 18S, 19, 50, 51 AND 55 WHICH WILL BE RENUMBERED RESPECTIVELY AS 53K, 54K, 57K, 58K, 58S, 59K, 50K, 51K AND 55K.

IN ADDITION, A TAXI STAND WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE NEW TERMINUS TO CATER FOR THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR BOARDING AND ALIGHTING FACILITIES FOR TAXIS.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW GREEN MINIBUS AND TAXI TERMINUS, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE MADE 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY:

- \* ROAD D5 BETWEEN LUNG SUM AVENUE AND THE OFFSIDE LANE ADJACENT TO THE TAXI STAND;
- \* THE OFFSIDE LANE ADJACENT TO THE TAXI STAND ADJOINING ROAD D5;
- \* ROAD D5 BETWEEN ROAD L5 AND THE BUS BAY AT THE KERBSIDE LANE ADJACENT TO THE AMENITY AREA; AND
- \* ROAD L5 WESTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD D5 TO A POINT 25 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF ROAD L5 FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SAN FUNG AVENUE TO A POINT 25 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

IN ADDITION, NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN TAXIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ROAD D5 SOUTH OF LUNG SUM AVENUE (ROAD D7) AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

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BUS-ONLY LANE AND URBAN CLEARWAY

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 29), THE OFFSIDE LANE OF WESTBOUND ROAD L5 IN SHEUNG SHUI FROM A POINT 40 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SAN FUNG AVENUE TO A POINT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A BUS-ONLY LANE OPERATING ROUND THE CLOCK.

AT THE SAME TIME, VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE OFFSIDE LANE OF SAN FUNG AVENUE SOUTHBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LUNG SUM AVENUE TO A POINT 25 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

IN FANLING, THE EXISTING PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF WO FUNG STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LUEN SHING STREET TO A POINT 30 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE LIFTED AT THE SAME TIME.

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