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GENERAL COMMITTEE HAS POWER TO SUSPEND TRADING

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THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE HAS THE POWER TO SUSPEND TRADING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRADING RULES OF THE EXCHANGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, WHICH IT REGARDED AS A SENSIBLE RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION.

MR JACOBS SAID: "THE DECISION TO SUSPEND TRADING WAS LARGELY DETERMINED BY THE CONSIDERABLE BACKLOG OF OUTSTANDING TRANSACTIONS WHICH REQUIRE TO BE SETTLED.

"THIS BACKLOG RESULTED FROM THE RECENT VERY HIGH LEVEL OF TURNOVER IN THE MARKET.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOOKS ARE PROPERLY SQUARED BEFORE TRADING IS RESUMED PARTICULARLY AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF HIGHLY VOLATILE WORLD MARKETS.

"THE EXCHANGE CONSIDERS THAT IT WILL TAKE FOUR DAYS TO CLEAR THE BACKLOG."

HE ADDED THAT A SECONDARY BENEFIT OF THE SUSPENSION WAS THAT IT ALLOWED TIME FOR THE INITIAL OVER-REACTION TO EVENTS TO SUBSIDE.

MR JACOBS SAID THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECRUITIES DID NOT ARISE BECAUSE THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF SUSPENDING TRADING UNDER ITS OWN RULES.

"I THINK IT IS PREFERABLE FOR SELF REGULATORY BODIES SUCH AS THE EXCHANGE TO MAKE USE OF THEIR OWN POWERS WHERE THESE ARE AVAILABLE INSTEAD OF RESORTING TO GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION," HE SAID.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH OUR GENERAL PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS THE FINANCIAL MARKETS IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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DAYA BAY REPORT AVAILABLE SOON

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A REPORT ON THE NON-COMPLIANCE PROBLEM CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST LAYER OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS OR SO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEN MAKE A COPY AVAILABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP ON THE DAYA BAY POWER PLANT," HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, MR JACOBS SAID THAT UPON LEARNING OF THE PROBLEM, THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD TO PROVIDE A FULL REPORT ON BOTH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEVIATION AND THE REMEDIAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THIS REPORT AND I AM THEREFORE UNABLE TO INFORM MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON OF THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM, OR, INDEED, THE STEPS THAT THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY HAS TAKEN, OR PLANS TO TAKE, TO STRENGTHEN THE QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES ON SITE TO AVOID SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

CONCERNING STEPS BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT REMEDIAL MEASURES WERE SATISFACTORY AND WOULD NOT IMPAIR THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PLANT, MR JACOBS SAID THAT PROPOSALS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AND WERE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY.

THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD WOULD BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED AND WOULD BE CONSULTED, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED SOLUTION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, WHO HAD INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO ITS ADOPTION.

"FULL DETAILS OF THE REMEDIAL MEASURES ARE EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN THE REPORT NOW AWAITED," HE SAID.

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HARWELL REPORT NEAR COMPLETION

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THE CONTINGENCY PLAN REPORT BEING COMPILED FOR THE GOVERNMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY AT HARWELL IS NEARING COMPLETION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, MR JACOBS SAID: "THE REPORT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE GUIDANCE ON THE PRODUCTION OF AN APPROPRIATE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR HONG KONG CAPABLE OF RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO ANY RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM AN ACCIDENT AT THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION."

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT THE REPORT WAS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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DISCUSSIONS ON FORM 6 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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THE QUESTION OF UNDER-ENROLMENT IN FORM 6 IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF WHAT THE AIM OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION SHOULD BE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DESMOND LEE, MR BRIDGE SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S VIEW IN ITS SECOND REPORT WAS THAT SIXTH FORM EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THOSE AIMING FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE.

"PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT ALSO GENERALLY SUPPORT THIS VIEW," HE ADDED.

MR BRIDGE SAID: "THUS WHATEVER DECISION IS FINALLY TAKEN ON OTHER ASPECTS OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SCHOOLS MUST REVIEW THEIR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO BRING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH THE BROADER OBJECTIVES OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION."

HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT SCHOOL COUNCILS TO WORK OUT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE AIM WAS FULFILLED.

ON THE PROVISION OF SIXTH FORM PLACES, MR BRIDGE SAID: "THE PRESENT POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF SIXTH FORM PLACES DERIVES FROM THE 1978 WHITE PAPER "THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION". OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE SUBSIDISED FORM 6 PLACES FOR UP TO ONE THIRD OF STUDENTS ENTERING SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACES TWO YEARS PREVIOUSLY."

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT THE POLICY HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AND WAS ENDORSED BY THE COMMISSION IN ITS SECOND REPORT.

THE REPORT ALSO COMMENTED ON THE UNDER UTILISATION OF FORM 6 AND FORM 7 PLACES AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD REINFORCE ITS EFFORTS TO SEE THAT PUBLIC SECTOR FORM 6 PLACES WERE FILLED WHERE CANDIDATES OF SUITABLE ACADEMIC STANDING WERE AVAILABLE.

THE AVERAGE SIXTH FORM PROVISION RATE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN 1984, 1985 AND 1986 WAS 32.2 PER CENT OF THE EQIVALENT FORM 4 PLACES. THE AVERAGE TAKE UP RATE WAS 87.8 PER CENT. FOR FORM 7 PLACES THE AVERAGE TAKE UP RATE WAS 81.2 PER CENT.

"THE REASON FOR THE SLIGHTLY LOWER TAKE UP RATE FOR FORM 7 PLACES IS THAT SOME STUDENTS ACCEPT PLACES IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OR THE POLYTECHNICS, OR GO ABROAD FOR FURTHER STUDIES OR TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT AFTER COMPLETING FORM 6." MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE SAID WHEN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS INSPECTED AND VISITED SCHOOLS THEY CONSTANTLY ADVISED THEM TO MAKE FULL USE OF ALL THEIR FORM 6 AND 7 PLACES AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE REASONS FOR THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO.

MR BRIDGE SAID: "IT SEEMS THAT ONE PROBLEM THAT HAS COME TO LIGHT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SCHOOLS IS OVER HOW SCHOOLS SHOULD DECIDE WHICH STUDENTS ARE SUITABLE FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION.

"WHILE MOST SCHOOLS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT H LEVEL STUDENTS WITH THE MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS, IT SEEMS THAT SOME TEND TO REQUIRE A LEVEL STUDENTS TO HAVE RATHER BETTER THAN THE MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS. APPARENTLY, THIS IS BECAUSE SCHOOLS CONSIDER A LEVELS TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE."

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SOCIAL WORKERS TOLD TO TAKE GREATER CARE

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SOCIAL WORKERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REMINDED TO TAKE GREATER CARE IN HANDLING CASES WITH POTENTIAL RISKS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD SHORTLY ISSUE A MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE NOTE ON PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES WHICH SHOULD HELP TO AVOID STRESS AND TENSION ON THE PART OF CLIENTS.

/"IN EXTREME .....

"IN EXTREME CASES, THE POLICE MAY BE ASKED TO ESCORT SOCIAL WORKERS ON THEIR DUTY VISITS," HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID SOCIAL WORKERS OPERATED IN TEAMS IN DISTRICT FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES. THE MORE EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKERS IN EACH CENTRE ACTED AS TEAM LEADERS AND HANDLED THE MORE COMPLICATED CASES.

"IF NECESSARY, OTHER EXPERTS SUCH AS PSYCHOLOGISTS CAN BE BROUGHT IN AND CASES CAN ALSO BE REFERRED TO OFFICERS AT THE REGIONAL OR HEADQUARTERS LEVEL. THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MUCH BETTER ARRANGEMENT, IN TERMS OF MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF STAFF TIME, THAN THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL TEAM TO HANDLE COMPLICATED FAMILY CASES," HE SAID.

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MORE FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES ESTABLISHED

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THERE IS NO REAL EVIDENCE THAT THE SITUATION RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES IN THE NEW TOWNS IS ANY WORSE THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR CHAMBERS SAID A STUDY INTO THE SOURCE OF PRESSURE CONFRONTING NEW TOWN FAMILIES COULD BE USEFUL, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATELY A SUBJECT FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH.

"IN MY VIEW A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES, IN THE CORRECT LOCATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SORT OF CASES WHICH MAY LEAD TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE," HE SAID.

THERE WERE NOW 50 SUCH CENTRES, OF WHICH 14 WERE IN THE NEW TOWNS.

"THREE ADDITIONAL CENTRES WILL BE OPENED IN TUEN MUN, SHA TIN AND THE NORTH DISTRICT DURING 1988," HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THERE WAS ALSO A NEED TO REDUCE THE AVERAGE CASELOAD OF CASEWORKERS IN THOSE CENTRES, WHICH WAS AT PRESENT ABOUT 96 PER WORKER.

"THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PROVIDED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR HAVE ENABLED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO RECRUIT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STAFF WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING THE AVERAGE CASELOAD TO A MORE ACCEPTABLE LEVEL," HE SAID.

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NIGHT-TIME WORK AVOIDS DISRUPTION TO MTR

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NIGHT-TIME UNDERGROUND BLASTING AT QUARRY BAY FOR THE EXCAVATION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IS PERMITTED IN ORDER TO AVOID DISRUPTION TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"OTHERWISE, FOR SAFETY REASONS, THE MTR QUARRY BAY STATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED, AND TRAINS IN THE VICINITY STOPPED, WHEN BLASTING WAS IN PROGRESS," MR ASPREY SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

MR CHEUNG HAD ASKED ABOUT NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE THE NOISE GENERATED AT NIGHT BY TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

MR ASPREY ADDED THAT IN KWUN TONG, ERECTION OF HEAVY FALSEWORK FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE MTR VIADUCT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT NIGHT TO AVOID THE SEVERE DISRUPTIONS TO ROAD TRAFFIC ON THE KWUN TONG AND LEI YUE MUN ROADS WHICH WOULD OCCUR IF THE WORK WAS CARRIED OUT IN DAY-TIME.

HOWEVER, PERMITS WERE ONLY ISSUED UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (PERMITTED WORK) REGULATIONS WHERE NOISE LEVELS AFFECTING RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORKS COULD BE KEPT DOWN TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS, AND CONDITIONS WERE IMPOSED TO ENSURE THAT THIS WAS ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

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ACTION ON INCOMPATIBLE LAND USE PROBLEMS

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO WAYS TO IMPROVE PLANNING CONTROLS ON REDEVELOPMENT TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS OF INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON RICHARD LAI ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON A PIECE OF LAND WHICH HAS BEEN REZONED FROM INDUSTRIAL USE, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SOME AREAS THAT RESULTED FROM THE JUXTAPOSITION OF INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL USES.

MOST OF THE PROBLEMS OF INCOMPATIBILITY HAD RESULTED FROM CHANGES IN LAND USE, SPECIFICALLY FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL LOTS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES. THE TSUEN TAK GARDEN DEVELOPMENT, REFERRED TO BY MR LAI, WAS A CASE IN POINT, HE SAID.

/"THE AREA .....

"THE AREA WAS ORIGINALLY ZONED FOR INDUSTRY, BUT WAS REZONED IN 1981 AS RESIDENTIAL. REDEVELOPMENT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN PIECEMEAL, WITH THE RESULT THAT NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CO-EXISTS WITH OLD INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS. THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO COMPLAINTS BY THE TSUEN TAK GARDEN RESIDENTS OF BOTH NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SURROUNDING AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING LAND-USE ZONING SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. IN THE INTERIM, ALL COMPLAINTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE EXISTING FACTORIES HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVESTIGATED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN WHERE APPROPRIATE," MR ASPREY ADDED.

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PREVENTIVE MEASURES PLANNED AGAINST PNEUMOCONIOSIS

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THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WOULD RESULT IN LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF THOSE WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT IT WOULD ENABLE THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO UNDERTAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE DISEASE.

THE BOARD, ESTABLISHED IN 1980 UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE, WAS EMPOWERED TO PAY COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF THE DISEASE OR THEIR DEPENDANTS, OUT OF A FUND FINANCED BY A LEVY ON CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND ON QUARRY PRODUCTS.

"BUT IT IS NOT AT PRESENT AUTHORISED TO USE ITS FUNDS ON MEASURES TO PREVENT PNEUMOCONIOSIS, SUCH AS RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES OF THE DISEASE AND MEASURES TO PROTECT WORKERS WHO ARE AT RISK," MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH MEASURES COULD USEFULLY INCLUDE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY AIMED AT THOSE ENGAGED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES.

WHILE IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT EXPENDITURE ON PREVENTION WOULD NOT EXCEED $1 MILLION, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THERE WERE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IMPRUDENT EXPENDITURE.

/"THE CONSTRUCTION .....

"THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES ARE REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD WHICH MUST SUBMIT ITS PROGRAMME AND ESTIMATES TO THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY," HE SAID.

TO ENHANCE THESE SAFEGUARDS, THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE GOVERNOR TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO MODIFY AND RESUBMIT ITS PROGRAMME AND ESTIMATES IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

MR BRIDGE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE BILL PERMITTED THE BOARD TO WRITE OFF UNCOLLECTABLE DEBTS, ADDING THAT THE BOARD CURRENTLY HAD NO STATUTORY POWER TO WRITE OFF THESE DEBTS WHICH HAD BEEN ACCUMULATING IN THE FUND ACCOUNTS.

"THIS FOLLOWS NORMAL ACCOUNTING PRACTICE IN CASES WHERE ALL PROCEDURES TO COLLECT DEBTS THROUGH LEGAL AND OTHER MEANS HAVE PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL.

"WHEN CONTRACTORS ARE DECLARED BANKRUPT, OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF WINDING UP, THE BOARD IS RANKED AS AN UNSECURED CREDITOR," MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE SAID THAT TOTAL REVENUE ACCRUING TO THE BOARD DURING THE SIX YEARS SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED AMOUNTED TO ABOUT $162 MILLION, OF WHICH ONLY ABOUT $600,000, OR 0.37 PER CENT, WAS CONSIDERED UNCOLLECTABLE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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TWO BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1986-87) BILL 1987 AND THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

MEANWHILE, THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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GOVERNOR MEETS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WAS MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY, U.S. TIME) WITH SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS.

IN A BUSY DAY ON CAPITOL HILL, HE WAS MEETING LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE INFLUENTIAL ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, AMONG THEM REFUGEES AND TRADE LEGISLATION.

SIR DAVID DISCUSSED REFUGEE PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESSMAN ROMANO MAZZOLI IN THE MORNING, AND IN THE AFTERNOON WAS DUE TO MEET SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON. THE TWO WERE LAST YEAR THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE SIMPSON-MAZZOLI BILL, WHICH BECAME THE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 1986. ONE OF ITS PROVISIONS RAISED HONG KONG'S IMMIGRATION QUOTA TO THE UNITED STATES FROM 600 TO 5,000.

IN HIS MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN MAZZOLI, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD A TWO-TRACK APPROACH TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ITS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WITH RE-SETTLEMENT AS AN OBJECTIVE IN THE SHORT TERM, AND IN THE LONGER TERM REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM UNDER ACCEPTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO MEETING SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, WHICH IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING WHICH BILLS WILL ADVANCE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND WHICH WILL BE PUT ON HOLD.

SIR DAVID MET CONGRESSMAN BILL FRENZEL, A KEY REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. HE EMPHASISED TO CONGRESSMAN FRENZEL THAT HONG KONG WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A FREE TRADER, AND THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO THE TERRITORY HAD UNDERGONE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE RECENTLY, POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS A MAJOR MARKET FOR U.S. GOODS, INCLUDING TEXTILE FABRICS.

ALSO AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SIR DAVID MET CONGRESSMAN TOM FOLEY, WHO AS MAJORITY LEADER IS SECOND ONLY TO THE SPEAKER IN THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP, GIVING HIM A KEY ROLE IN THE PROGRESS OF ALL LEGISLATION. SIR DAVID AND CONGRESSMAN FOLEY DISCUSSED TRADE LEGISLATION, AND NOTED THAT THE RECENT RECORD DROPS ON STOCK EXCHANGES WORLD-WIDE DEMONSTRATED THE GROWING LEVEL OF INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEMS.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE LUNCH, SIR DAVID WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, WILL BALL, AND THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING, THOMAS GRIESCOM.

IN THE AFTERNOON, SIR DAVID WAS TO MEET CONGRESSMAN DAN ROSTENKOWSKI, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, AND CONGRESSMAN SAM GIBBONS, WHO CHAIRS ITS TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE.

AT THE SENATE, HE WAS DUE TO MEET SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND SENATOR BOB PACKWOOD, FORMERLY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE AND NOW RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER.

FS: RISK AND RETURN INSEPARABLE ELEMENTS

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THE DECISION BY THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE TO SUSPEND TRADING SHOULD ENABLE THE PROPER SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING TRANSACTIONS AND "LIKE EVERYONE ELSE I LOOK FORWARD TO AN ORDERLY OPENING OF THE MARKET," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MONEY '87 HONG KONG EXHIBITION, MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS AXIOMATIC THAT ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARKET MUST NOT FORGET THAT RISK AND RETURN WERE INSEPARABLE ELEMENTS IN ANY INVESTMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STOCK MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD HAD SUFFERED SHARP FALLS THIS WEEK, AND THE PLUNGE IN HONG KONG MIRRORED SIMILAR ADJUSTMENTS ELSEWHERE.

IT HAD TO BE REMEMBERED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR THE HANG SENG INDEX HAD RISEN BY SOME 50 PER CENT AND A CORRECTION HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY THE STOCK MARKET REMAINED SOUND.

MR JACOBS SAID INVESTORS SHOULD KNOW THEIR OBJECTIVES AND UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THEIR INVESTMENTS BEFORE MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS. THE INFORMED INVESTOR WAS A GOOD INVESTOR.

"THAT IS WHY THIS EXHIBITION IS TIMELY AND USEFUL IN PROVIDING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH A FIRST-CLASS OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER FOR THEMSELVES THE MANY AND VARIED PRODUCTS AVAILABLE ON THE INVESTMENT MARKET, THEIR NATURE AND PROSPECTS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT FINANCIAL INVESTMENT WAS BECOMING MORE COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED, AND TO HELP THE INVESTING PUBLIC THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES PROVIDING INVESTMENT ADVICE AND SERVICES.

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG AS AN EFFICIENT AND WELL REGULATED MARKET-PLACE THAT COMMANDED INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY RE-OPENING OF THE MARKET.

"IF THINGS LOOK RIGHT FOR AN EARLIER OPENING, AND THAT'S OBVIOUSLY A POSSIBILITY, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO PREDICT ANYTHING AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME," HE SAID.

/MR JACOBS .....

MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG FACED A QUITE EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK, WHICH HAD COME ON TOP OF A LONG SUSTAINED BULL RUN, AND THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT BACKLOG OF SETTLEMENTS.

"A CLOSURE OR SUSPENSION WAS NEEDED, PARTICULARLY TO GET RID OF THAT BACKLOG OF SETTLEMENT," HE SAID.

"HAD TRADING COMMENCED AND HAD THE SITUATION GOT CONSIDERABLY WORSE, THAT WOULD NOT HAVE SERVED THE INVESTORS OF THE MARKET AND IT WOULD NOT HAVE SERVED THIS COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

ASKED IF THE STOCK EXCHANGE HAD THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THE MARKET, MR JACOBS SAID THE SUSPENSION OF TRADING WAS SOMETHING WHICH WAS WITHIN THE POWER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE.

ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HONG KONG BANKS SHOULD LOWER THE INTEREST RATE IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THE INTEREST RATE LEVEL WITH THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS.

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STABLE AND EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE VITAL

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THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE, EFFICIENT AND WELL-MOTIVATED CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE A KEY ELEMENT IN THE CONTINUING PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 1987 CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS EXHIBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW AT A CRUCIAL STAGE IN ITS CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

"MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE REQUIRE HIGH CALIBRE, DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THAT IN A WORLD WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, REMAINED A SERIOUS PROBLEM, WE WERE INDEED FORTUNATE IN HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED OUR ENVIABLE POSITION BY CHANCE AND SOME OF THE CREDIT AT LEAST MUST GO TO THE CIVIL SERVICE WHOSE MEMBERS WORK QUIETLY AND EFFICIENTLY AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF AN INCREASINGLY WELL EDUCATED AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

/MRS CHAN .....

MRS CHAN SAID THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE CONSISTED OF SOME 60 DEPARTMENTS EMPLOYING NEARLY 180,000 PEOPLE OR ABOUT 6.8 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYED PERSONS OF HONG KONG.

IN THE PAST DECADE, SHE SAID, THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE HAD GROWN BY MORE THAN 65 PER CENT AND THERE WAS NOW A WIDE RANGING AND REWARDING ARRAY OF WORK AVAILABLE TO MEET THE INTERESTS AND TRAINING OF GRADUATES AT ALL LEVELS.

THE CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS EXHIBITION, LASTING FOR THREE DAYS UNTIL FRIDAY (OCTOBER 23), IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S APPOINTMENTS SERVICE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

ABOUT 20 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION BY SETTING UP COUNTERS WHERE OFFICERS FROM THESE DEPARTMENTS WILL ANSWER ENQUIRIES AND PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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LADY WILSON VISITS CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE

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LADY WILSON VISITED THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE IN ARRAN STREET, KOWLOON, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE FOR HERSELF THE SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDED THERE.

SHE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (KOWLOON), DR LAWRENCE LAI, AND THE CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN-IN-CHARGE, DR LILIAN KO.

BEFORE TOURING THE CENTRE, LADY WILSON WAS BRIEFED ON THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT A SLIDE PRESENTATION.

THE CENTRE IS HOUSED IN A TWO-STOREY BUILDING COMPRISING TWO CLINICS - THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CLINIC AND THE HEARING AID CLINIC.

THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CLINIC WAS SET UP IN 1977 UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISABLED CHILDREN BY DETECTING AND STUDYING THEIR PROBLEMS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE AGE AND DETERMINING THE BEST WAYS TO HELP THEM.

THE HEARING AID CLINIC, WHILE BEING A PART OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE FOR CHILD ASSESSMENT, ALSO PROVIDES HEARING ASSESSMENT AND AID TO ADULTS WITH PARTIAL HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

/LADY WILSON .....

LADY WILSON WAS TOLD THAT LAST YEAR, 1,146 CHILDREN WERE REFERRED TO THE ASSESSMENT CLINIC BY DOCTORS OR PSYCHOLOGISTS, COMPARED WITH 197 CHILDREN IN 1978 WHEN THE CLINIC BEGAN OPERATION.

INITIALLY, CASES ARE SCREENED BY AN ASSESSMENT TEAM COMPRISING A DOCTOR, A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND A MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER. HOWEVER, CASES REQUIRING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OR TREATMENT, NAMELY SPEECH THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPY, VISUAL AND HEARING ASSISTANCE, WILL BE REFERRED TO STAFF OF THE RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES STATIONED IN THE CENTRE.

AFTER ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT, THE MAJORITY OF THE CHILREN WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO AN APPROPRIATE SPECIAL SCHOOL ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY.

LADY WILSON ALSO TOURED THE AUDIOMETRY ROOM DESIGNED FOR ASSESSING CHILDREN WITH HEARING PROBLEMS, THE OBSERVATION ROOM AND THE TOY LIBRARY.

THE TOY LIBRARY, WHICH FORMS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SERVICE, IS INTENDED TO HELP THE MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF THERAPEUTIC, EDUCATIONAL AND STIMULATING TOYS.

BEFORE ENDING HER VISIT, LADY WILSON WAS BRIEFED ON THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF THE CHILD ASSESSMENT SERVICE.

PLANNING IS UNDERWAY TO BUILD SIX MORE CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

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MORE CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLANNED TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 3,500 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HO SHIN HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN TAI PO, MRS WONG SAID TO SPEED UP THE PROVISION, THE HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY IN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WOULD INCLUDE CARE-AND-ATTENTION UNITS.

/"IN ADDITION, ...

"IN ADDITION, A PROPORTION OF BEDS IN ORDINARY HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE SET ASIDE AS CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES, COMPLETE WITH SERVICES OF DOCTORS AND NURSES, SO THAT THE HOSTEL RESIDENTS CAN RECEIVE PROPER CARE WHEN THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS DETERIORATE WITHOUT HAVING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES OR INFIRMARIES," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THAT APART FROM SERVICES RENDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PRIVATE ELDERLY HOMES ALSO HAD A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

SHE SAID THAT THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THESE HOMES HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A YEAR NOW AND THAT A REVIEW WAS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR LEGISLATIVE CONTROL.

"THE REVIEW REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE RELEVANT ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR DISCUSSION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER FOR THE FORMULATION OF FUTURE POLICY," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG REITERATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THE ELDERLY WAS TO ENABLE THEM TO REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES, INCLUDING CASH BENEFITS, MEDICAL SERVICES, HOUSING COMMUNITY SUPPORT, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TRANSPORT.

"HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALSO SOME ELDERLY WHO NEED RESIDENTIAL CARE AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, IMPROVED RESIDENTIAL CARE, HOME HELP SERVICE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE BEEN ACCORDED PRIORITY," SHE SAID.

MEANWHILE, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO CO-ORDINATE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING MORE AND BETTER SERVICES.

THE HO SHIN HOSTEL IS OPERATED BY THE SIK SIK YUEN AND HAS 152 PLACES.

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST COUNTRYSIDE FIRES

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A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 23) BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO PREVENT COUNTRYSIDE FIRES IN THE COMING DRY SEASON.

DETAILS OF THE PUBLICITY DRIVE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 11 AM ON THE SAME DAY AT SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK.

/PRESIDING AT .....

PRESIDING AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU; THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (PROMOTIONS) OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR GEORGE YUEN; AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR JAMES HO.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FIRE FIGHTING DEMPOSTRATION INCLUDING WATER BOMBING BY A RHKAAF HELICOPTER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE. TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 10 AM.

AS PUBLIC VEHICULAR ACCESS IS RESTRICTED INSIDE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, ANY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE OR TELEVISION CREW WISHING TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD CONTACT THE AFD INFORMATION UNIT ON 3-7332176 BEFORE 5 PM ON THURSDAY FOR THE NECESSARY PERMITS.

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SHA TIN DB FUNDS OPEN TO APPLICATION

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD IS NOW INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS AS WELL AS CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE EVENTS MUST BE NON-PROFIT MAKING, AND AIMED AT FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG SHA TIN RESIDENTS.

ORGANISATIONS OTHER THAN THE SHA TIN ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MAY SUBMIT A MAXIMUM OF THREE APPLICATIONS UNDER A PARTICULAR EXPENDITURE HEAD, BUT SHOULD INDICATE THEIR PRIORITIES.

COPIES OF THE FINANCIAL RULES, FUNDING PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION. APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE DB SECRETARIAT BY DECEMBER 12. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR LI ON 0-6048078, EXT. 451.

TUEN MUN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CONTAINER CLASSROOMS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE USE OF CONTAINERS AS CLASSROOMS BY A SECONDARY SCHOOL.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO LOOK INTO YOUTH PROBLEMS IN BUTTERFLY BAY AREA, RE-ADOPTION OF UNI-SESSIONS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, PROVISION OF TEMPORARY SPECIAL SCHOOL PLACES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FROM THE YWCA PAK KOK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 3/F, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

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MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS A DRAFT CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE 1988-89 PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT.

OFFICERS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO INTRODUCE THE PAPER AND HEAR VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS.

THE PAPER INCLUDES THE FRANCHISES BUS AND FERRY COMPANIES' FIVE-YEAR PLANS ON ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME; REQUIREMENTS, PURCHASING AND SCRAPPING PROGRAMME; DEPOT REQUIREMENTS AND MAINTENANCE PROVISIONS; AND FINANCIAL FORECAST AND FARE LEVEL ESTIMATES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC MEASURES IN HO MAN TIN NORTH AREA, RE-ROUTING BUS ROUTE NO 85 VIA HUNG HOM AREA AND VIEWS ON THE BUS SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

CARNIVAL FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS

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A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD FOR RESIDENTS OF SYCAMORE AREA IN MONG KOK ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24) IN WILLOW STREET PLAYGROUND.

THERE WILL BE LION DANCE, GAME STALLS AND A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING SINGING AND ACROBATICS.

A NINE-METRE HIGH INFLATED PLASTIC ELEPHANT WILL BE SET UP IN THE PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO WIN PRIZES IN A LUCKY DRAW.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE SYCAMORE AREA COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE RECREATION FOR FAMILIES. IT IS ALSO AIMED AT ENHANCING RESIDENTS' SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND TAI KOK TSUI BRANCH OFFICE, 85 IVY STREET.

THE CARNIVAL IS SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN YUEN LONG, CHAI WAN

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THE EXISTING LEFT-TURN FROM MA WANG ROAD ON TO CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24) FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

TRAFFIC ON MA WANG ROAD HEADING FOR YUEN LONG TOWN IS ADVISED TO USE SHUI PIN WAI ROAD.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN CHAI WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY. THEY ARE:

* THE SECTION OF WAN TSUI ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WAN TSUI LANE TO A POINT ABOUT 72 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, AND

* THE SECTION OF WAN TSUI LANE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WAN TSUI ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT SEVEN METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL

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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN RUMSEY STREET AND MAN WA LANE WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR GOODS OR PASSENGERS WITHIN THE CLEARWAY.

MEANWHILE, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON THE SAME DAY. THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE IS IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "ADVENTURE SHIP" BY THE ADVENTURE SHIP LIMITED.

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SALT WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE TURNED OFF ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24) FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS WORK.

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

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