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TAC BACKS COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE FRONT SEAT PASSENGERS IN PRIVATE CARS TO WEAR SEAT BELTS. IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUIREMENT, IF INTRODUCED, SHOULD BE EXTENDED IN DUE COURSE TO PLB'S AND TAXIS.

THROUGH THIS MEASURE, IF APPROVED, A REDUCTION CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE SEVERITY OF SOME 60 PER CENT OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FRONT SEAT PASSENGERS. IN OTHER WORDS, OVER 700 ACCIDENTS EACH YEAR COULD BE MADE LESS SERIOUS.

A REPORT PRESENTED TO THE TAC POINTED OUT THAT THE CASE FOR COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS WAS SUPPORTED BY EXPERIENCE IN MANY OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FOR EXAMPLE CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA ALSO HAVE SIMILAR LEGISLATION.

THESE COUNTRIES HAD FOUND THAT THE USAGE OF SEAT BELTS WAS HELPFUL IN REDUCING FATALITIES BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF LEGISLATION, PERSUASION THROUGH THE MEDIA HAD VERY LITTLE EFFECT IN ACHIEVING HIGH LEVELS OF SEAT BELT WEARING.

HONG KONG'S TRAFFIC SITUATION MIGHT BE THOUGHT TO BE DIFFERENT, IN THAT CARS GENERALLY TRAVEL LESS QUICKLY. HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE PERIODS WHEN THEY REACH HIGH SPEEDS SUCH AS WHEN ON THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, AND EVEN AT LOW SPEEDS, A HEAD-ON COLLISION CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURIES, THE REPORT SAID.

A STUDY CARRIED OUT BY THE PWD ROAD SAFETY DIVISION SHOWED THAT IN PEAK PERIODS, ONLY ABOUT FOUR TO SEVEN PER CENT OF PRIVATE MOTORISTS IN HONG KONG WEAR SEAT BELTS WHILE DRIVING.

THIS IS DESPITE THE FACT THAT CARS MANUFACTURED AFTER JUNE 30, 1964 AND REGISTERED AFTER AUGUST 1, 1976 ARE ALREADY REQUIRED TO HAVE SEAT BELTS FITTED TO THEIR FRONT SEATS.

THE PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS IN PRIVATE CARS HAS ALSO HAD THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY, WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS.

THE PROPOSALS DID NOT INCLUDE GOODS VEHICLES BECAUSE THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT IN A COLLISION, IT MIGHT BE AS SAFE FOR THE DRIVER TO BE THROWN FORWARD AND THUS AWAY FROM ANY FREIGHT BEING THRUST THROUGH THE REAR OF HIS CAB.

IN THEIR MEETING TODAY, TAC MEMBERS ALSO AGREED TO AN INCREASE IN THE LIMIT ON HOTEL HIRE CAR PERMITS FROM 150 TO 300, AND TO ALLOW PERSONS APPOINTED BY TOURIST AGENCIES TO HOLD TOUR HIRE CAR PERMITS. THIS WILL ALLOW A GREATER NUMBER OF GENUINE OPERATORS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT SERVICES TO HOTEL GUESTS AND TOURISTS. APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERMITS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY EXAMINED.

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MISCONCEPTION ABOUT DB REGISTRATION CLEARED
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EDUCATIONAL STANDARD AND OCCUPATION ARE IRRELEVANT IN THE REGISTRATION OF DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORS, THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, SHAM SHUI PO, MR STEPHEN IP, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A JOINT DINNER PARTY OF LIONS CLUBS OF MOUNT CAMERON, BRAEMAR HILL, LION ROCK, ISLAND SOUTH AND LIONESS CLUB OF FUNG WONG SHAN.

CLEARING SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MR IP SAID THE ELECTIONS WERE NOT FOR THE INTELLECTUALS ONLY AND THAT SEX AND AGE SHOULD NOT AFFECT ONE'S CONCERN FOR HIS COMMUNITY.

+OLD PEOPLE AND HOUSEWIVES IN FACT KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND NEEDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE TIME AT HOME AND HAVE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS.+

MR IP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY THE HEAD OF A HOUSEHOLD BUT EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, WHO WOULD REACH 21 YEARS OF AGE BY AUGUST 31 AND HAD LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS, SHOULD REGISTER AS ELECTORS.

+NOT KNOWING MUCH ABOUT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND CANDIDATES SHOULD NOT DETER ANYBODY FROM REGISTERING AS ELECTORS SINCE STAFF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND VOLUNTEERS ARE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, MAKING DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS EXPLAINING TO PEOPLE DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHEME, AND PEOPLE CAN ELECT THEIR CANDIDATE ACCORDING TO THEIR PAST CONTRIBUTIONS AND VIEWS ON PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICTS,+ HE SAID.

SINCE REGISTRATION OF URBAN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORS STARTED ON MARCH 19 AND UP TO 5 PM TODAY, A TOTAL OF 101 709 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, MTR STATIONS, OR ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, CHARTERED BANK OR HANG SENG BANK.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE POSTED BACK, FREE OF CHARGE, TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE.

MR IP REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT ONLY THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS SHOULD BE PUT IN BECAUSE ELECTORS CAN VOTE ONLY IN THE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

+BREACH OF THIS REGULATION MAY LEAD TO A FINE OF $5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS,+ HE WARNED.

REGISTERED URBAN COUNCIL ELECTORS WILL NOT NEED TO REGISTER BECAUSE THEIR NAMES WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE REGISTER FOR URBAN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

/MR IP SAID .....

MR IP SAID THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR FOR THE SUCCESS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

IN ORDER TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION, THE 10 CITY DISTRICT OFFICES HAVE, SINCE LAST YEAR, BEEN PUBLICISING THE EVENT ACTIVELY.

+IN SHAM SHUI PO, FOR EXAMPLE,+ HE SAID, +WE HAVE PRODUCED AN INTRODUCTORY LEAFLET AND A DISTRICT NEWSPAPER, ORGANISED SEMINARS FOR PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, PRODUCED CASSETTE TAPES FOR BROADCAST IN FACTORIES, PREPARED SOUVENIRS WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION MESSAGES, AND MOBILISED STAFF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE HOME VISITS AND TO FACTORIES, SHOPS AND HAWKERS STALLS TO HELP PEOPLE REGISTER.+

MR IP SAID SINCE THE SETTING UP OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD IN OCTOBER AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN MARCH LAST YEAR, A LOT OF WORK HAD BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO SQUATTER AREAS. ALSO, MANY RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS HAD BEEN ORGANISED, INCLUDING THE MONTH-LONG SHAM SHUI PO FESTIVAL.

HE SAID ALL THESE WERE JUST PART OF THE WORK DONE AND THERE WAS STILL A LOT TO BE DONE IN THE DAYS AHEAD. +THE INCLUSION OF ELECTED MEMBERS WHO CAN REPRESENT THE LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL SURELY MAKE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME MORE SATISFACTORY,+ MR IP SAID.

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CHING MING STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE CHING MING FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, IS ONE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN $6 000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS, OTHER THAN OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAYS. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

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IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638- KOWLOON WEST 3-201652- KOWLOON SOUTH 3-319454- KWUN TONG 3-898520- TSUEN WAN 0-422096- TUEN MUN 0-818443- HONG KONG ISLAND (WEST) 5-268671 AND HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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CENTRALISED OFFICE SET UP FOR CREMATION ARRANGEMENTS

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A CENTRALISED OFFICE HAS NOW BEEN SET UP WHICH WILL SAVE TIME AND EFFORT INVOLVED IN ARRANGING FOR CREMATIONS.

PREVIOUSLY, AFTER THE FIRST ESSENTIAL DOCUMENT, WHICH IS A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR CREMATION, WAS OBTAINED FROM A DOCTOR, IT REQUIRED THREE FURTHER TRIPS TO DIFFERENT OFFICES TO OBTAIN THE OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR CREMATION.

FIRST OF ALL, A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEATH REGISTRY OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THEN A CREMATION PERMIT, PRESCRIBING THE PARTICULAR PLACE WHERE THE CREMATION WILL TAKE PLACE, HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE PORT HEALTH OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. AND, FINALLY, A TRIP HAD TO BE MADE TO THE CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA OFFICE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, TO BOOK A TIME AND DATE FOR CREMATION.

YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, A CENTRALISED SERVICE WAS SET UP SO THAT ALL THREE OF THESE DOCUMENTS MAY NOW BE OBTAINED FROM ONE OFFICE, IN ROOMS 1411-12 IN THE NEW WORLD CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

ANOTHER JOINT-OFFICE OFFERING A SIMILAR CENTRALISED DOCUMENTATION SERVICE WILL BE SET UP AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR AT CENTRE POINT, THIRD FLOOR, 181-185 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

SEPARATE DOCUMENTS ARE STILL ISSUED BY THEIR THREE RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES, BUT BY HAVING ALL THE WORK DONE IN ONE OFFICE THERE WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE SAVING IN TERMS OF TIME AND EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC, AN OFFICER SAID.

THE IDEA OF PROVIDING A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR THE ISSUE OF THE THREE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED FOR SOME TIME BY THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICES CONCERNED, BUT COULD NOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF A SUITABLE VENUE.

/AS AN INTERIM .....

AS AN INTERIM TIME-SAVING MEASURE, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF WERE SENT FROM AUGUST LAST YEAR TO TWO PORT HEALTH OFFICES AT BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE HOPING TO ENCOURAGE MORE CREMATIONS THAN BURIALS, WHICH WILL RESULT IN SAVINGS IN TERMS OF COST, AS WELL AS BURIAL SPACES.

THE 1981 CREMATION-TO-BURIAL RATIO WAS 57:43, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT THIS RATIO COULD BE BROUGHT TO AT LEAST 65:35 BY 1985.

IN TERMS OF COSTS, BURIAL IN A PUBLIC CEMETERY IS ABOUT $5 000, AGAINST ABOUT $4 000 FOR CREMATION, AN OFFICER OF THE USD STATED.

PRIVATE BURIALS COST VERY MUCH MORE. FOR INTERMENT IN THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES, COSTS RUN UP TO $150 000, AND AT CHINESE CHRISTIAN CEMETERIES, TO ABOUT $100 000. IN ADDITION, THE COFFINS COST AN AVERAGE OF $20 000.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A CREMATION-BURIAL RATIO OF AT LEAST 65:35 BY 1985, EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO PROMOTE CREMATION, INCLUDING THE INCREASE OF CREMATION FACILITIES AND COLUMBARIUM SPACES, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR USD, WHICH MANAGES THE FACILITIES.

THE PRESENT THREE CREMATORIA AT CAPE COLLINSON, DIAMOND HILL AND KWAI CHUNG HAVE A TOTAL ANNUAL CAPACITY OF NEARLY 16 000 CREMATIONS. THREE MORE CREMATORIA, WHICH WILL ENABLE A FURTHER 12 000 CREMATIONS A YEAR, WILL BE BUILT IN THE NEXT SIX YEARS. THEY ARE THE SHA TIN CREMATORIUM, THE WO HOP SHEK CREMATORIUM AND THE TUEN MUN CREMATORIUM.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT ABOUT 30 800 COLUMBARIUM NICHES FOR CINERARY URNS AT THREE COLUMBARIA, BUT THEIR TOTAL CAPACITY WILL BE MORE THAN DOUBLED BY 1986.

PLANS CALL FOR 17 800 NICHES TO BE ADDED TO THE 22 700 AT THE CAPE COLLINSON COLUMBARIUM BY 1983, AND 18 000 MORE NICHES TO THE 4 600 AT THE DIAMOND HILL COLUMBARIUM. A NEW SHA TIN COLUMBARIUM WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER 18 000 SPACES WHILE THE 3 500-NICHE CAPACITY OF THE KWAI CHUNG COLUMBARIUM WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

MR LAI CHU-KONG, STAFF OFFICER (CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA) OF USD, SAID THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 3 000 VACANT NICHES LEFT EARLIER THIS MONTH BUT ANOTHER 3 800 NICHES WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH THE FIRST STAGE EXTENSION TO THE CAPE COLLINSON COLUMBARIUM IN AUGUST.

THE URBAN COUNCIL ALSO MANAGES FIVE PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE URBAN AREAS WHILE THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES OPERATES ANOTHER FIVE PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PRIVATE CEMETERIES INCLUDE 17 LOCATED IN THE URBAN AREAS AND ANOTHER SEVEN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MOST OF THE FORMER HAVE REACHED THEIR FULL CAPACITY.

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO BE STRENGTHENED

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FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 1) THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY A VERY SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF ITS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES.

LATER IN THE YEAR THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE FURTHER REORGANISED WITH THREE REGIONAL OFFICES.

IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THE MAJOR PART OF THE PRESENT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE WILL COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, TOGETHER WITH THE STAFF OF THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISIONS, THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SURVEY DIVISION, THE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE DIVISION AND THE ROAD SAFETY DIVISION WILL BE SECONDED TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE SECOND PHASE WILL SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE REGIONAL OFFICES COVERING HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SURVEY DIVISION AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PLANNING DIVISIONS, WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ENLARGED, WILL BE BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER A NEW TRANSPORT PLANNING AND RESEARCH BRANCH TO BE SET UP IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE PWD HIGHWAYS OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF HIGHWAY DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

COMMENTING ON THESE CHANGES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, SAID THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BRING TOGETHER INTO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL ASPECTS OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT. THIS CLOSER CONTROL WILL HELP TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES AND SHORTEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

ALSO, THE SETTING UP OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES LATER IN THE YEAR WILL ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

MR ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT ADDED THAT EACH REGIONAL OFFICE WILL BE HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATIONS IN HIS REGION. THEY WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO HEADQUARTERS, AND THE CURRENT NEED FOR INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE STRENGTHENING AND REORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN CARRYING OUT GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND IN COPING WITH THE GROWTH IN TRAFFIC AND DEMANDS FOR TRANSPORT.

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THREE NEW MEMBERS FOR TAC

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TWO YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 1982.

THEY SUCCEED MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT, MISS ANNIE WU AND MR RAYMOND FUNG, WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE AT THE END OF MARCH.

THE NEW MEMBERS ARE MISS MARIA TAM WAI-CHU, MR STEPHEN CHENG WUI-YAU AND MISS ANNA WU HUNG-YUK.

MISS TAM, A PRACTISING BARRISTER, HAS BEEN AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE URBAN COUNCIL SINCE APRIL 1979 AND A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE SEPTEMBER 1981.

AT UMELCO, SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNITY SERVICES CONCERNED WITH TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS, AND RELATED MATTERS.

MR CHENG IS A SENIOR LECTURER IN TRANSPORT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC. HE IS ONE OF THE PUBLIC MEMBERS ASSISTING IN THE REVIEW OF BUS OPERATIONS, SERVING ON THE DEPOT REQUIREMENTS SUB-GROUP.

MISS ANNA WU IS A LAWYER IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, AND KEENLY INTERESTED IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG OBSERVERS.

OF THE THREE MEMBERS WHO LEFT THE TAC, MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT HAS THE LONGEST ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMITTEE, HAVING BEEN WITH IT SINCE 1966. IN THE TAC MEETING TODAY, THE CHAIRMAN MR T.S. LO PAID TRIBUTE TO HER WORK. HER CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE FOR OVER 16 YEARS WHICH HAVE SEEN TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE DEMAND FOR AND PROVISION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES.

MISS ANNIE WU, WHO HAD SERVED THE COMMITTEE FOR TWO YEARS, WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL. MR FUNG HAS LEFT HONG KONG TO TAKE UP AN OVERSEAS POSTING.

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TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT RE-DEMARCATION OF EDUCATION AREAS

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TEACHERS FROM MORE THAN 900 AIDED SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS TODAY (TUESDAY) TOOK PART IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH STAFF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON TOPICS OF INTEREST.

APART FROM DISCUSSING TOPICS RAISED BY THE TEACHERS THEMSELVES, THE TEACHERS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF THE RECENT RE-DEMARCATION OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES INTO THREE AND FIVE EDUCATIONAL AREAS RESPECTIVELY WHICH IS AIMED AT IMPROVING SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOLS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

THE TEACHERS WERE TOLD THAT UNDER THE RE-DEMARCATION, EACH AREA WILL BE UNDER THE CHARGE OF A SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER. THIS WILL BE FURTHER DIVIDED INTO EDUCATIONAL DISTRICTS EACH UNDER THE CHARGE OF A DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER.

KOWLOON HAD BEEN RE-DEMARCATED INTO SIX AREAS EARLY LAST YEAR AS A PILOT SCHEME, AND THE RE-DEMARCATION OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES FOLLOWED AFTER THIS SCHEME PROVED TO BE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.

THE PURPOSE OF THE RE-DEMARCATION IS NOT ONLY TO ENABLE EACH EDUCATIONAL AREA TO COINCIDE WITH THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY DISTRICTS, BUT ALSO TO FACILITATE BETTER CO-ORDINATION AND PLANNING BETWEEN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITHIN EACH CITY DISTRICT.

SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT REGIONAL OFFICERS AT THEIR OFFICES FOR DISCUSSION OF ANY MATTERS, PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL, ABOUT WHICH THEY FEEL CONCERNED OR ANXIOUS.

THE REGIONAL OFFICERS WILL BE SETTING ASIDE SATURDAY MORNINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL STAFF.

HOWEVER, IT WAS EMPHASISED AT THE DISCUSSION THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WERE INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT AND NOT TO REPLACE THE NORMAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WHICH IS THROUGH THE HEADS OF SCHOOLS.

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KMB NO. 10 TO BE RE-ROUTED

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KOWLOON MOTOR BUS NO. 10 FROM CHOI WAN TO TAI KOK TSUI FERRY WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 1).

THEY WILL USE CHOI HUNG ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD, DUMBARTON ROAD, GRAMPIAN ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO TAI KOK TSUI FERRY.

MEANWHILE, TRAFFIC AT BREEZY PATH IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE TEMPORARILY RE-ROUTED ONE WAY UP-HILL FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 31) FOR REPAIRS TO SEWAGE PIPES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

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SEMINAR FOR KOWLOON CITY INDUSTRIALISTS

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THE KOWLOON CITY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL JOINTLY ORGANISE A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 1) AT THE WA YING COLLEGE SCHOOL HALL IN HO MAN TIN FOR MORE THAN 300 INDUSTRIALISTS AND MEMBERS OF AREA COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED MAINLY FOR INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE DISTRICT TO APPEAL TO THEM TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE DISTRICT BOARD REGISTRATION EXERCISE AND AT THE SAME TIME PUBLICISE THE WORK OF THE TDC.

THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF KOWLOON CITY, MR LEE LAP-SUN, WILL MAKE THE OPENING REMARK AT THE SEMINAR WHILE THE FIELD MANAGER OF THE TDC, MR CHOW TIN-SHEK, WILL TALK ABOUT THE TDC'S SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SEMINAR WILL ALSO INCLUDE A FILM SHOW ON THE TDC'S SERVICES, A SLIDE SHOW ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, OPEN FORUMS AND A SPEECH BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER OF KOWLOON CITY (EAST), MR A.L. LANG, ON THE FUNCTION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL LAST FROM 2.30 PM TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 1) AT THE SCHOOL HALL OF WA YING COLLEGE, 8 SHEUNG WO STREET, KOWLOON.

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FANLING SWIMMING POOL RE-OPENS

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THE FANLING SWIMMING POOL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL RE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY (APRIL 1) WITH THE COMPLETION OF ANNUAL MAINTENANCE WORK.

LIFEGUARD AND FIRST-AID SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE POOL THROUGHOUT THE DAY, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO 11.45 AM= 12.15 PM TO 2.30 PM= 3 PM TO 5.45 PM= AND 6.45 PM TO 9 PM.

AS THE WEATHER BECOMES WARMER, THE SHA TIN JOCKEY CLUB PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL AND KWAI SHING SWIMMING POOL WILL OPEN ONE MORE SESSIONS IN THE EVENING.

THESE WILL BE FROM 7.45 PM TO 10 PM.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAPPY VALLEY RACES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR BOTH DAY AND NIGHT RACE MEETINGS AT HAPPY VALLEY THROUGHOUT THE RACE SEASON.

TWO HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE RACES, THE FOLLOWING MAJOR DIVERSIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

* MORRISON HILL ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHEAST BOUND BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND LEIGHTON ROAD AND THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN WAN CHAI ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES.

* LEIGHTON ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FROM MORRISON HILL ROAD TO WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD.

* BROADWOOD ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FROM WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD TO LINK ROAD.

* SHAN KWONG ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM KING KWONG STREET TO VILLAGE ROAD.

* VILLAGE ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM SHAN KWONG ROAD TO WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD.

* WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM VILLAGE ROAD TO QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

* SPORTS ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRING ACCESS TO THE PREMISES IN THE AREA.

* OI KWAN ROAD, EXCEPT THE SECTION BETWEEN WING CHEUNG STREET AND THE TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL, WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY IN AN ANTI-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, TRAFFIC IN CANAL ROAD EXTENSION WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

IN ADDITION, PARKING ON THE SECTION OF HARBOUR ROAD BETWEEN FLEMING ROAD AND FENWICK STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM FOR DAY RACES AND FROM 5 PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT FOR NIGHT RACES.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT IS TO ORGANISE ABOUT 100 SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY ON APRIL 21.

IN ADDITION, TWO CONCERTS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE WILL ALSO BE STAGED.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD AND OF ALL PHYSICAL ABILITIES, WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN A DAY OF FUN AND GAMES TO BE HELD IN PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THOSE WHO WISH TO TAKE PART IN EVENTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, BADMINTON, MINI-SOCCER, LAWN BOWLS, TABLE-TENNIS, ETC SHOULD SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL THE 19 OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

THE CELEBRATIONS WILL START AT 9 AM ON HONG KONG ISLAND'S VICTORIA PARK WHERE MOST OF THE ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

IN KOWLOON, TWO MAJOR VENUES FOR THE CELEBRATIONS WILL BE KOWLOON PARK AND THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND.

ON THAT DAY, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR F.K. HU, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT WILL OFFICIATE AT KOWLOON PARK AT 9.30 AM WHEN ABOUT 4 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN 20 EVENTS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WILL START THE CELEBRATIONS AT THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND AT 2.30 PM.

IN N.T. EAST, A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, MR CHARLES YEUNG, WILL START OFF THE CELEBRATIONS AT FANLING RECREATION GROUND AT 10 AM. AMONG THE 23 EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE REGION ARE A CROSS-COUNTRY RACE, A PARACHUTE PERFORMANCE AND A CANOEING FUN DAY.

IN N.T. WEST, A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, MR HOWARD YOUNG, WILL PERFORM THE OPENING CEREMONY AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND AT 10 AM. SOME 25 EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDES YUEN LONG AREA.

/A BAND .....

A BAND CONCERT WILL BE STAGED AT 3 PM AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WHERE SEVERAL YOUTH BANDS, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND, WILL GIVE A TWO-HOUR PERFORMANCE.

A CONCERT WILL BE GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AT 7.30 PM.

TICKETS FOR THE TWO CONCERTS ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

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COURSE FOR HOCKEY COACHES

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THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISING WITH THE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION A COURSE FOR HOCKEY COACHES NEXT MONTH.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE COURSE IS APRIL 6 AND APPLICANTS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD ON EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS STARTING FROM APRIL 24. EACH CLASS WILL START FROM 6.30 PM AND LAST UNTIL TO 9 PM.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HEAD OFFICE ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF WING ON CENTRE AND FROM ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES.

COACHES WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE COURSE WILL BE ISSUED WITH AN ELEMENTARY COACH CERTIFICATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE AIM OF THE COURSE IS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF HOCKEY COACHES WHOSE SERVICES WOULD BE NEEDED WHEN THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE INTRODUCES HOCKEY COURSES FOR YOUTHS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

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