



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROPOSAL TO CONTROL PAPER GOLD SCHEME ADVERTISING  
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THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 SEEKS TO APPLY SELECTIVE CONTROLS OVER THE ADVERTISING OF PAPER GOLD TRADING SCHEMES MAINLY AT THE RETAIL LEVEL TO REDUCE THE EXPOSURE OF THE PUBLIC TO UNSOUND SCHEMES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON P. JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT +SELECTIVE CONTROLS OVER ADVERTISING+ MEANS TWO THINGS:

FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SEEKING TO REGULATE JEWELLERY BUSINESSES IN THE SENSE OF EXERCISING PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OVER THEM. THEY AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS MAY CONTINUE OPERATING PAPER GOLD TRADING SCHEMES PROVIDED THAT THEY DO NOT SEEK TO ADVERTISE THEM.

SECOND, ANY BUSINESS WHICH OPERATES A PAPER GOLD TRADING SCHEME AND WISHES TO ADVERTISE IT MUST IN FUTURE OBTAIN THE PRIOR AUTHORISATION OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION FOR THE ADVERTISING.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ENVISAGE THAT APPLICATION MADE BY BUSINESSES THAT ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION -- SUCH AS BANKS -- AND THOSE WHICH PRACTISE A SUFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DEGREE OF SELF-REGULATION -- SUCH AS MEMBERS OF THE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE -- WILL NORMALLY BE APPROVED.

+BUT APPLICATIONS MADE BY ANY OTHER BUSINESS WILL BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, WHO WILL HAVE TO SATISFY HIMSELF GENERALLY THAT THE DRAFT ADVERTISEMENT IS NOT AMBIGUOUS OR MISLEADING, THAT THE BUSINESS IS GENUINE, AND THAT THE PROMOTERS INTEND TO IMPLEMENT INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS APPROPRIATE TO THE SCHEME IN QUESTION,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL HAD BEEN DRAFTED TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO SPECIFY ANY INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED THEY MEET WITH THE CRITERIA SET FORTH.

+SO, WHILE IT WAS TRADING IN PAPER GOLD THAT PROMPTED THIS BILL, IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ITS PROVISIONS COULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER COMMODITIES TRADED UNDER SIMILAR SCHEMES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

IN DESIGNING A MEASURE CONCERNED WITH CONSUMER PROTECTION, IT IS GENERALLY BEST TO INTERFERE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WITH NORMAL TRADING PRACTICES AND TO AVOID CREATING UNNECESSARY RESTRAINTS ON TRADE, MR JACOBS STATED.

TRADING IN GOLD FUTURES, WHICH IS CONDUCTED ON THE COMMODITIES EXCHANGE, IS ALREADY SUBJECT TO PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION BY THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION, HE POINTED OUT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT SYSTEMS CONSIDERED FOR TUEN MUN  
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TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WAS DEVELOPED TO ACCOMMODATE A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM AS THE PRINCIPAL INTERNAL MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, BUT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE OPERATIONALLY TO USE SOME OTHER FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG, HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE, AND THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ANY OTHER FORM OF TRANSPORT REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY.

MR SCOTT SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FIND A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE BASIS ON WHICH TO CONCLUDE THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN AND GOVERNMENT FOR THE COMPANY TO PROCEED WITH BUILDING THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

+SEVERAL GROUPS OF COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PROJECT, AND CONSIDERATION IS NOW BEING GIVEN AS TO HOW BEST TO PROCEED,+ HE SAID.

+I CANNOT YET SAY PRECISELY GOVERNMENT WILL PROCEED, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO REASSURE MR CHEONG IN RESPECT OF ONE ASPECT OF THE SPECULATION TO WHICH HE REFERS.

+THE 1977 PLANS FOR TUEN MUN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTED A RATE OF POPULATION BUILD-UP WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION OF THE LRT IN 1986/7.

+POPULATION BUILD-UP OVER SUCH LONG PERIODS OF TIME VERY RARELY FOLLOWS PRECISELY THE FIRST PROJECTS.

+AT LEAST TWO OF THE GROUPS TO WHICH I REFERRED EARLIER CONSIDER A CONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS TO BE FEASIBLE.

+WE THEREFORE HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO CONSIDER HOW BEST NOW TO PROCEED IN RESPECT OF THE LRT,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

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PROPOSED NEW PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM SAID +MORE EQUITABLE+  
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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE PROPER CRITERIA FOR THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX AND NOT TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF THIS TAX, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, MOVED BY MR BREMRIDGE THROUGH THE FIRST TWO READINGS AT THE COUNCIL, IS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BASED ON VALUATIONS WITH A SYSTEM BASED ON ACTUAL RENTS RECEIVED.

/THE MAIN .....

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THE MAIN DISADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS THAT IT CANNOT RESPOND WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME TO SUDDEN CHANGES IN THE GENERAL LEVEL OF RENTS AS REVALUATION OF RENTS IS A MAJOR COMMITMENT THAT CAN ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN AT INTERVALS OF SEVERAL YEARS, MR BREMRIDGE POINTED OUT.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS MORE EQUITABLE AND CAN RESPOND MORE SWIFTLY TO THE CHANGING LEVELS OF RENTS ACTUALLY CHARGED, HE SAID.

CLAUSE 6 OF THE BILL PROVIDES THAT, FROM THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT 1983-84 ONWARDS, PROPERTY TAX WILL BE DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO THE RENT PAYABLE IN THAT YEAR, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT CHARGES.

THE CLAUSE ALSO ALLOWS FOR THE INCLUSION OF LUMP SUMS, SUCH AS LEASE PREMIUMS, BUT ALLEVIATES THE FULL IMPACT OF THE CHARGE IN THE YEAR OF RECEIPT BY SPREADING THE SUM OVER THE PERIOD OF LETTING OR OVER THREE YEARS, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS, MR BREMRIDGE EXPLAINED.

RELIEF IS PROVIDED WHERE RENTS RECEIVABLE ARE IRRECOVERABLE.

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL REQUIRE PROPERTY OWNERS TO SUBMIT ANNUAL RETURNS OF RENTAL INCOME.

AS THESE RETURNS CAN NOT BE SUBMITTED UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER THE END OF THE ASSESSMENT YEAR, CLAUSE 18 OF THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A PROVISIONAL PAYMENT WITHIN THAT YEAR, BASED ON THE INCOME FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR, MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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#### NEW ID CARDS WILL BE DOUBLY SECURE

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TO MAKE THE NEW IDENTITY CARDS DOUBLY SECURE, THEY WILL HAVE A FIXED PERIOD OF VALIDITY, IN CONTRAST TO THE INDEFINITE LIFE OF THE CARDS CURRENTLY IN USE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE FIRST COMPLETE ISSUE OF THE NEW CARDS WILL START IN THE COMING SPRING AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1987, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, IN MOVING THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 THROUGH A SECOND READING.

THE ISSUE WILL PROGRESS ON A GROUP BY GROUP BASIS, AND MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 35 WILL BE THE FIRST TO BE TACKLED, AS MOST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE FOUND IN THIS GROUP, HE SAID.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL IS TO PROVIDE THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE NEW AND MUCH MORE SECURE IDENTITY CARDS TO BE ISSUED TO REPLACE THOSE ALREADY HELD AND TO INVALIDATE EXISTING TYPES OF CARDS, HE STATED.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION WILL SET OUT IN DETAIL THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND THE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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RIGHT OF ABODE DISCUSSED  
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A PERSON BORN IN HONG KONG BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1983, WHO ON OR AFTER THAT DATE RENOUNCES HIS BRITISH NATIONALITY DOES NOT LOSE HIS RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG, BUT CONTINUES TO BE A +HONG KONG BELONGER+, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR JEAFFRESON ADDED THAT BRITISH NATIONALITY GENERALLY IN THE HONG KONG CONTEXT MEANS BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENSHIP.

+THIS CONSEQUENCE OF RENOUNCING NATIONALITY OR CITIZENSHIP CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE SITUATION BEFORE THIS COUNCIL ENACTED THE IMMIGRATION AMENDMENT (NO. 2) BILL 1982. BEFORE THEN, GENERALLY SPEAKING RENUNCIATION OF NATIONALITY OR CITIZENSHIP ENDED THE RIGHT OF ABODE HERE,+ HE SAID.

TO HAVE CREATED THIS NEW RIGHT WAS AN OVERSIGHT, HE SAID.

+I AM AFRAID THAT WE WERE SIMPLY TOO INTENT ON MAKING SURE THAT THERE WERE NO INADVERTENT LOSSES OF RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION AND CONSEQUENTLY THIS ONE WAS ALLOWED TO SLIP PAST UNNOTICED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID LOSS OF RIGHT OF ABODE MUST OBVIOUSLY GO WITH RENUNCIATION OF NATIONALITY OR CITIZENSHIP, AND HE HAD ISSUED DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A RESOLUTION TO BE MOVED IN THE COUNCIL TO RESTORE THE FORMER LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL APPROVED  
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THE POWER REQUIRING AN INSURANCE COMPANY TO MAINTAIN ASSETS IN HONG KONG WOULD ONLY BE USED WHEN THE COMPANY SHOWED SIGNS OF FINANCIAL WEAKNESS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON P. JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL 1982, MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THIS POWER WOULD BE USED TO ENSURE THAT IN A LIQUIDATION, THERE WOULD AT LEAST BE SOME ASSETS AVAILABLE TO MEET THE INSURER'S LIABILITIES IN HONG KONG.

IN THE EXERCISE OF THIS POWER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS INTENDED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INSURER'S REINSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS, HE SAID. FOR THIS REASON, HE AGREED THAT CLAUSE 29 OF THE BILL SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO HAVE REGARD TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

TO AVOID ANY EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON INSURANCE COMPANIES, CLAUSE 17 (2) OF THE BILL IS DRAFTED TO CONFER WIDE POWER OF DISCRETION ON THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE, MR JACOBS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DISCRETION IS WIDE, THE PROVISION IS DESIGNED ESSENTIALLY TO CATER FOR INSURERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING INFORMATION IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

IT IS UNLIKELY, HE SAID, THAT THE AUTHORITY'S POWER TO GRANT MODIFICATIONS WILL BE OF MUCH VALUE TO AN INSURER WHO CARRIES ON BUSINESS AND REPORTS ONLY IN HONG KONG.

AS THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS DIVERSE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO COVER IN THE LEGISLATION EVERY TYPE OF INSURANCE COMPANY, MR JACOBS SAID.

TO COVER THIS SITUATION AND TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY, CLAUSE 53 OF THE BILL EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO GRANT TO AN INSURER OR REINSURER AN EXEMPTION OR MODIFICATION IN RESPECT OF ANY PROVISION IN THE BILL.

CLAUSE 5 OF THE BILL WILL ALSO BE AMENDED TO SPECIFY THAT THE INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN A REGISTER OF AN INSURANCE COMPANY WILL BE ENTIRELY FACTUAL AND WILL NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE, MR JACOBS REPORTED.

IT HAD BEEN ARGUED THAT REINSURERS DESERVE SPECIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR OPERATIONS.

+WHILE REINSURERS DO HAVE SOME PROBLEMS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ENCOUNTERED BY DIRECT INSURERS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO BE CONVINCED AS TO THE KIND OF CONCESSIONS, IF ANY, THAT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

+I WOULD, THEREFORE, PREFER TO REVIEW THIS ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH SUPERVISION OF REINSURERS UNDER THE LEGISLATION,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

AMENDMENTS TO 16 CLAUSES AND THE SECOND AND THIRD SCHEDULES TO THE BILL WERE MOVED BY NINE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO MADE UP AN AD HOC STUDY GROUP UNDER THE CONVENERSHIP OF MR T.S. LO.

THEY ARE THE HON T.S. LO, THE HON PETER C. WONG, THE HON ALLEN LEE, THE HON ANDREW SO, THE HON WONG PO YAN, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN, THE HON K.C. CHAN, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG, AND THE HON MARIA TAM.

THE BILL WAS MOVED THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND ITS THIRD READING.

POLICY ON ELDERLY SOCIAL CENTRES EXPLAINED

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NINE SOCIAL CENTRES AND THREE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY ARE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR AND ALL HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG, WHO SOUGHT AN EXPLANATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON SUBVENTION FOR SUCH CENTRES.

MR ALLEYNE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER ANY APPROACH MADE BY AN AGENCY IN FINANCIAL NEED. ONLY TWO APPEALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED THIS YEAR, OUT OF 30 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES RUNNING 70 SOCIAL CENTRES, INCLUDING THOSE ESTABLISHED WITHIN MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES.

+THESE TWO APPEALS HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED,+ HE ADDED.

MR ALLEYNE EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE REVISED SUBVENTION SYSTEM, SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES WOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS CATEGORY I OR CATEGORY II.

CATEGORY I SERVICES WOULD BE THOSE FOR WHICH A STANDARD COST COULD BE ESTABLISHED AND WHICH MET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- \* SERVICES PRESCRIBED BY LAW WHICH CLEARLY CONTRIBUTE TO MEETING A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT;
- \* SERVICES WHICH ENSURE THAT A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN NEED IS MET; OR
- \* SERVICES WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE GENERALLY RECOGNISED SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

CATEGORY I SERVICES WOULD RECEIVE SUBVENTION AT 100 PER CENT OF THE STANDARD COST ESTABLISHED.

CATEGORY II SERVICES WOULD RECEIVE A SUBVENTION COVERING ONLY PART OF THE STANDARD COST OR, IF STANDARD COSTS COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED, A LUMP-SUM GRANT.

+THE PROPORTION OF THE STANDARD COST TO BE SUBVENTED, OR THE LUMP-SUM GRANTS WOULD BE DETERMINED ON THE MERITS OF EACH CASE,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

HE SAID THAT SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, WHICH PROVIDE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, WHICH PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES SUCH AS HOME HELP, COUNSELLING, LAUNDRY AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, HAD BEEN PLACED IN CATEGORY II.

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+AS IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO DETERMINE STANDARD COSTS, INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SUBVENTIONS FOR CATEGORY II SERVICES WHICH WILL RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF RECOGNISED EXPENDITURE BASED ON PREVIOUS LEVELS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, ADJUSTED FOR PRICE INCREASES, BUT DISREGARDING ALL INCOME EXCEPT FEES,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

FOR SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, THIS HAD BEEN FIXED AT 70 PER CENT, AND FOR MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES IT VARIED BETWEEN 70 AND 100 PER CENT DEPENDING ON THE SERVICE, HE SAID.

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## ASSURANCE GIVEN ON CARE OF CHILDREN BY SWD

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE WOULD ENSURE THAT A CHILD COMMITTED TO HIS CARE IN MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS WAS ADEQUATELY LOOKED AFTER AND PROVIDED FOR ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. WHERE POSSIBLE, NON-INSTITUTIONAL FORMS OF CARE, SUCH AS A FOSTER HOME, WOULD BE CONSIDERED, HE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, WHICH CLARIFIES AND EXTENDS THE POWERS OF THE COURT CONCERNING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN OF A FAMILY INVOLVED IN MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS.

+IN A SMALL BUT GROWING NUMBER OF CASES COMING BEFORE THE COURTS,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID,+IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT IT IS IMPRACTICABLE OR UNDESIRABLE FOR THE CHILD OF A BROKEN MARRIAGE TO BE ENTRUSTED TO THE CARE OF EITHER PARENT OR TO ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL.+

ONE EXAMPLE WOULD BE WHERE NEITHER PARENT WILL APPLY FOR CUSTODY AND NO OTHER WILLING AND SUITABLE APPLICANT CAN BE FOUND.

TO SAFEGUARD THE WELFARE OF SUCH CHILDREN, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE COURTS BE EMPOWERED IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO COMMIT THEM TO THE CARE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS EXIST IN THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1973 OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT BETWEEN THE CHILD AND HIS PARENTS WITH A VIEW TO RETURNING THE CHILD TO THE CARE OF ONE OF THEM AS SOON AS IT IS IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS TO DO SO,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

THE BILL IMPOSES A DUTY ON A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER THE SUPERVISION OR CARE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO INFORM THE DIRECTOR OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS; FAILURE TO DO SO WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE WILL BE AN OFFENCE.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT A COURT, IN MAKING AN ORDER FOR CUSTODY, CARE OR SUPERVISION OF A CHILD, MUST HAVE REGARD FIRST AND FOREMOST TO THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD, AND IN DOING SO, MUST CONSIDER THE WISHES OF THE CHILD, IF PRACTICABLE, AND ANY MATERIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE COURT, INCLUDING ANY REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NO SERIOUS DEFICIENCY FOUND IN DENTAL EQUIPMENT  
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A TEAM OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS FORMED TO CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION INTO EQUIPMENT AT THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL CONCLUDED WITHIN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE THAT THERE WAS NO SERIOUS GENERAL DEFICIENCY IN THE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED, AND INDEED THE OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS ONE OF GOOD QUALITY, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE TEAM WAS FORMED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HOSPITAL FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF MALFUNCTIONING OF SOME ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AT THE HOSPITAL.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TEAM WERE +TO INVESTIGATE THE ENGINEERING SAFETY ASPECTS OF ALL MEDICAL AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AT THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL TOGETHER WITH ANY FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE EQUIPMENT THAT IS PATIENT RELATED+.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE TEAM INCLUDED MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS AND A DENTAL SPECIALIST.

IT STARTED WORK ON DECEMBER 6 LAST YEAR AND SUBMITTED ITS REPORT ON JANUARY 12 THIS YEAR.

+HOWEVER, IN MATTERS OF DETAIL SOME ELEMENTS WERE FOUND TO BE FAULTY OR UNSATISFACTORY AND THE TEAM HAS RECOMMENDED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REMEDIAL WORKS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$700 000.+

+SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE WORKS WILL BE PUT IN HAND AND COMPLETED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH EQUIPMENT AT THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL:

THE HON S.L. CHEN: SIR, I AM ATTRACTED BY THE WORDS +A MATTER OF URGENCY+, WHY IS THIS A MATTER OF URGENCY?

WILL THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS AGREE WITH MY OBSERVATIONS THAT THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF RISK AND DANGER TO THE PUBLIC IF THE DEFECTS ARE NOT CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY?

S FOR L AND W:

SIR, FEW ITEMS AND PARTS OF ITEMS WHICH WERE FELT TO CARRY HIGHER RISK POTENTIAL WERE DISCONNECTED OR WITHDRAWN FROM SERVICE. OTHER ITEMS WITH UNSATISFACTORY BUT LESS CRITICAL FEATURES ARE STILL IN USE. BUT I FEEL SURE THE HOSPITAL HEADS OF DEPARTMENT WITH THEIR WEALTH OF PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WILL NOT CONTINUE TO USE THEM IF THEY WERE CONSIDERED TO BE UNSAFE.

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MR S.L. CHEN: SIR, PRESUMABLY THE EQUIPMENT WAS SUPPLIED BY A REPUTABLE MANUFACTURER AND IS STILL UNDER GUARANTEE OR WARRANTY. THAT BEING THE CASE, IS THE MANUFACTURER UNDER CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION TO RECTIFY ALL THE FAULTS AND DEFECTS?

S FOR L AND W: SIR, THE QUESTION SEEMS TO INFER NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS, BUT AS THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INVESTIGATION TEAM COVER ENGINEERING SAFETY AND FUNCTION ASPECTS ONLY, THE PROBE DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS AND I CAN'T COMMENT ON THIS MATTER.

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FUNDS FOR PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT APPROVED  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND \$700 000 TO RECTIFY FAULTS DISCOVERED IN SOME OF THE DENTAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL.

EXPENDITURE OF THE MONEY WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION BY A TEAM OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS INTO SAFETY AND FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY THE HOSPITAL'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING ON THE REMEDIAL WORK BECAUSE THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOSPITAL ONLY AFTER IT HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED WITH THE NEW EQUIPMENT ALREADY INSTALLED.

+WORK WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO BRING THE EQUIPMENT UP TO FULLY ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS.

+THE WORK INVOLVES ONLY A FEW OF THE MANY ITEMS OF THE HOSPITAL'S MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT.

+THE EQUIPMENT WAS SUPPLIED TO THE HOSPITAL AT A COST OF \$20 MILLION. THE COST OF REMEDIAL WORK REPRESENTS ABOUT 3.5 PER CENT OF THIS SUM,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CHINESE PATENT MEDICINES TESTED FOR DRUGS

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FORENSIC PHARMACISTS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN CHECKING CHINESE PATENT MEDICINES FOR THE PRESENCE OF SCHEDULED DRUGS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRY HU, DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, 147 SAMPLES OF CHINESE PATENT MEDICINAL PRODUCTS HAD BEEN TESTED. OF THESE, 12 PRODUCTS WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN SCHEDULED DRUGS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE.

AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIONS, FIVE PROSECUTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH ANOTHER ONE PENDING.

REFERRING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM, DR THONG SAID THE NUMBER OF TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCIES PERFORMED UNDER THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON ORDINANCE FOR GIRLS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 WAS 35 ANNUALLY BOTH FOR 1980 AND 1982.

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CLINICS PROVIDED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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MEDICAL CLINICS ARE PROVIDED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AS A STANDARD FEATURE. GENERALLY, PROVISION IS MADE ON THE BASIS OF ONE CLINIC FOR EVERY 7 500 - 10 000 POPULATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER C. WONG, HE SAID THERE ARE AT PRESENT A TOTAL OF 220 MEDICAL CLINICS IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, OF WHICH 76 ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS SOME 50 ADDITIONAL CLINICS WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING 40 IN THE NEW TOWNS,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO EXPLAINED THAT SINCE 1967, DOCTORS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE ESTATE DOCTORS ASSOCIATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

+CONDITIONS OF THE TENANCIES, USUALLY FOR THREE YEARS, ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR SHOPS EXCEPT WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE CLINICS SHOULD BE IN OPERATION FOR AT LEAST SIX HOURS A DAY.

+A DOCTOR CANNOT HOLD MORE THAN ONE CLINIC IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES PLUS ONE CLINIC IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

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ANTI-SMOKING EFFORT STEPPED UP

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO STEP UP THE ANTI-SMOKING EFFORT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR HO WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN ON THE PROGRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING PROGRAMME SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE LAST JULY.

ADMINISTRATIVELY, NO-SMOKING AREAS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HOSPITALS, CLINICS, SCHOOLS AND IN FOOD BUSINESS PREMISES, MR HO REPORTED.

INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED, PROHIBITING SMOKING IN WARDS, TREATMENT ROOMS AND PUBLIC AREAS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, IN ADDITION TO SUCH AREAS AS OPERATING THEATRES WHERE SMOKING HAS LONG BEEN PROHIBITED.

SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN URGED TO DO THE SAME. ALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BAN SMOKING IN SCHOOL HALLS, CLASSROOMS, PLAYGROUNDS, LIBRARIES AND OTHER PREMISES WHERE STUDENTS ARE PRESENT, MR HO SAID.

ALL LICENSEES OF FOOD BUSINESS HAVE BEEN URGED TO ESTABLISH NO-SMOKING AREAS IN THEIR PREMISES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND TO DISPLAY 'NO-SMOKING' SIGNS IN FOOD PREPARATION AREAS, SUCH AS KITCHENS, WHERE SMOKING IS ALREADY PROHIBITED BY LAW, MR HO REPORTED.

IN GOVERNMENT PREMISES, SMOKING HAS BEEN BANNED IN ALL LIFTS AND PUBLIC WAITING AREAS AND CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON PREMISES UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

ALL PRINTED, TELEVISION, RADIO AND CINEMA ADVERTISEMENTS ON CIGARETTES ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY A HEALTH WARNING AND TAR GROUP RATING, MR HO SAID.

THE NEXT STAGE OF THE ANTI-SMOKING LEGISLATION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON FEBRUARY 15 WHEN SMOKING WILL BE PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC LIFTS, SINGLE DECKER ROAD PUBLIC TRANSPORT (EXCEPT TAXIS AND HIRED CARS), AND LOWER DECKS OF DOUBLE DECKER BUSES AND TRAMS, HE SAID.

NO-SMOKING AREAS WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED IN AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF EACH CLASS OF SEATING ACCOMMODATION IN FERRIES, TRAINS, CINEMAS, CONCERT HALLS AND THEATRES.

ON THE SAME DAY, MOST OTHER TYPES OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS, BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR, WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO CARRY THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING.

THIS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT WILL BE EXTENDED TO CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS BY NEON SIGNS FROM MAY 15, 1983.

FROM AUGUST 15, 1983, IT WILL BE MANDATORY FOR ALL CIGARETTE PACKETS AND RETAIL CONTAINERS ON SALE IN HONG KONG TO CARRY THE SAME WARNING AND THE APPROPRIATE TAR GROUP DESIGNATION.

TO PROMOTE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE HEALTH HAZARD OF SMOKING, PLANS ARE IN HAND FOR A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON ANTI-SMOKING TO BE LAUNCHED LATER THIS YEAR, MR HO DISCLOSED.

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VIDEO GAMES CENTRE LICENSING BEING REVIEWED  
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LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR VIDEO GAMES CENTRES AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT WERE BEING REVIEWED AS A RESULT OF SHORTCOMINGS THAT HAD EMERGED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BRAY SAID THAT ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES WERE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW, INCLUDING THE CANCELLATION AND SUSPENSION OF LICENSES IN CASES OF PERSISTENT OFFENDERS.

HE REPORTED THAT CERTAIN OPERATORS WERE, FOR INSTANCE, ALLOWING UNDERAGE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THE GAMES AND THAT 699 SUMMONSES HAD BEEN ISSUED BY POLICE DURING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1982 FOR BREACHES OF LICENSING CONDITIONS.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

MR BRAY SAID VIDEO GAMES CENTRES WERE NEW AND WERE FUN, BUT THEY COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.

+IN DRAWING UP LICENSING CONDITIONS WE AIMED AT KEEPING THE FUN WHILE PREVENTING THE PROBLEMS.

+NOW THAT A GOOD MANY CENTRES HAVE BEEN RUNNING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE WHETHER WE GOT THE BALANCE RIGHT.

+GENERALLY SPEAKING WE WERE NOT FAR OUT BUT SHORTCOMINGS HAVE EMERGED,+ MR BRAY SAID.

FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING THE LICENSING CONDITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARDS WERE BEING SOUGHT ON THESE POINTS.

ALL VIDEO GAMES IN LICENSED CENTRES, MR BRAY SAID, HAD TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING.

PROSECUTION WOULD BE EFFECTED IF VIDEO GAMES THAT ARE NOT APPROVED ARE INSTALLED IN THE CENTRES.

ENFORCEMENT IN THIS AREA SEEMED TO BE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, MR BRAY SAID.

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## CONTROL OF VEHICLE SMOKE EMISSION ADEQUATE: SCOTT

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GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THE LEVEL OF CONTROL BY THE POLICE OVER THE EMISSION OF EXCESSIVE SMOKE BY VEHICLES WAS ADEQUATE IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR OTHER ENFORCEMENT COMMITMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALLAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON ANDREW SO.

MR SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT SINCE 1979, INCREASES IN POLICE MANPOWER AND THE AVAILABILITY OF VEHICLES HAD ENABLED TWO TEAMS, INSTEAD OF ONE, TO BE ASSIGNED TO TESTING EXCESS SMOKE IN VEHICLE EXHAUST FUMES IN EACH OF THE THREE POLICE REGIONS. EIGHT SMOKEMETERS WERE NOW IN USE BY THE POLICE.

HE SAID PROSECUTIONS FOR EMISSION OF EXCESS SMOKE SINCE 1979 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1979 -	8 661 CASES
1980 -	15 535 CASES
1981 -	13 547 CASES
1982 -	12 351 CASES

EMISSION OF EXCESS SMOKE COULD BE DEALT WITH EITHER BY FIXED \$100 PENALTY, OR BY WAY OF SUMMONS.

A SUMMONS CARRIED A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$500, ALTHOUGH THE AVERAGE FINE WAS \$200, HE SAID.

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## SAFETY MEASURES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

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SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN OR BEING TAKEN ON GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE WHILE THOSE APPLYING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR CANNOT AS YET BE SAID TO BE AS GOOD, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR SITE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF FENCING, GUARDING, LIGHTING AND THE DRAINING OF ALL OPEN-PIT AND TRENCH EXCAVATIONS WHICH WERE LIKELY TO POSE A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, AND TO CHILDREN IN PARTICULAR.

+WHERE PRACTICABLE, BARRIERS AND HOARDINGS HAVE BEEN PLACED AROUND SITES OR PARTS OF SITES READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AND WARNING NOTICES ERECTED AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MOREOVER, A REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE SITE SAFETY OFFICERS HAD BEEN INCORPORATED IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CONTRACTS AND HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS FOR WHICH TENDERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CALLED, HE ADDED.

/+IN ADDITION, .....

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+IN ADDITION, SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO SITE SUPERVISORY STAFF REQUIRING THEM TO MAKE INSPECTION AT THE END OF EACH WORKING DAY TO ENSURE THAT OPEN PITS ARE PROPERLY PROTECTED.+

TURNING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS LAY WITH THE AUTHORISED PERSONS AND CONTRACTORS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAD ALREADY ISSUED A PRACTICE NOTE TO ALL AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS EXPLAINING THE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING HOARDINGS ON SITES IN WHICH HE HAD EMPHASISED THAT THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION MUST BE THE SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

+LEGISLATION REGARDING THE PROVISION OF SAFETY OFFICERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAFTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS BEING MADE WITH THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+HOWEVER, IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT SAFETY MEASURES WILL BE TOTALLY EFFECTIVE IN ALL CASES.+

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#### LAY ASSESSORS SCHEME UNDER STUDY

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A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE LAY ASSESSORS SCHEME WAS IN PROGRESS TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE SCHEME WAS ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTS, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR NAZARETH SAID THE REVIEW WAS NEARLY COMPLETE AND THE RESULTS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS SHORTLY.

IT WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE STUDIED AND THE CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE COUNCIL.

MR NAZARETH ALSO SAID THERE WERE 332 PERSONS ON THE PANEL OF ASSESSORS AND SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME IN 1979, A TOTAL OF 43 NEW MAGISTRATES HAD SAT WITH THEM.

HE SAID ASSESSORS TO MAGISTRATES ARE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATION, SELECTED BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FROM A PANEL, APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

THEY ARE ATTACHED TO NEWLY APPOINTED MAGISTRATES FROM ABROAD IN THEIR FIRST FEW MONTHS OF SERVICE IN HONG KONG TO ASSIST IN ASSESSING THE CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES AND TO PUT FORWARD TO THE MAGISTRATES COMMUNITY VIEWS ABOUT PARTICULAR OFFENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF SENTENCING.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

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SPACE UNDERNEATH FLYOVERS PUT TO GOOD USE

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY GENERALLY ALLOWED FOR SPACE UNDER FLYOVER NOT REQUIRED FOR ROADS OR PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES TO BE PUT TO OTHER USES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON SELINA CHOW REGARDING THE USAGE OF SPACE UNDERNEATH FLYOVERS AND WHETHER SPECIFIC USES OF SUCH SPACE WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE INITIAL PLANNING STAGE OF FLYOVERS.

MR MCDONALD SAID, +IN SELECTING THE USES TO WHICH SPACE CAN BE PUT, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FLYOVERS STRUCTURES WILL NOT BE DAMAGED AND ALSO THAT USERS OF THE SPACE WILL NOT BE EXPOSED TO TRAFFIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SPACE WAS USED MAINLY AS AMENITY AREAS, PLAYGROUNDS, VEHICLE PARKS, BUS TERMINI, PUBLIC TOILETS AND STORAGE.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT DURING THE INITIAL PLANNING STAGES, THE MAIN CONCERN WAS FOR THE TRAFFIC REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE FLYOVER WAS INTENDED TO MEET.

BUT, HE ADDED, CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO ITS COMPATABILITY WITH SURROUNDING AREAS AND TO THE SCOPE FOR MEETING COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING AND DESIGN.

+IN RECENT TIMES IT HAS BECOME THE PRACTICE TO CONSULT DISTRICT BOARDS ABOUT THE USE OF SPACE UNDER FLYOVERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. THIS HAS BEEN IN RESPECT OF SPACE ALREADY EXISTING OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION.+

+HOWEVER, THE PRACTICE IS BEING EXTENDED TO INCLUDE PROJECTS UNDER PLANNING,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

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TRIBUTES TO BILL DORWARD  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON WILLIAM DORWARD, WHO WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST OF HONG KONG TRADE COMMISSIONER IN THE UNITED STATES.

SIR EDWARD SAID MR DORWARD HAD RENDERED LONG AND VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY FIELDS SINCE HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1954 AND HIS EXPERIENCE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE OF GREAT VALUE IN HIS NEW AND IMPORTANT POST.

THE HON R.H. LOBO, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, SAID MR DORWARD, AS SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND AS DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS BEFORE THAT, HAD BATTLED UNSPARINGLY FOR MANY YEARS TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

MR DORWARD HAD SPENT ALMOST HIS ENTIRE SERVICE IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND INTEGRITY WERE RESPECTED NOT ONLY LOCALLY, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, MR LOBO SAID.

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BILLS PASSED  
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TWO BILLS, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL 1982 AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (RECRUITING OF SEAMEN) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR OTHER BILLS, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AND THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUBVENTION WILL REACH AGENCIES EARLIER  
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GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO RUN ADULT EDUCATION COURSES WILL REACH THESE AGENCIES EARLIER THIS YEAR THAN IN THE PAST, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (ADULT EDUCATION), MR S.L. NG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

COMMENTING ON PREVIOUS REMARKS BY CERTAIN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THAT GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION SOMETIMES REACHED THEM RATHER LATE, LEAVING THEM LITTLE TIME TO PLAN AND ORGANISE ADULT EDUCATION COURSES, MR NG SAID THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE UNDER A NEW PROCESSING SCHEDULE.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE SCHOLARSHIP AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE CARITAS CENTRE FOR FURTHER AND ADULT EDUCATION - CAINE ROAD DAY SCHOOL.

HE SAID AGENCIES WOULD BE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR SUBVENTION THIS MONTH, WHICH WAS ALREADY THREE MONTHS EARLIER THAN IN THE PAST.

+NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE MADE KNOWN MUCH EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY, POSSIBLY BY JULY 1, SO THAT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO PLAN THEIR COURSES, TO MOUNT PUBLICITY, TO RECRUIT STAFF AND TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT.+

MR NG SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTING PAYMENTS TO THE AGENCIES IN TWO INSTALMENTS INSTEAD OF FOUR AS AT PRESENT.

+FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING TO RAISE THE ALLOWANCE FOR THE HIRE OF ACCOMMODATION, AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME IN DUE COURSE.+

THE SUBVENTION SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN 1980 TO ASSIST VOLUNTARY BODIES TO RUN RETRIEVAL ADULT EDUCATION COURSES TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME.

ORIGINALLY, THE SUBVENTION ONLY COVERED THE COST OF STAFF AND BASIC EQUIPMENT. BUT AS FROM 1982, IT HAD INCLUDED SALARIES FOR CENTRE ADMINISTRATORS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, WATER, TELEPHONE CHARGES, HIRE OF ACCOMMODATION AND BASIC OFFICE EQUIPMENT.

THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 28 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBVENTION SCHEME, PROVIDING 47 COURSES TO ABOUT 9 000 ADULTS.

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## SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER, 1982

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN NOVEMBER 1982 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 479 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS.

AT 132, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1982 INCREASED BY ONE POINT OR ONE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1982 BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1981.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1982, AT 105, WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR OCTOBER 1982 BUT IT WAS EIGHT POINTS OR SEVEN PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR NOVEMBER 1981.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1982, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS WHILE THOSE OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY THREE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED AN INCREASE OF THREE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN VOLUME TERMS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS DECREASED BY SIX PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS WHILE THOSE OF FUELS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN VALUE TERMS BUT DECLINED BY THREE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES FOR THE OTHER MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES WERE RELATIVELY STABLE.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1981, DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WERE RECORDED FOR NEARLY ALL MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES.

ONLY SUPERMARKETS RECORDED INCREASES IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES, BY 22 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE SHARPEST REDUCTION WAS FOUND IN MOTOR VEHICLES WHERE THE RETAIL SALES DROPPED BY 40 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 49 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE CORRESPONDING DECREASES FOR CONSUMER DURABLES WERE 11 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, AND CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT EACH.

TABLES 1 AND 2 (ATTACHED) PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR OCTOBER AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1982 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND OF RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS.

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE NOVEMBER RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1981 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALERS AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 3-7216024.

Table 1: Value indexes of retail sales for  
October and November 1982

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

Item	October 1982	November 1982	November 1982 compared with October 1982		November 1982 compared with November 1981	
	(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
Total retail sales (HK\$ million)	4 449	4 479				
retail sales value indexes :						
(I) <u>for all retail trades</u>	131	132	+1	+1	same	same
(II) <u>by major trade groups</u>						
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	132	130	-2	-2	+9	+7
Fuels	159	159	same	same	+16	+11
Clothing, footwear and allied products	150	154	+4	+3	+1	+1
Consumer goods	135	136	+1	+1	same	same
Consumer durables	106	109	+3	+3	-14	-11
(III) <u>by selected trades</u>						
Motor vehicles	64	64	same	same	-42	-40
Department stores	124	133	+9	+7	+2	+2
Supermarkets	179	168	-11	-6	+30	+22

Table 2: Volume indexes of retail sales for  
October and November 1982

(Monthly average of 1980=100)

<u>Item</u>	<u>October</u> 1982	<u>November</u> 1982	<u>November 1982</u> <u>compared with</u> <u>October 1982</u>		<u>November 1982</u> <u>compared with</u> <u>November 1981</u>	
	(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
Retail sales volume indexes :						
(I) <u>for all retail trades</u>	105	105	same	same	-8	-7
(II) <u>by major trade groups</u>						
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	99	98	-1	-1	-2	-2
Fuels	119	116	-3	-3	-1	-1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	117	117	same	same	-9	-7
Consumer goods	112	111	-1	-1	-8	-7
Consumer durables	92	95	+3	+3	-16	-14
(III) <u>by selected trades</u>						
Motor vehicles	47	47	same	same	-46	-49
Department stores	103	109	+6	+6	-5	-4
Supermarkets	138	129	-9	-7	+15	+13

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

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LUNAR NEW YEAR CONCERTS IN MACAU  
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THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (B) AND THE MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR WILL PRESENT TWO CONCERTS AT CINETEATRO MACAU AT 3 PM AND 8 PM ON FEBRUARY 16 — THE FOURTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE AIM OF THE TOUR IS TO PROMOTE ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL MUSIC AND TO FURTHER CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU.

THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MR CLIVE OXLEY, WILL LEAD THE GROUP TO PERFORM AT THESE TWO CONCERTS. ADMISSION WILL BE FREE.

DR DANIEL LAW OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL JOIN THE GROUP AS GUEST CONDUCTOR WHILE RAYMOND FU, LEE KIN-CHUN, BETTY LEUNG AND LINDA LI WILL TAKE PART IN THE CHOIR AS SOLOISTS.

THE GROUP WILL FIRST PRESENT A PRE-TOUR CONCERT AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 6) AT 8 PM.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 0-428127.

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MING KUM ROAD TO BE CLOSED  
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MING KUM ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 4) TO 5 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR THE ERECTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PUI TO ROAD, TSUN WEN ROAD AND SHEK PAI TAU ROAD.

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