



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TRAVEL RESERVE FUND BUILDING UP STEADILY
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THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND HAS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY BUILT UP ITS RESOURCES TO FORM A BULWARK AGAINST EVENTUALITIES, AND THE OUTBOUND TOUR INDUSTRY OF HONG KONG CAN EXPECT A BRIGHTER AND HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR TRAVELLERS AND TOUR OPERATORS ALIKE.

THE REMARK WAS MADE BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN TABLING THE REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 1987 TO MARCH 31, 1988.

DR IP SAID THE NON-STATUTORY TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND, WHICH REPLACED THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND, WAS SET UP IN JULY 1988 AS PART OF THE MEASURES INTRODUCED UNDER THE TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE TOWARDS SELF-REGULATION FOR THE OUTBOUND TOUR INDUSTRY OF HONG KONG.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE FUND CAME FROM THE COLLECTION OF A ONE PER CENT LEVY ON ALL OUTBOUND TOUR FARES, AND THE FUND HAD SO FAR COLLECTED \$19.4 MILLION.

IN THE UNHAPPY EVENT THAT A TRAVEL AGENT SHOULD COLLAPSE, ITS CLIENTS MIGHT CLAIM COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND, UP TO 70 PER CENT OF TOUR FARES PAID, ON PRODUCTION OF THEIR FARE RECEIPTS BEARING THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL ONE PER CENT LEVY FRANKING MARK.

"AS FOR THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND, IT WILL BE ABOLISHED AS SOON AS OUTSTANDING CLAIMS ARE SETTLED.

"AT PRESENT THE BULK OF CLAIMS FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT COMES FROM FORMER CLIENTS OF AUSTRAVEL CO. LTD. AND P.C. TRAVEL SERVICE LTD. WHICH WERE CLOSED IN JANUARY 1987," DR IP EXPLAINED.

SINCE MARCH LAST YEAR, 3,149 APPLICATIONS FROM THESE FORMER CLIENTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED. OF THESE APPLICANTS, APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OPTED FOR 70 PER CENT PAYMENT WHILE THE REST CHOSE TO RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT CLAIMED BUT WITH PAYMENT EFFECTED BY INSTALMENTS WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

ACCORDING TO DR IP, PAYMENT COMMENCED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR AND WERE CONTINUING. THE TOTAL AMOUNT INVOLVED WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$12 MILLION.

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KCRC EMPOWERED TO DETERMINE FARES
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE KCRC IS EMPOWERED BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ORDINANCE TO DETERMINE ITS FARES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON KINGSLEY SIT, MR LEUNG SAID THAT THE CORPORATION'S FARE POLICY DID NOT THEREFORE REQUIRE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OR ACCEPTANCE.

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RULES ON CONVEYANCING TRANSACTIONS TO BE GAZETTED
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PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SOLICITORS PRACTICE RULES TO PROVIDE FOR THE LAW SOCIETY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONVEYANCING TRANSACTIONS WILL BE GAZETTED ON MAY 16, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM, MR MATHEWS SAID THE PROPOSALS RELATE TO THE QUESTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARATE LEGAL REPRESENTATIONS IN CONVEYANCING TRANSACTIONS.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE, THE POWER TO MAKE PRACTICE RULES FOR SOLICITORS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY. SUCH PRACTICE RULES MUST, IN ADDITION, BE APPROVED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

IN JUNE 1986, PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE EXISTING SOLICITORS PRACTICE RULES TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARATE REPRESENTATION IN CONVEYANCING TRANSACTIONS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, WERE SUBMITTED BY THE LAW SOCIETY TO THE THEN CHIEF JUSTICE, HE ADDED.

"DISCUSSIONS THEN CONTINUED BETWEEN THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1986.

"THESE DISCUSSIONS LED TO THE DRAFTING OF RULES BASED UPON THE PROPOSALS FROM THE LAW SOCIETY.

"THE FINAL SETTLING OF THE RULES INVOLVED DETAILED CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE LAW SOCIETY AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE, EXTENDING OVER 1987 AND 1988," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"IN APRIL THIS YEAR THE CHIEF JUSTICE APPROVED THE AMENDING RULES WHICH IS PROPOSED TO PUBLISH IN THE GAZETTE ON MAY 16 AND THEN TO LAY ON THE TABLE OF THIS COUNCIL.

"I AM ADVISED THAT THE LAW SOCIETY WILL BE REVIEWING THE APPLICATION OF THE RULES AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN IN FORCE FOR 18 MONTHS," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

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DECISION EXPECTED NEXT YEAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

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A DECISION ON THE ENACTMENT OF A HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE IS EXPECTED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ENACTING A HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE, IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW IN THIS RESPECT.

"THIS EXERCISE IS DETAILED AND COMPLEX AND MANY APPROACHES ARE POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

"WE ARE WORKING HARD ON THIS PROBLEM AND EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, WHETHER TO ENACT A HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE, AND IF SO, WHAT FORM THE LEGISLATION SHOULD TAKE."

MR JACOBS SAID NO DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED NOR FORMAL DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS PREPARED ALTHOUGH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD.

IN LATE 1987 AND EARLY 1988 THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL HELD A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH LAWYERS AND ACADEMICS TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND VARIOUS PAPERS WERE PREPARED TO FACILITATE THE DISCUSSIONS.

"THE DISCUSSIONS WERE INFORMAL AND NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED," MR JACOBS ADDED.

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NO DECISION YET ON REPLACING BMH

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NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT TENTATIVE PLANS HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC HOSPITAL FACILITY ON THAT SITE, THOUGH THE PRECISE FORM OF ANY SUCH FACILITY WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER CONSIDERATION ONCE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SITE WAS KNOWN.

MR CHAU WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, WHO ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY LONG TERM PLAN TO REPLACE BMH WITH A NEW PAEDIATRIC AND OBSTETRIC ANNEX TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO RELIEVE ITS OVERCROWDING CONDITION.

MR CHAU SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS A SUPPORT FACILITY FOR BRITISH GARRISON, AND CONSEQUENTIAL RELEASE OF THE SITE.

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REPORT ON UPGRADING ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE
TO BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER

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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMS) IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON FIVE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS DESIGNED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF UPGRADING THE ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE IN HONG KONG TO 220 VOLTS AND REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON C.K. POON, MR JACOBS SAID THAT A CONSULTANT'S TECHNICAL REPORT ON UPGRADING HONG KONG'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VOLTAGE WAS RECEIVED IN APRIL LAST YEAR.

"WHILST THE REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT INCREASING THE SUPPLY VOLTAGE FROM 200 VOLTS TO 220 VOLTS WAS LIKELY TO BE BENEFICIAL IN THE LONGER TERM, IT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE COULD BE SOME ADVERSE IMPACT IN THE SHORTER TERM IN RESPECT OF EQUIPMENT DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO OPERATE ON HONG KONG'S EXISTING 200 VOLTS SUPPLY SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT SINCE ANY CHANGE IN VOLTAGE WOULD ULTIMATELY AFFECT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT ALL POTENTIAL AREAS OF DOUBT WERE THOROUGHLY ASSESSED AND THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE CONSULTANT'S FINDINGS.

"THUS, FOLLOWING THE REPORT WE CONSULTED A NUMBER OF OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"THE OUTCOME REVEALED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A CAREFULLY PLANNED AND PROGRESSIVE UPGRADING OF THE SUPPLY VOLTAGE, BUT SOME ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, REMAINED CONCERNED OVER CERTAIN SAFETY ASPECTS, COST IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSUMERS, POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON EQUIPMENT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR USE WITH ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED AT 200 VOLTS," HE ADDED.

"IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NET EFFECT OF THE UPGRADING OF THE ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS NECESSARY TO STUDY AND ASSESS SOME OF THE CONCERNS AND DOUBTS EXPRESSED DURING CONSULTATION," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT THE EMS STUDY WOULD ADDRESS ALL THE ISSUES ON WHICH DOUBTS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED.

"I HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FIRM RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY THEREAFTER," HE ADDED.

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SOME SUCCESS IN FINDING ACCOMMODATION FOR STREET SLEEPERS
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SOME SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN TRYING TO FIND PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF STREET SLEEPERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T. H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAU SAID AS A RESULT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORT TO LOCATE DISUSED BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREA WHICH COULD BE CONVERTED INTO HOSTELS TO PROVIDE REHOUSING FOR HOMELESS PERSONS, INCLUDING STREET SLEEPERS, A HOSTEL MANAGED BY THE SALVATION ARMY WAS OPENED IN THE SIX STREETS REDEVELOPMENT AREA OF YAU MA TEI IN NOVEMBER 1988.

"THIS HOSTEL IS PART OF A PILOT SCHEME WHICH IS INTENDED TO TEST THE RESPONSE OF STREET SLEEPERS TO THE PROVISION OF URBAN HOSTELS OFFERING LONGER TERM ACCOMMODATION ON A 24 HOUR BASIS," MR CHAU SAID.

TO EXPAND THE PILOT SCHEME AND TO FURTHER TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS APPROACH, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ALLOCATED \$2.3 MILLION BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO SECURE PREMISES FOR USE AS A SECOND SUCH HOSTEL, HE NOTED.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW IDENTIFYING SUITABLE PREMISES FOR THIS PURPOSE, IF POSSIBLE IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT, HE ADDED.

MR CHAU ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON STREET SLEEPERS HAD BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE TWO MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTARY WELFARE SECTOR.

HE SAID ONE MEMBER WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WHILST THE OTHER WAS AN OFFICER OF THE SALVATION ARMY.

"UNFORTUNATELY, EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY ALWAYS BE A SMALL SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER SLEEPS ON THE STREETS," MR CHAU SAID.

"I BELIEVE THAT OUR POLICY OF ADOPTING A PERSONALISED APPROACH OF COUNSELLING AND PERSUASION TO ENCOURAGE STREET SLEEPERS TO MAKE USE OF THE WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY OF MINIMISING THIS SOCIAL PROBLEM."

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RESTRICTIONS BEING CONSIDERED ON CIVIL SERVANTS
BEING MEMBERS OF POLITICAL BODIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WHETHER SOME RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON CIVIL SERVANTS BEING MEMBERS OF POLITICAL BODIES, PARTICULARLY AT THE SENIOR LEVEL, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT IN VIEW OF THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING POLITICAL SCENE, THE OVERALL AIM WAS : "TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IS AND IS SEEN TO BE CONDUCTED IMPARTIALLY, AND TO MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL NEUTRALITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT AS FAR AS MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS WAS CONCERNED, THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO RESTRICTION ON CIVIL SERVANTS JOINING ANY PROPERLY ORGANISED POLITICAL BODY.

WITH REGARD TO TAKING PART IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, A NUMBER OF REGULATIONS EXISTED TO DISCOURAGE CIVIL SERVANTS FROM PLAYING AN ACTIVE PART IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

"THESE REGULATIONS DEAL WITH CONFLICT OF INTEREST, OUTSIDE WORK AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY POLITICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES WHICH ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO AN OFFICER'S DUTIES," MR JACOBS SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WERE DEBARRED FROM STANDING FOR ELECTION TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS BY THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 367).

THEY WERE ALSO DEBARRED FROM STANDING FOR ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, MR JACOBS ADDED.

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ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED IMPROVED

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THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARDS OF ACCESS PROVISION FOR THE HANDICAPPED SINCE THE ISSUE OF A DESIGN MANUAL IN 1984 BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG MING-FUN, MR BARNES SAID THAT THE DESIGN MANUAL, "ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED 1984", WAS A CODE OF PRACTICE WHICH INCLUDED BOTH OBLIGATORY AND RECOMMENDED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPERS.

"THIS STANDARD HOWEVER IS NOTABLY HIGHER IN LARGER DEVELOPMENTS THAN IN SMALLER ONES, IN WHICH IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO MAKE SPACE AVAILABLE," MR BARNES SAID.

THEREFORE, IN SOME CASES ONLY THE OBLIGATORY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BE PROVIDED IN SMALLER DEVELOPMENTS, HE ADDED.

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ED TRYING TO HELP SCHOOL DROPOUTS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO HELP CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS GENUINE SCHOOL DROPOUT CASES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG CHI-KONG, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT OF THE 794 CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS GENUINE SCHOOL DROPOUT CASES, 272 WERE NOT RECEIVING FULL-TIME EDUCATION.

"OF THESE CHILDREN 225 (83 PER CENT) ARE APPROACHING 15 YEARS OF AGE AND WILL SOON FALL OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION," MR BRIDGE NOTED.

MR BRIDGE OUTLINED THE REASONS FOR THOSE CHILDREN'S NOT ATTENDING DAY SCHOOLS AS WELL AS THE ACTION TAKEN EITHER TO EXPEDITE THE PLACEMENT OF SUCH CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS OR TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO USEFULLY OCCUPY THEIR TIME.

FIRSTLY, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT SOME CHILDREN HAD LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.

"APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED BY STAFF OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT FOR THOSE THAT LACKED MOTIVATION OR WERE ATTENDING EVENING SCHOOLS, COUNSELLING HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS TO PERSUADE THEM TO RETURN TO FULL TIME EDUCATION.

HE NOTED THAT SOME CHILDREN HAD BEEN WAITLISTED FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING SCHEME.

FOR THIS GROUP OF CHILDREN, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN LIAISING WITH THE APPRENTICESHIP SECTION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT AND COUNSELLING HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO PERSUADE THE CHILDREN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL IN THE MEANTIME.

MR BRIDGE FURTHER SAID THAT SOME CHILDREN WERE FROM FISHERMAN FAMILIES.

"EFFORTS ARE MADE TO CONTACT THE CHILDREN AND PERSUADE THEM TO GO TO SCHOOL," HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME CHILDREN WERE PENDING SCHOOL PLACEMENT.

/"DISTRICT EDUCATION

"DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS ARE LIAISING WITH SCHOOL HEADS," HE SAID.

AS FOR THOSE CHILDREN THAT HAD FAMILY PROBLEMS OR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS, HE SAID THAT COUNSELLING BY PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS HAD BEEN PROVIDED.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THE CASE OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO WERE IN ILL HEALTH HAD BEEN KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

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HK WAS NOT INVITED TO HOST MATHS OLYMPIAD
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NO INVITATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR HONG KONG TO HOST THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS STATED BY MR BRIDGE IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON CHAN YING-LUN WHO ASKED WHY HAD THE GOVERNMENT TURN DOWN THE INVITATION TO HOST THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD IN 1997.

MR BRIDGE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1988 THE HONG KONG MATHEMATICS SOCIETY HAD INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO HOST THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD IN HONG KONG IN 1997.

"THE SOCIETY ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT COULD SUPPORT THE EVENT BY WAY OF A COMMITMENT OF \$1.5 MILLION AT 1988 PRICES," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THE SOCIETY REQUESTED A QUICK RESPONSE.

"WE CONSIDER THAT IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE, NINE YEARS AHEAD, EITHER TO REACH A FIRM VIEW ON THE ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL OR TO GUARANTEE A COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, AND WE INFORMED THE HONG KONG MATHEMATICS SOCIETY ACCORDINGLY," MR BRIDGE NOTED.

"THE SOCIETY SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED NOT TO MAKE A BID FOR THE EVENT," HE CONCLUDED.

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TUEN MUN HOSPITAL FIRST STAGE OPENS IN DECEMBER

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THE FIRST STAGE OF TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WILL OPEN IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 1,600-BED HOSPITAL WAS NEAR COMPLETION AND THAT ITS COMMISSIONING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN FIVE STAGES OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR CHAU SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE OPENING OF STAGE I WOULD BE DELAYED SINCE STAFF TO FILL THE POSTS IN THE HOSPITAL UNDER THAT STAGE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

"SOME ARE NOW RECEIVING TRAINING IN OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS WITH A VIEW TO FILLING POSTS IN TUEN MUN HOSPITAL," HE SAID.

"OTHER POSTS WILL BE FILLED BY PROMOTION OR INTERNAL TRANSFER," HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE HOSPITAL WOULD REQUIRE 260 DOCTORS AND 1,711 NURSES, INCLUDING 103 DOCTORS AND 484 NURSES FOR THE OPERATION OF STAGE I.

A TOTAL OF 374 HOSPITAL BEDS AND DAY-TIME ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THIS STAGE, HE ADDED.

AS TO THE PROBLEM OF MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF SHORTAGE, MR CHAU SAID: "THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF GRADES IN THE NON-DISCIPLINED CIVIL SERVICE, AND DOCTORS AND NURSES ARE AMONG THE GRADES THAT WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY UNDER THIS REVIEW."

"ANY IMPROVEMENTS EMANATING FROM THIS REVIEW, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEASURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING, SHOULD HELP TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER SUPPLY OF MEDICAL AND NURSING PERSONNEL FOR PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICES, INCLUDING THE SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF TUEN MUN HOSPITAL," HE ADDED.

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AMBULANCE SERVICES REVIEW CONCLUDED

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THE AMBULANCE SERVICES REVIEW STEERING GROUP HAD CONCLUDED ITS DELIBERATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CHARGING FOR NON-EMERGENCY USE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM, MR BARNES SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD SOON SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MATTER TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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STEADY INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PHARMACISTS
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THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PHARMACISTS REGISTERED WITH THE PHARMACY AND POISON BOARD OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR CHAU SAID THAT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, THERE HAD BEEN NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS.

"AS AT MARCH 31, 1989, THERE WERE NO UNFILLED VACANCIES FOR PHARMACISTS IN EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED SECTOR. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF VACANT PHARMACIST POSTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY BY THE PRACTISING PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION, 38.9 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD OBTAINED THE RIGHT TO RESIDE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND ANOTHER 36.8 PER CENT SAID THAT THEY WERE APPLYING OR PLANNING TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION, MR CHAU NOTED.

"IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO THE SAME SURVEY, 24 PER CENT OF THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO HAD OBTAINED A RIGHT TO RESIDE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE HONG KONG WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

"BESIDES, 32.9 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO HAD A RIGHT TO RESIDE ELSEWHERE AND WHO SAID THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD IN DUE COURSE RETURN TO HONG KONG TO WORK," MR CHAU SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE FINDINGS OF THIS SURVEY NEVERTHELESS HAD TO BE LOOKED AT WITH CAUTION.

"A TOTAL OF 644 QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT OUT AND 247 REGISTERED PHARMACISTS RESPONDED. THE FINDINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE WERE DRAWN UP ON THE BASIS OF THESE 247 RETURNS ONLY," MR CHAU SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING 1984-1988, AN AVERAGE OF 53 QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS REGISTERED WITH THE BOARD EACH YEAR.

"THE CURRENT NUMBER OF REGISTERED PHARMACISTS STANDS AT 667. THERE IS THUS NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUPPLY CANNOT BE MAINTAINED IN FUTURE, BUT I SHALL KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW," HE ADDED.

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GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROVIDE AIR-CONDITIONING IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS
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IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROVIDE AIR-CONDITIONING IN ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAU SAID THAT FOR THOSE HOSPITALS WHICH AT PRESENT AIR-CONDITIONED ONLY SOME OF THEIR PAEDIATRIC WARDS, PLANNING WAS IN HAND TO EXTEND THE FACILITY TO THE REMAINDER.

MR CHAU SAID THAT AT PRESENT, A TOTAL OF 15 PUBLIC HOSPITALS OPERATED PAEDIATRIC WARDS.

"IN 14 OF THESE HOSPITALS, THE PAEDIATRIC WARDS ARE EITHER FULLY OR PARTIALLY AIR-CONDITIONED.

"THE PAEDIATRIC WARD IN KOWLOON HOSPITAL IS THE ONLY ONE NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDED WITH AIR-CONDITIONING.

"THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO PLANS TO PROVIDE AIR-CONDITIONING TO KOWLOON HOSPITAL, BECAUSE CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO RE-DEVELOPING THE HOSPITAL," HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THAT FINANCIAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN TO INSTALL CENTRAL AIR-CONDITIONING IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL TO COVER THE ENTIRE HOSPITAL.

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NO LEGISLATION TO BAR CHILDREN FROM ADULT SECTION OF VIDEO STORES
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CONSIDER INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE VIDEO CASSETTE STORES TO SEPARATE THE ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SECTIONS TO BAR CHILDREN FROM ENTERING THE ADULT SECTION, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF VIDEO RENTAL OUTLETS BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY IN SUCH MATTERS AND, GIVEN SPACE CONSTRAINTS AND THE COSTS OF ACCOMMODATION IN HONG KONG, IT WOULD BE INEQUITABLE TO REQUIRE THEM ALL TO ORGANISE THEIR PREMISES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO EXCLUDE CHILDREN FROM CERTAIN PARTS," MR TSAO SAID.

IT WAS NECESSARY TO BEAR IN MIND IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE RANGE OF MATERIAL SPECIFICALLY SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AT SUCH PLACES WAS USUALLY REGRETTABLY SMALL, HE NOTED.

/"THE DEMANDS

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"THE DEMANDS, MOREOVER, THAT SUCH A REGIME WOULD IMPOSE ON BOTH VIDEO RENTAL BUSINESSES AND THE GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF ENFORCEMENT COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED, GIVEN THE ADEQUATE CONTROLS WHICH NOW EXIST TO PREVENT THE DIRECT EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO OBSCENE OR INDECENT MATERIALS AT THE POINT OF SALE/RENTAL," MR TSAO SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR TSAO SAID THAT ANY PERSON WHO DISPLAYS AN ADVERTISEMENT, ILLUSTRATION OR OTHER MATERIAL WHICH IS OBSCENE COMMITS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE (NO. 9/87).

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ANY PERSON WHO DISPLAYS MATERIAL WHICH IS INDECENT TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 COMMITS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE SAME ORDINANCE.

THESE PROVISIONS SERVE TO CONTROL THE DISPLAY OF INDECENT OR OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS, VIDEO BOX LABELS OR OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN VIDEO RENTAL OUTLETS, BOOKSHOPS, NEWSPAPER STALLS AND ALL OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS TO WHICH THE PUBLIC HAS ACCESS, HE NOTED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE CITED SIMILARLY CONTROL THE SALE OR HIRE OF OBSCENE VIDEOS TO ALL PERSONS, AND OF INDECENT TAPES TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18, MR TSAO SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF CONSIDERING MEASURES TO STOP THE SHOWING OF PORNOGRAPHIC PICTURES IN CINEMA LOBBIES AND PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEOS IN SHOPS, MR TSAO SAID THE CONTROLS UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE ALSO OPERATED IN THE CONTEXT OF CINEMA BILL-BOARDS AND LOBBIES.

"WE RECOGNISE THAT THESE ARE OCCASIONALLY VISIBLE FROM SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES; AND WHERE WE ARE AWARE OF ANY MATERIALS DISPLAYED IN SUCH A WAY AS MAY CAUSE OFFENCE, WE TAKE THE MATTER UP INFORMALLY WITH THE CINEMA MANAGEMENT," HE SAID.

"THIS HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE IN ALL CASES SO FAR," HE ADDED.

MR TSAO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SHOWING OF VIDEOS IN SALES AND RENTAL OUTLETS WAS CONTROLLED UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE (NO. 25/88).

HE SAID A VIDEO COULD NOT BE SHOWN PUBLICLY WITHOUT EITHER A CERTIFICATE OR EXEMPTION BY THE FILM CENSOR.

THE CENSOR MUST BE INFORMED IF THE VIDEO IN QUESTION WAS TO BE SHOWN IN SUCH A WAY THAT PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 COULD SEE IT, AND HE WOULD BASE HIS DECISION ON THIS.

"IT HAS COME TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTENTION THAT THERE ARE ONE OR TWO PLACES WHERE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE TO MAKE CLEARER THE EFFECT OF A CENSOR'S CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER THE ORDINANCE ON A VIDEO TAPE OR LASER DISK VERSION OF THE SAME FILM," HE SAID.

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"THIS IS RATHER IN THE REALM OF 'LAWYER'S LAW'," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IF AN AMENDMENT IS NECESSARY A SUITABLE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," HE ADDED.

MR TSAO SAID THE AREAS OF CONCERN WERE ALREADY CONTROLLED UNDER THE LAW WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SEGREGATION OF VIDEO RENTAL OUTLETS INTO CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS' SECTIONS WHICH, HE BELIEVED, WOULD GIVE RISE TO INSURMOUNTABLE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN WORK ARRANGEMENTS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS TAKING A NUMBER OF STEPS TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO INTRODUCE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN WORK ARRANGEMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU ON THE CURRENT MANPOWER SHORTAGE PROBLEM, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS HAD BEEN AMENDED IN FEBRUARY 1988 TO ALLOW FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY ON OVERTIME WORK FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS PROMOTING THE USE OF "FLEXI-TIME" AS AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE RIGID "NINE TO FIVE" PATTERN.

"IT ALSO ENCOURAGES EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOY PART-TIME WORKERS AND TO INTRODUCE JOB-SHARING SCHEMES.

"THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ADVISES EMPLOYERS TO RECRUIT PART-TIME WORKERS TO FILL FULL-TIME JOB VACANCIES WHICH HAVE BEEN LEFT VACANT FOR SOME TIME," MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE HAD PLACED A TOTAL OF 2,224 JOB SEEKERS IN PART-TIME JOBS IN 1988.

MR BRIDGE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD WELL-ESTABLISHED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF PART-TIME AND TEMPORARY STAFF.

"SOME OF THESE ARE EMPLOYED ON A JOB SHARING BASIS," HE ADDED.

"SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE EITHER BECAUSE THE NATURE OF WORK DOES NOT WARRANT THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERMANENT STAFF ON A FULL-TIME BASIS OR AS A RESULT OF STAFF SHORTAGES.

/"EXAMPLES INCLUDE

"EXAMPLES INCLUDE LIFE GUARDS, LETTER SORTING WORKERS AND SUPPLY TEACHERS. OTHER CLASSES OF PART-TIME WORKERS ARE BEING CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

CONCERNING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN ESTIMATED TO HAVE ENTERED THE JOB MARKET, MR BRIDGE STATED THAT ACCORDING TO A CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN 1987, ABOUT 13,900 WOMEN WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE UP JOBS IF THEIR CHILDREN COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF.

"IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR, THERE WERE SOME 480 CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LISTS KEPT BY DAY CRECHES AT THE END OF MARCH 1989.

"AND THERE WERE ABOUT 4,000 CHILDREN WAITLISTED AS SUITABLE FOR PLACEMENT AT DAY NURSERIES AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1988," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INFORMATION ON WAITING LISTS FOR PRIVATE CRECHES AND DAY CARE FACILITIES.

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SHW CLARIFIES NAME OF HERBAL MEDICINE
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A POLICE REPORT HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT THE HERB WHICH WAS CONSUMED BY TWO VICTIMS OF A CASE REFERRED, WAS TO YEE CHUT, AND NOT KWAI CHOW LUNG DAM CHO, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A STATEMENT RECTIFYING THE ANSWER WHICH HE GAVE TO THE HON MIRIAM LAU'S QUESTION ON CHINESE TRADITIONAL HERBAL MEDICINE ON APRIL 19, MR CHAU SAID: "BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ME AT THAT TIME, I STATED THAT THE HERB CONSUMED BY THE TWO VICTIMS WAS KWAI CHOW LUNG DAM CHO."

"I WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THAT A POLICE REPORT HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED, FOLLOWING AN ANALYSIS CONDUCTED AT THE CHINESE MEDICINAL MATERIAL RESEARCH CENTRE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, THAT THE HERB CONSUMED WAS TO YEE CHUT (PODOPHYLLUM EMODI) WHICH HAD BEEN IMPORTED AND SOLD AS KWAI CHOW LUNG DAM CHO ON THE BASIS OF INVOICES FROM THE SUPPLIER," HE SAID.

MR CHAU ADDED THAT HIS STATEMENT THAT THERE WAS AN OVERDOSE WAS CORRECT AND WAS SUBSTANTIATED BY THE POLICE REPORT.

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EXTENSION OF TAVAS TO LRT SUPPORTED
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THE BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME (TAVAS) TO COVER TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES WHICH OCCURRED ON ANY PART OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRACK HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE OMELCO STANDING PANELS ON TRANSPORT AND ON WELFARE SERVICES, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS TAM WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

SHE NOTED THAT WITHOUT THE AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED IN THE BILL, ONLY VICTIMS SUFFERING PERSONAL INJURY IN AN ACCIDENT OCCURRING ON THE INTEGRATED SECTIONS OF THE LRT TRACK COULD CLAIM ASSISTANCE FROM THE TAVA FUND.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT NORMALLY THE PRACTICE TO LEGISLATE WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT IN THAT THE BILL PROVIDED THAT VICTIMS OF ALL LRT ACCIDENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE SINCE MARCH 1, 1988 - THE DATE AT WHICH PUBLIC TRIALS ON THE LRT SYSTEM BEGAN - WOULD ENJOY ASSISTANCE UNDER TAVAS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT SINCE THE KCRC IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO TAVAS FROM THAT DATE, AND NO ONE WILL ACTUALLY SUFFER FROM THIS BACKDATING OF EFFECTIVE DATE, WE SHOULD SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL AND MAKE SURE THAT MORE PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT FROM THE TAVAS," SHE SAID.

MISS TAM, WHO IS CONVENER OF THE OMELCO STANDING PANEL ON TRANSPORT SAID MEMBERS HAD CONSIDERED THAT TAVAS WAS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING SPEEDY RELIEF TO A TRAFFIC VICTIM AND SO THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER AFTER ONE WHOLE YEAR FROM MARCH 1, 1988, IT WOULD STILL BE NECESSARY TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO ANY OF THE VICTIMS.

"WE THEN CONSIDER THAT IF A VICTIM IS IN NEED OF MONEY, WE SHOULD NOT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO OBTAIN HELP AND SO WE DECIDE TO BACKDATE THE EFFECTIVE DATE IN SPITE OF THE LAPSE OF TIME FROM MARCH 1, 1988, ESPECIALLY WHERE THERE IS ABOUT \$93 MILLION IN THE TAVA FUND," SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF SAFE AND EFFICIENT SERVICES WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THERE WOULD BE NO OR LITTLE NEED FOR TAVAS ASSISTANCE.

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

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THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL WAS GIVEN A SECOND READING AND WENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

IN ADDITION, A REGULAR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

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FC APPROVES FUNDS FOR VBP ACCOMMODATION

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) GAVE FINANCIAL APPROVAL FOR THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION TO COPE WITH A CONTINUING INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

FUNDS TOTTALLING \$193.7 MILLION WERE APPROVED AS CAPITAL COSTS FOR THE PHASED CONSTRUCTION OF STAGES 3 AND 4 OF THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE AND FOR THE CONVERSION OF LO WU CAMP INTO A TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRE.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED \$34.3 MILLION AS SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, 4,633 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG, AN INCREASE OF 89 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT BASED ON THE 1988 EXPERIENCE, AND CONSIDERING THE ARRIVAL RATE SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE SPARE CAPACITY NOW AVAILABLE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH ARRIVALS OVER THE PEAK SUMMER MONTHS.

IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NECESSARY TO PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER DETENTION CENTRE ACCOMMODATION.

STAGES 3 AND 4 OF THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE CAN HOLD A TOTAL OF 10,000 PEOPLE AND WILL BE COMPLETED PROGRESSIVELY FROM SEPTEMBER TO THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE CENTRE AT LO WU CAMP CAN HOLD UP TO 1,800 PEOPLE AND BE READY IN ABOUT TWO TO THREE MONTHS' TIME, TO BE USED IF NECESSARY IN PLACE OF ERSKINE AS A TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRE FOR NEW ARRIVALS.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO MEET TOMORROW

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT ON THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE REPORT WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, POSTMASTER GENERAL, AND DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

/THE PUBLIC

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THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL START AT 9.30 AM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THE TIMETABLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

9.30 AM	DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, PARAGRAPHS 3.1 - 3.14.
10.15 AM	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, PARAGRAPHS 4.1 - 4.11.
10.45 AM	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AND SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, PARAGRAPHS 5.1 - 5.8.
(BREAK)	
11.45 AM	DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, PARAGRAPHS 2.1 - 2.10.
(LUNCH)	
2.30 PM	POSTMASTER GENERAL, PARAGRAPHS 7.1 - 7.8.
3.15 PM	DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PARAGRAPHS 9.1 - 9.7.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE PUBLIC HEARING ARE ADVISED TO BRING WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

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SMA LEAVES FOR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING
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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING TO ATTEND THE 22ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM MAY 4 TO 6. MR NENDICK IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE MEETING AT A GOVERNOR'S SESSION.

ALSO IN THE HONG KONG DELEGATION ARE MR KWONG KI-CHI, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, AND MR THOMAS CHOW, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATION
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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TO ORGANISE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE USAGE PATTERN OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL VENUES, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT IN MAY AND JUNE, AND A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

HK ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED
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CORPORATE AND BUSINESS LEADERS IN THE AMERICAN CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA, SOME OF WHOSE COMPANIES HAVE OFFICES IN HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HONG KONG'S CAPITALIST ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE WOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997, GUARANTEED BY THE JOINT DECLARATION.

IN A SPEECH TO THE FORUM 11 SEMINAR ORGANISED BY READING'S WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK, MR KERRY MCGLYNN SAID THAT OTHER PROVISIONS ALSO PROMISED HONG KONG WOULD HAVE ITS OWN ELECTED LEGISLATURE, IT WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT SYSTEM OF LAW AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND IT WOULD HAVE AUTONOMY IN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY MATTERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WAS AN EXTREMELY DETAILED DOCUMENT STIPULATING THOSE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS AND EVERYONE AGREED THAT IT WAS A "VERY GOOD AND COMPREHENSIVE" AGREEMENT.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS ALREADY WORKING WELL IN A CONSTITUTIONAL SENSE IN THAT ITS PROVISIONS WERE BEING PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTED IN A WAY WHICH WOULD ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997.

IN ECONOMIC TERMS, MR MCGLYNN CONTINUED, IT HAD ALSO PROVIDED A SOUND AND RELIABLE FOUNDATION FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMY TO CONTINUE THRIVING AS EVIDENCED BY ITS GROWING EXPORTS, INCREASING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY, A BUOYANT PROPERTY MARKET AND ALMOST NON-EXISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS THE LONG-TERM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS BEING DEVELOPED THERE.

HE SAID HONG KONG OCCUPIED A UNIQUE POSITION AMONG THE EXPANDING ECONOMIES OF THE PACIFIC RIM AND HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS "THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS IN ASIA".

AMERICAN EXPORTERS COULD FIND MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG AND MANY PEOPLE ALSO SAW IT AS A LUCRATIVE MARKET FROM WHICH TO DO BUSINESS WITH CHINA AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE THROUGH THE END OF THIS DECADE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, HE NOTED.

MR MCGLYNN SAID LIKE ANYWHERE ELSE, HONG KONG ALSO FACED ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS, ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS NOW BEING THE HUGE INFLOW OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AT A TIME WHEN RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD DECLINED DRAMATICALLY.

"THERE ARE NO PRECEDENTS - NO SIGNPOSTS - TO GUIDE HONG KONG ALONG ITS WAY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. IT REALLY IS A REMARKABLE JOURNEY WHICH HONG KONG WILL BE MAKING," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE IN PHILADELPHIA, THE SECRETARY FOR GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, ENDED HIS TOUR OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES WITH AN ADDRESS TO THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF THAT CITY WHICH ALSO HAS STRONG ECONOMIC TIES WITH HONG KONG.

MR WIGGHAM'S NEXT STOP IS SAN FRANCISCO ON THE WEST COAST WHERE HE CONTINUES HIS TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES.

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UNPRECEDENTED SCALE OF EXPANSION IN PORT DEVELOPMENT

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON HONG KONG'S LONG TERM PORT DEVELOPMENT TO MEET DEMAND INTO THE NEXT CENTURY ARE LIKELY TO INDICATE EXPANSION ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND WORLD CONTAINER CONGRESS AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR HALL SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANT TO ADVISE ON FUTURE PORT DEVELOPMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR.

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IN THE SHORTER TERM, MR HALL NOTED THAT CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 WAS BEING PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1994.

HE SAID TERMINAL 6 WAS COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND TERMINAL 7 WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY BY 1991 AND THE TWO WOULD GIVE KWAI CHUNG A CAPACITY OF ABOUT FIVE MILLION TEU'S.

MR HALL SAID THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT THE WORLD CONTAINER CONGRESS SHOULD BE HELD IN HONG KONG.

"LAST YEAR FOUR MILLION TEUS WERE HANDLED HERE, THREE MILLION AT THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL AND ONE MILLION ELSEWHERE.

"THIS MAKES HONG KONG THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE BOX PORT ALTHOUGH IT IS BY NO MEANS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PORT IN TERMS OF TONNAGE THROUGHPUT," HE SAID.

MR HALL POINTED OUT THAT LEAGUE TABLES WERE OF LITTLE INTEREST TO HONG KONG; INDEED SOME OTHER PORTS, SUCH AS THOSE IN EUROPE AND THE USA, WERE COMPLIMENTARY TO THE TERRITORY.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR PORT IS APPROPRIATE TO THE ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG."

MR HALL SAID THAT THE CONTAINER INDUSTRY WAS MADE UP OF A VARIETY OF BUSINESSES SUCH AS CONTAINER CONSTRUCTION, LEASING, REPAIRS, REFRIGERATION, DANGEROUS GOODS CONTAINMENT, COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE, TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT, ROAD AND RAIL SYSTEMS, INSURANCE, LIGHTER AND BARGE BUILDERS.

THE CONTAINER BUSINESS AS A WHOLE WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIES IN THE WORLD, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE LAND SIDE, MR HALL SAID THAT IT WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS CONTAINER SEA TRANSPORT AND BOTH NEEDED TO BE DEVELOPED IN TANDEM FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING WHICH WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

"THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IS ALSO VERY FAST -- SOME MIGHT SAY TOO FAST. THE EXPANSION OF INTERMODAL TRANSCONTINENTAL CARGOES, PARTICULARLY IN THE USA, IS PRODUCING A BEWILDERING VARIETY OF TYPES AND SIZES OF CONTAINERS."

MR HALL NOTED THE RAILWAYS HAD LARGELY LED THE WAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPERS AND OPERATORS HAD HAD TO FOLLOW SUIT OR LOSE OUT TO COMPETITORS.

"THIS IS A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO MANY," HE ADDED.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TAKES UP A DISPLAY STAND AT THE CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION WHICH IS BEING HELD IN HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ASIA UNTIL FRIDAY (MAY 5).

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PUMPING TESTS AT PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE
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VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND VILLAGERS OF TA KWU LING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAW FOR THEMSELVES THE RESULTS OF PUMPING TESTS AT A DEEP TRIAL WELL FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

THE WELL WAS DRILLED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE AVAILABLE A LANDFILL SITE AT WONG MAU HANG SHAN, PING YEUNG IN THE NORTH DISTRICT, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SHUEN WAN LANDFILL WHICH IS REACHING ITS CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID A DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY, WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY CONSULTANTS EARLY LAST YEAR, HAD RECOMMENDED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE LANDFILL.

THE STUDY ALSO RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY TO ENSURE THAT A MODERN LANDFILL WOULD BE BUILT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID VILLAGERS LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE REDUCTION OF THE FLOW IN THE STREAM WHICH ORIGINATED FROM THE SITE, AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION IN CATCHMENT AREA AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE LANDFILL.

FARMERS USED WATER FROM THE STREAM FOR IRRIGATION AND THEY FEARED THAT THE PROBLEM OF WATER SHORTAGE, WHICH ALREADY EXISTED IN DROUGHT YEARS, MIGHT BE AGGRAVATED AFTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDFILL.

THE EPD HAD GIVEN THE VILLAGERS AN UNDERTAKING TO FIND A RELIABLE SOURCE OF WATER TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS, BEFORE THE LANDFILL IS COMMISSIONED IN LATE 1993 OR EARLY 1994, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CURRENT PROPOSAL WAS TO SINK FOUR DEEP WELLS OF 40 TO 50 METRES DEEP AND IF FOUND NECESSARY, TO BUILD A STORAGE RESERVOIR.

TO ENSURE THAT THE DEEP WELL PROPOSAL WOULD WORK, THE EPD HAD DRILLED A DEEP TRIAL WELL AND CONDUCTED PUMPING TESTS IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR. THE RESULTS HAD BEEN VERY GOOD.

MORE PUMPING TESTS WERE NOW BEING CARRIED OUT TO SEE IF SATISFACTORY RESULTS COULD BE OBTAINED AFTER THE DRY SEASON.

THE EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE TESTS COMPLETED SO FAR HAD INDICATED THAT SUFFICIENT WATER COULD BE OBTAINED FROM DEEP WELLS FOR THE REPROVISION OF IRRIGATION WATER.

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED THAT AS THE WATER WAS PUMPED FROM DEEP UNDERGROUND, THE RECENT RAINS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE RESULTS.

PERMANENT DEEP WELLS WOULD BE DRILLED FOLLOWING THE PUMPING TESTS AND FURTHER HYDROGEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

ANOTHER SERIES OF PUMPING TESTS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE ASSOCIATED FACILITIES SUCH AS PUMPHOUSE AND WATER CHANNELS WERE CONSTRUCTED, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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BMCT HELPS PROMOTE EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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A MAJOR FUNCTION OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-OPERATION TEAM (BMCT) IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER AND EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HOUSING MANAGER IN CHARGE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE'S BMCT, MR LEUNG KAM-NIN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR ITS MEMBERS AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

THE SEMINAR WAS AIMED AT ENHANCING PARTICIPANTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLES PLAYED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

PARTICIPANTS WERE BRIEFED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, POLICE, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS.

THESE INCLUDED WAYS TO MAINTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE; THE POWERS OF THE POLICE IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS; THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE WORK OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT; ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS; AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS.

MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT PROPER BUILDING MANAGEMENT WOULD HELP IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE, REDUCE FIRE HAZARDS AND PREVENT CRIMES.

MR LEUNG SAID THE BMCT WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING BUILDINGS WHICH SHOULD BE BETTER MANAGED AND PROPOSALS TO THE OWNERS' ORPORATIONS.

"FIFTEEN SUCH BUILDINGS IN SHAM SHUI PO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN THIS YEAR AND A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY, PROBLEM AREAS AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS.

/"THE FINDINGS

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"THE FINDINGS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SHAM SHUI PO PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.

"SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE, WE SHALL LIAISE WITH THE OWNERS' CORPORATIONS OR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF THESE BUILDINGS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG EMPHASISED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGING PRIVATE BUILDINGS RESTED WITH THE OWNERS THEMSELVES. THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE WAS TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR OWNERS AND TENANTS TO FOLLOW.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MR LEUNG SAID AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE WAYS OF RECTIFYING DEFICIENCIES IN EXISTING DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT AND A CONSULTATION PAPER ON THIS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO ESTABLISHED AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT LAST YEAR TO EXAMINE EXISTING POLICY MEASURES ON MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS TO GIVE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON RELATED MATTERS, MR LEUNG ADDED.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS REPORT ON FLATTED FACTORIES

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THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A REPORT ON THE SALE AND OCCUPANCY OF FLATTED FACTORY UNITS IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURES FOR RECOMMENDING DISTRICT BOARD GRANTS WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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DB TO DISCUSS INCLUSION OF OLD HOUSING BLOCKS
IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE NECESSITY OF EXTENDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO COVER THE OLD MARK III TO VI PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS TWO TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES -- THE PROPOSED IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN LABOUR AND THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SCHEME.

OTHER TOPICS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN OF SHEK LEI ESTATE AND THE CLEARANCE PLAN FOR KWAI SHING EAST ESTATE.

ALSO, MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE KWAI FONG ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT ON A PRIMARY SCHOOL THERE; WELFARE FACILITIES IN KWAI TSING IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS; AND THE OPERATION OF BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

FINALLY, THE BOARD WILL MOVE A MOTION REQUESTING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO ABOLISH ITS PEAK HOUR SURCHARGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 116 - 174 HING FONG ROAD KWAI CHUNG.

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DB MEMBERS SEE NEW PUBLIC HOUSING DESIGN

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A GROUP OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED THE MOCK-UP FLATS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S NEWLY-DESIGNED "HARMONY" BLOCKS IN LOK FU.

AS A NUMBER OF HOUSING ESTATES IN WONG TAI SIN ARE UNDERGOING REDEVELOPMENT, THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ORGANISED THE VISIT FOR MEMBERS TO UPDATE THEMSELVES ON NEW PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS.

LED BY THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE, AND ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU, THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BLOCKS BY THE CHIEF ARCHITECT IN CHARGE OF THE TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN, MR TIM NUTT.

/THEY WERE

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THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE "HARMONY" SERIES WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF HOUSING FOR FUTURE RENTAL ESTATES.

THERE ARE THREE BASIC DESIGNS, EACH IN A DIFFERENT CONFIGURATION TO SUIT DIFFERENT SITES.

THE FLATS WILL BE ONE-BEDROOM, TWO-BEDROOM AND THREE-BEDROOM UNITS AND THE SERVICE AREAS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED.

OUTSIDE THE FLATS, THE PUBLIC AREAS AND THE CORRIDOR ACCESSES HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPROVED WITH SERVICE PIPES REDUCED TO A MINIMUM.

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YUEN LONG DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING FOR 1989-90 TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF GOODS PLACED IN FRONT OF SHOPS OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENT AND THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

THEY WILL ALSO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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PARK TO BE BUILT IN KWUN TONG
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WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG WILL HAVE ANOTHER PUBLIC PARK FOR RELAXATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES NEXT YEAR.

A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOI BUN ROAD PARK AT A COST OF \$10.68 MILLION, HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN THIS MONTH.

LOCATED NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH LAI YIP STREET, THE PARK WILL OCCUPY A SITE AREA OF NEARLY 7,000 SQUARE METRES.

WHEN IT IS COMPLETED IN 12 MONTHS, THE PARK WILL HAVE A MINI-SOCCER PITCH WITH REMOVABLE SPECTATOR STANDS, A CHINESE CHESS PAVILION, A TABLE TENNIS PLAY AREA, AN ELEVATED CONCRETE OBSERVATION POINT, SITTING OUT AREAS AND PUBLIC TOILETS.

THE PARK WILL BE MANAGED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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MONG KOK DB TO DISCUSS DISTRICT FESTIVAL
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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) THE STAGING OF THE SECOND MONG KOK FESTIVAL FROM DECEMBER TO JANUARY.

MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE REPORT ON ANTI-SMOKING PROPOSALS COMPILED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS, MR ARTHUR GARCIA, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE WORK OF HIS OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DHS AND DSW MEET YAN CHAI BOARD

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THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, DR T.Y. CHAU, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YAN CHAI HOSPITAL DURING THE BOARD'S COURTESY VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

IN WELCOMING THE GROUP, DR CHAU SAID THAT THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD DO ITS BEST WITHIN ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO ASSIST YAN CHAI HOSPITAL IN ITS EXTENSION PROGRAMME.

THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROGRAMME, WHICH STARTED IN 1977, IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR STAGES. WHEN STAGE IV OF THE EXTENSION PROGRAMME IS COMPLETED IN AROUND 1991, THE HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 680 BEDS AND A WIDE RANGE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YAN CHAI THEN WENT TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS WHERE THE GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS.

MRS WONG COMMENDED THE HOSPITAL FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY INCLUDING CHILD CARE AND ELDERLY SERVICES. SHE ASSURED THE NEW BOARD THAT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE RENDERED IN RELATION TO WELFARE SERVICES.

YAN CHAI IS CURRENTLY OPERATING SIX DAY NURSERIES IN TUEN MUN, KWAI CHUNG AND SHEUNG SHUI, AS WELL AS ONE SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AND ONE HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN TUEN MUN AND ONE CARE AND ATTENTION HOME IN KWAI CHUNG.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWUN TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM FRIDAY (MAY 5) A SECTION OF THE ELEVATED ROAD OF KWUN TONG ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 378 AND 328 WILL BE CLOSED DAILY FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR 10 DAYS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE THE SECTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD WESTBOUND AT GROUND LEVEL.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS 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 (MAY 5) BECAUSE OF ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

IN TIN WAN, ALL VEHICLES OVER 5.5 TONNES GROSS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER YUE KO STREET SOUTHBOUND FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONDUIT ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS FROM A POINT ABOUT EIGHT METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CASTLE ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 74 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, EXCLUDING THE LAYBY OUTSIDE HOUSE NO. 54, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS.

IN ADDITION, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TSING FUNG STREET IN NORTH POINT BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES TO THE WEST WILL BECOME A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

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

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WONG TAI SIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT DUE TO THE BURSTING OF WATER MAINS ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHEUNG FUNG STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH MING FUNG STREET, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT FUNG WONG SUN CHUEN, WONG TAI SIN HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND WILL LAST UNTIL SUNDAY (MAY 7).

SOUTHBOUND SHEUNG FUNG STREET BETWEEN SHUNG WAH STREET AND MING FUNG STREET IS CLOSED; WHILE THERE IS NO LEFT TURN FROM SHUNG WAH STREET ONTO SOUTHBOUND SHEUNG FUNG STREET.

KMB ROUTES 2F, 5C, 3A, 3B AND 15A; AND KOWLOON GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 20 AND 37M ARE DIVERTED VIA PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

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