



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MOMENTOUS SESSION FOR LEGCO -- SIR DAVID  
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IT HAD BEEN A MOMENTOUS SESSION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID AT THE CLOSING OF THE 1984/85 SESSION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO MORE IMPORTANT DELIBERATION IN THE HISTORY OF THIS CHAMBER, AND FOR THAT MATTER OF HONG KONG, THAN THAT AT WHICH THE VERY FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS DEBATED IN OCTOBER AND AT WHICH THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT.

+LATER IN DECEMBER, AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON AN HISTORIC OCCASION, THE PRIME MINISTER THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS MARGARET THATCHER ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

HE NOTED THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE RANGE OF DEBATES IN THE COUNCIL REPRESENTED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG AND THE COMPLEXITY OF MATTERS - SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL - AND THE LAWS SURROUNDING THEM.

+THE CRUDE STATISTICS OF THE SESSION OF 26 SITTINGS - 83 BILLS, 43 RESOLUTIONS, 179 QUESTIONS - DO NOT DO JUSTICE TO THIS EVOLUTION IN THE WORK AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS COUNCIL,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS THE LAST SESSION HELD IN THIS CHAMBER, WHICH WAS FIRST USED IN 1957, REPLACING THE CHAMBER IN THE OLD CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE FIRST SITTING OF THE 1985-86 SESSION WILL BE ON OCTOBER 30 WHEN THE COUNCIL ASSEMBLES IN ITS OWN DIGNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT BUILDING IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW SESSION, SIR DAVID SAID: +WE HAVE MANY TASKS AHEAD AND NONE GREATER THAN THAT WHICH DEVOLVES UPON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CONTINUING AND DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM OF LAW, SO THAT IT MAY SERVE HONG KONG WELL NOT ONLY TODAY BUT IN THE MANY YEARS AHEAD.+

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND FOR ALL THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THIS SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

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+PROBLEMS NOT PECULIAR TO COMMERCIAL CRIMES TRIALS+

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THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES WERE NOT NECESSARILY PECULIAR TO THIS CATEGORY OF CRIME BUT WERE SPECIALLY HIGHLIGHTED IN COMMERCIAL CRIME CASES, ACCORDING TO A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION CARRIED OUT BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE NOMINATED ON MAY 28.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE, THE HON PETER C. WONG, WHEN TABLING THE REPORT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN THE LIMITED TWO MONTHS' TIME FROM MAY 28, UNTIL THE FINAL MEETING OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION TODAY, WHEN A SELECT COMMITTEE IS AUTOMATICALLY DISSOLVED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 61(5), THE COMMITTEE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE ITS TASK, MR WONG SAID.

BUT IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO EXAMINE AT SOME LENGTH TWO KEY QUESTIONS ON WHAT CONSTITUTED A COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME, AND ON THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES.

IN DOING SO, THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISED THE DIFFICULTY INHERENT IN SEEKING TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION OF A COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME, ALTHOUGH IT WAS OF THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF SUCH AN OFFENCE.

+FROM THE EVIDENCE RECEIVED SO FAR, WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES ARE NOT NECESSARILY PECULIAR TO THIS CATEGORY OF CRIME, BUT AS A MATTER OF DEGREE, THESE PROBLEMS ARE SPECIALLY HIGHLIGHTED IN COMMERCIAL CRIME CASES.

+SUCH PROBLEMS RAISE IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS BEFORE CHARGE, THE NEED FOR SEARCHING PRE-TRIAL REVIEWS TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY ISSUES, AND THE EFFICIENT PRESENTATION OF ACTS AND ARGUMENTS IN COURT.

+WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, REACHED A DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION ON THESE MATTERS BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE AND BECAUSE A NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS HAVE YET TO COME,+ MR WONG SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 61 (4), THE COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED TO MAKE A REPORT EVEN THOUGH IT HAD NOT COMPLETED ITS ENQUIRY, MR WONG SAID: +ALTHOUGH NO FINAL CONCLUSION HAS YET BEEN REACHED, OUR PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AND PRODUCTIVE.

+WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL STARTING POINT FOR THE NEXT SELECT COMMITTEE.+

THE SELECT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE PROSECUTION AND TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES, INCLUDING CHANGES IN THE PROCEDURES BEFORE AND DURING TRIAL AND THE MODE OF TRIAL.

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FIRST QUARTER SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION: \$1.55 BILLION  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1985-86 AMOUNTED TO \$1 554 MILLION.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THIS SUM INCLUDED \$1 500 MILLION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE FIRST EQUITY INJECTION FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IN 1985-86.

+OTHER MAJOR PROVISIONS INCLUDED \$13.3 MILLION FOR SUBVENTIONS TO THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION- \$8.3 MILLION FOR RESUMPTION OF LAND WITHIN THE CASTLE PEAK FIRING RANGE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES- \$7.9 MILLION FOR A GRANT TO THE WAR MEMORIAL FUND AND \$7.3 MILLION FOR SPECIAL LEGAL EXPENSES ON COURT FEES,+ HE SAID.

+THE AMOUNT OF \$1 500 MILLION IS OF COURSE TOO LARGE TO BE COVERED BY THE PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS OF \$1 800 MILLION, WHICH IS IN ANY CASE LARGELY COMMITTED AS A RESULT OF THE 1985 SALARIES ADJUSTMENT,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS, AN INCREASE IN THE BUDGETED DEFICIT ARISING FROM THIS UNFORESEEN PAYMENT IS NOT EXPECTED BECAUSE THE AMOUNT SHOULD BE OFFSET BY LARGER THAN EXPECTED LAND REVENUE DUE TO THE RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN LAND PRICE AND PAYMENTS FOR LAND PURCHASES IN CASH, RATHER THAN IN LETTERS 'B',+ HE ADDED.

+OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED HAVE BEEN OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME HEAD OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY DELETIONS OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

+DURING THE QUARTER, A NET INCREASE OF 222 POSTS WAS APPROVED, INCLUDING POSTS FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE URBAN COUNCIL,+ SIR JOHN ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT APPROVED COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN INCREASED BY \$886.4 MILLION AND NEW COMMITMENTS OF \$143.8 MILLION HAD BEEN APPROVED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

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REGULATIONS PROVIDE BETTER RADIATION MONITORING  
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NEW REGULATIONS BEING INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A MORE FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL RADIATION MONITORING TO PREVENT INJURY CAUSED BY IONIZING RADIATION TO THE HEALTH OF WORKERS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO HARMFUL RADIATION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO, TODAY WHEN MOVING A MOTION ON THE REGULATIONS - RADIATION (CONTROL OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS AND RADIATION (CONTROL OF IRRADIATING APPARATUS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985.

THE REGULATIONS WERE MADE BY THE RADIATION BOARD UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE RADIATION ORDINANCE.

DR KHOO EXPLAINED THAT AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PERSONNEL RADIATION MONITORING DEVICES, THE BOARD PROPOSED TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS WHICH PRESCRIBED AND PROVIDED FOR PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT INJURY TO THE HEALTH OF WORKERS CAUSED BY IONIZING RADIATIONS.

A PERSONNEL RADIATION MONITORING DEVICE IS DESIGNED TO BE WORN OR CARRIED BY A PERSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEASURING EXPOSURE TO RADIATION AND INCLUDED A PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM SUITABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE, PLACED IN AN APPROPRIATE FILM HOLDER.

THE AMENDED REGULATIONS WOULD PROVIDE A MORE FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF MONITORING INCLUDING THE TYPES OF MONITORING DEVICES ALLOWED TO BE USED BY WORKERS AND THE PROCEDURE FOR RECORDING THE DOSE OF RADIATION RECEIVED BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN RADIATION WORK.

+THE RADIATION BOARD ALSO PROPOSED TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE TO A PUBLIC OFFICER ANY OF ITS FUNCTIONS OR DUTIES WHICH ARE SEEN APPROPRIATE,+ DR KHOO SAID.

THE REGULATIONS WERE APPROVED.

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ERRORS CORRECTED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A BILL CORRECTING ERRORS IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS (CONSIGNMENT BY AIR) (SAFETY) ORDINANCE 1985 WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED AS A BILL IN THE SAME COUNCIL ON JUNE 26.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DANGEROUS GOODS (CONSIGNMENT BY AIR)(SAFETY)(VALIDATION AND AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID THAT DUE TO A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE PRINTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MISTAKES, THE BILL ASSENTED TO BY THE GOVERNOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE CONTAINED A NUMBER OF ERRORS.

+IT IS CLEARLY ADVISABLE TO VALIDATE THE ORDINANCE AND CORRECT THE ERRORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS EMPOWERED TO CORRECT SUCH ERRORS BY SECTION 98A OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, BUT THE CORRECTION OF THE ERROR RELATING TO THE PENALTY IN SECTION 3(2) DID NOT APPEAR TO BE WITHIN THOSE POWERS.

HE SAID THAT SINCE TODAY WAS THE LAST SITTING OF THE CURRENT SESSION, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE BILL BE TAKEN THROUGH ALL ITS STAGES AT ONE SITTING.

EXPRESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S +REGRETS FOR THIS EPISODE+, HE SAID THAT LESSONS HAD BEEN LEARNED AND STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT +A BILL SUCH AS THIS WILL NOT HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL AGAIN+.

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MORE TIME FOR URBCO TO PREPARE BUDGET  
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A BILL GIVING THE URBAN COUNCIL AN EXTRA MONTH'S TIME TO PREPARE ITS ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

INTRODUCING THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THE BILL ENABLED THE URBAN COUNCIL TO SUBMIT ITS ESTIMATES FOR EACH FINANCIAL YEAR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 INSTEAD OF BEFORE NOVEMBER 30.

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE BILL WOULD BE ENACTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

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PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL'S ACTIVE ROLE STRESSED  
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THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS A DOCUMENT OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNCIL, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LEE SAID THAT THE BILL STEMMED FROM A REVIEW UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNCIL IN THE LIGHT OF THE BROADER RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES ASSUMED BY THE COUNCIL AS RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

IT PROVIDED FOR THE CONSIDERABLE ENLARGEMENT OF THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND REMOVED REFERENCES TO THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, THUS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL OPERATED AS A SINGLE ENTITY.

+AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE RELEVANT BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT; AND MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR THEIR FARSIGHTEDNESS IN PROVIDING THE COUNCIL WITH THE NECESSARY LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO MEET THE CHANGING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF HONG KONG,+ MR LEE SAID.

IN MEETING ITS CHALLENGES OF PROMOTING AND INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY IN INDUSTRY, THE COUNCIL HAD EVOLVED FROM ESSENTIALLY A TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY ORGANISATION TO ONE WHICH WAS DEDICATED TO THE ACTIVE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW.

IN ADDITION TO HELPING INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES SOLVE A MULTITUDE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS, THE COUNCIL TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO EXAMINE THE TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL SECTORS OF INDUSTRY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR, PLAN, COORDINATE, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, ESTABLISH SUPPORT FACILITIES.

IT ALSO UNDERTOOK DEVELOPMENT WORK WHICH WAS CAPABLE OF GENERATING MULTIPLIER EFFECTS WITHIN OUR INDUSTRIES, HE SAID.

+THE COUNCIL,+ MR LEE SAID, +MUST MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN THE PROGRAMMING OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND BE SENSITIVE TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF INDUSTRIES.

+IN A DYNAMIC ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG, THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE IS CHANGING RAPIDLY.

+THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES WILL EXERT A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE PATTERN OF MANUFACTURING, AND THIS WILL IN TURN IMPOSE NEW DEMANDS ON THE COUNCIL'S SERVICES.+

/NOT ONLY .....

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NOT ONLY WERE THESE MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES INHERENTLY COMPLEX, THEY WERE ALSO PERVASIVE AND INTERDEPENDENT.

AS A RESULT, THEY OFTEN DEMANDED AN INTEGRATED PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH.

+THIS AMENDMENT BILL NOT ONLY GIVES RECOGNITION TO THE EXPANDED FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL, BUT ALSO LAYS A STRONG FOUNDATION FROM WHICH IT CAN FURTHER FULFIL ITS ROLE IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG,+ MR LEE SAID.

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CONFIDENCE EXPRESSED IN UNIFIED EXCHANGE  
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AT THE END OF THIS YEAR THE HONG KONG UNIFIED EXCHANGE WOULD BE LAUNCHED INTO THE WORLD SECURITIES MARKET IN AN ERA OF REVIVING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, THE HON MARIA TAM MADE THIS PREDICTION TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADDING THAT SHE WAS SURE IT WOULD RECOVER ITS FORMER POSITION IN THE ASIAN REGION.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, MISS TAM NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE REAL SAFEGUARD TO THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS LAY IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN EXERCISING HIS POWER OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF DEALERS.

+ONE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THIS REFORM IS THAT THE HONG KONG EXCHANGE COMPANY WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE DEALERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNIFIED EXCHANGE.

+I HOPE TIME WILL PROVE THAT IN HONG KONG WE CAN CLAIM NOT ONLY A VIBRANT MARKET FOR SECURITIES TRADING, BUT ALSO A FINE TRADITION OF SELF-REGULATION IN THIS INDUSTRY,+ SHE SAID.

MISS TAM SAID THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL PROPOSED TO EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED EXCHANGE TO BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AND THE ACCOUNTANTS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, WHILE THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL DEALT MAINLY WITH MEASURES TO IMPROVE QUALITY CONTROL OF DEALERS IN SECURITIES.

THANKING MISS TAM FOR SUPPORTING THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN STANDARDS HAD TO BE SOUGHT +IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR AS INDEED IN ANY OTHER SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY+.

/AS FAR .....

AS FAR AS SECURITIES WERE CONCERNED, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT IN THE LONG TERM, HONG KONG WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY A WELL-ORDERED MARKET MANAGED WITH A CONSTANT REGARD FOR THE INTERESTS OF INVESTORS.

+WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN SELF-REGULATION BUT IT MUST BE WITHIN THE APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK. AND THAT IS WHAT THE BILL IS ABOUT,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS THEN MOVED TWO MINOR AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE CONNECTED WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS IN THE BILL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF DEALING PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT ADVISERS' PARTNERSHIPS, DESIGNED TO REMOVE CERTAIN AMBIGUITIES OR INCONSISTENCIES IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

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MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA CHANGE +TIMELY+  
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THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN RESOLVING THE LONG CONTROVERSY ON THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES, THE HON PETER POON SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT AGREEMENT HAD FINALLY BEEN REACHED WITH THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY ON THIS ISSUE.

HE SAID THAT REMOVAL OF THE PRESENT DISQUALIFICATION AGAINST CORPORATIONS, BANKS, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, SOLICITORS AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS FROM BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STOCK EXCHANGE HAD BEEN DEBATED AT LENGTH AND INTERESTED PARTIES HAD BEEN FULLY CONSULTED.

+IN LINE WITH MODERN TRENDS, BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ARE TO BE PERMITTED TO BECOME MEMBERS, BUT ONLY IF THEY DO SO UNDER COMPLETELY SEPARATE ARMS FOR THEIR STOCKBROKING BUSINESS.

+OTHER SAFEGUARDS, NO DOUBT, WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE UNITED STOCK EXCHANGE TO PREVENT ANY UNFAIR COMPETITION.+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED SO FAR AS SOLICITORS AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS WERE CONCERNED IT WAS THOUGHT BEST THAT ANY PROHIBITION SHOULD BE IMPOSED BY THE RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONAL BODIES UNDER THEIR OWN ETHICAL RULES IF THEY DEEMED IT NECESSARY.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO NOTED CORPORATIONS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN STOCKBROKING IN HONG KONG UNDER VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR A LONG TIME, AND THEY WERE PERMITTED TO DO SO IN OTHER COUNTRIES UNDER STRICT RULES AS TO ADEQUATE FINANCIAL BACKING AND PROPER MANAGEMENT.

+IT IS TIMELY THAT WE SHOULD REGULARISE THE POSITION IN THIS RESPECT,+ MR POON SAID.

FINALLY, HE SAID, FURTHER PROTECTION TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC WAS OFFERED AS THE BILL IMPOSED A STATUTORY DUTY ON THE EXCHANGE COMPANY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING ITS OWN MEMBERS AND TO ENSURE THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE.

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PROTECTION FOR TRAVELLING PUBLIC SUPPORTED  
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THERE WERE NO LEGAL CONTROLS OVER TRAVEL AGENTS IN RESPECT OF OUTBOUND TRAVEL AND TOUR ACTIVITIES AND ANYONE WHO OBTAINED A BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE COULD IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS A TRAVEL AGENT.

THIS WAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE HON ALLEN LEE DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE TRAVEL AGENTS BILL.

+ABSCONDMENTS BY FLY-BY-NIGHT OPERATORS WERE NOT UNCOMMON IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

+I STRONGLY AGREE THAT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM UNSCRUPULOUS TRAVEL AGENTS.+

THE BILL SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF LICENSING FOR TRAVEL AGENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF A TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND FROM WHICH EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE TO CLIENTS IN THE EVENT THAT COURT JUDGMENTS AGAINST SUCH TRAVEL AGENTS COULD NOT BE SATISFIED.

+THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD WELCOME THIS BILL AS IT GIVES THEM A DEGREE OF PROTECTION FROM BOGUS OR INSOLVENT TRAVEL AGENTS,+ MR LEE SAID.

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THE BILL SINCE IT PROVIDED THE BASIC FRAMEWORK ON WHICH THE INDUSTRY COULD DEVELOP ITS OWN STANDARDS AND SELF-REGULATION.

+BLACK SHEEP OF THE INDUSTRY CAN ALSO BE CONTROLLED.+

/MR LEE .....

MR LEE SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG HAD MADE A REPRESENTATION ON THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ECONOMIC SERVICES WORKING GROUP OF WHICH HE WAS THE CONVENER.

WHILE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE BILL, THE REPRESENTATIVES HAD SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF MINOR AMENDMENTS.

+AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION, THE WORKING GROUP AGREES THAT A NUMBER OF MINOR TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS CAN BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE BILL,+ MR LEE SAID.

+ACCORDINGLY, I SHALL MOVE AMENDMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

+AS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEND THEIR HOLIDAYS OUTSIDE HONG KONG EACH YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT THE BILL IS A MUCH-NEEDED AND TIMELY PIECE OF LEGISLATION,+ HE TOLD THE COUNCIL.

ROUNDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE BILL, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SUPPORTED MR LEE'S AMENDMENTS.

HE SAID THE BILL HAD ATTRACTED A LOT OF INTEREST SINCE ITS PUBLICATION.

+WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO URGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMPOSE MORE STRINGENT LEGISLATIVE CONTROL OVER TRAVEL AGENTS, MOST BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BILL DO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN ON THE ONE HAND THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS AND ON THE OTHER HEALTHY COMPETITION IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

HE THANKED MR LEE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF UMELCO FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION OF AND SUPPORT FOR THE BILL.

HE WAS ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS AND VALUABLE ADVICE.

FACILITIES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL ROLE  
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TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE THE FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES NORMAL TO SUCH A SERVICE CENTRE MUST BE PROVIDED, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH HE SAID SOUGHT TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE FOR THREE MAIN REASONS: FIRST, TO FACILITATE THE REORGANISATION OF THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE= SECOND, TO ENABLE THE CONTROL EXERCISED BY THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION OVER COMMODITIES TO BE EXTENDED TO COVER TRADING IN FINANCIAL FUTURES= AND THIRD, TO REORGANISE THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE'S COMPENSATION FUND IN ORDER TO AFFORD BETTER PROTECTION TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC.

MR BROWN SAID THE ROLE PLAYED BY FINANCIAL FUTURES IN HEDGING THE EVER-INCREASING RISKS OF DOING BUSINESS IN TODAY'S FINANCIAL MARKETS WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE.

+IT IS ONE WE HAVE BEEN WITHOUT IN HONG KONG FOR TOO LONG, AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS - ON WHOSE BEHALF I SPEAK AS CONVENOR OF THE LEGCO MONETARY AFFAIRS GROUP - GENERALLY WELCOME THIS LEGISLATION WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL FURTHER DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S POSITION.+

VARIOUS WEAKNESSES IN THE EXISTING COMPENSATION FUND PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

THE NEW COMPENSATION FUND TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL WOULD HELP TO REMOVE THESE DIFFICULTIES AND GIVE BETTER PROTECTION TO INVESTORS, AND THIS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE PUBLIC.

+WHILE I FULLY SUPPORT THE BILL,+ MR BROWN SAID, +I AND MY COLLEAGUES ARE NONETHELESS CONSCIOUS THAT THE HANG SENG INDEX FUTURES CONTRACT COULD ENCOURAGE UNDUE SPECULATION BY SMALL INVESTORS.

+WHILE SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF THE FUTURES MARKETS, EXCESSIVE SPECULATION BY THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE MUST BE GUARDED AGAINST.

+THIS IS OF COURSE EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BUT I HOPE THE EXCHANGE ITSELF WILL SUBSCRIBE TO PUBLICITY SO THAT THE INVESTING PUBLIC IS MADE FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS POSED BY PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW MARKETS ABOUT TO BE CREATED,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL WAS PASSED.

'COMMODITIES BILL NOT A PANACEA FOR DIFFICULTIES'

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THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 IS NOT A PANACEA FOR THE DIFFICULTIES LYING AHEAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMODITIES TRADING IN HONG KONG, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL DURING ITS RESUMED DEBATE, MR CHEUNG SAID THE AMENDMENTS AS PROPOSED WOULD REVITALISE THE CAPABILITY OF THE COMPENSATION FUND TO SETTLE IN A MORE DYNAMIC AND RESOURCEFUL MANNER ANY CLAIMS OF LOSS BY INVESTORS SUSTAINED THROUGH THE DEFAULT OF MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGE COMPANY.

+THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH AN AMENDMENT IS OBVIOUS ESPECIALLY WHEN THE CLAIMS LODGED AGAINST THE FUND OVERWHELMED ITS ABILITY TO ACT AS A SAFETY VALVE IN THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS,+ HE SAID.

THUS, THE GOVERNMENT'S IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AS EMBODIED IN THE AMENDMENT BILL SHOULD BE WELCOMED AS A MEASURE TO RESTORE ORDER IN THE DISTURBED COMMODITY TRADING MARKET AND TO INVITE RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN COMMODITIES TRADING FROM DEALERS AND INVESTORS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE COMPENSATION FUND WAS A MOVE TOWARDS THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

+I FIND THE INTENTION OF THE BILL RESPECTABLE,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

+HOWEVER, THE PROVISIONS AS SUCH SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN, AND FOR THAT MATTER SHOULD NOT CREATE A WRONG EXPECTATION TO THE EFFECT THAT, IT IS A PANACEA TO THE DIFFICULTIES LYING AHEAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMODITIES TRADING IN HONG KONG.+

CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS IN COMMODITIES TRADING WAS MAINTAINED THROUGH A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUCH AS THE CREDIBILITY AND GOOD NAME OF DEALERS, THE PROFIT OPPORTUNITY, THE COMPARATIVE RISK WITH RESPECT TO OTHER FORMS OF INVESTMENT AND THE SELF-DISCIPLINE OF THOSE INVOLVED.

THE LEAST FACTOR AN INVESTOR WOULD CONSIDER WAS THE AVAILABILITY OF A COMPENSATION FUND, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUCH COMPENSATION COULD VERY WELL BE ONLY A PORTION OF HIS CLAIM.

+HENCE, BEFORE THIS COMPENSATION FUND HAS PROVED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELL-BEING OF DEALERS, THE BURDEN IT CAUSES TO SHAREHOLDERS IS ALREADY FELT, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT DISAGREE THAT THE LESS RISK THE BETTER,+ HE SAID.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, I DO BEAR AN ARGUMENT THAT ALL SHAREHOLDERS ARE PENALISED FOR STAYING IN BUSINESS BY BEING FORCED TO TAKE UP THE RISK THAT THEIR PAID UP DEPOSIT OF \$50 000, WITH A FURTHER DEPOSIT OR DEPOSITS UP TO \$50 000 WHEN CALLED UP BY THE COMMISSION, MAY BE DISPERSED IN CURING WOUNDS CAUSED BY DEFAULTED DEALERS.

+NOTWITHSTANDING THE VALIDITY OF THIS ARGUMENT, WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROVISION OF SUCH A COMPENSATION FUND IS MEANT TO ACT AS A ROPE TO RESCUE THOSE WHO WERE DROWNING IN A SEA OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES.

+THEREFORE, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN THAT THE ROPE WOULD NOT TURN AROUND TO TIE OUR OWN NECKS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID WITH REFERENCE TO THE MAXIMUM TOTAL PAYMENT PER DEFAULTING SHAREHOLDER WHICH HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM \$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION, THE IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK WAS HOW LARGE SHOULD THE FUND BE FOR ITS PURPOSE?

+IT IS NOT UNCOMMON AMONG MANY TRADERS NOW THAT THEIR TRANSACTIONS HAVE REACHED A LEVEL OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLARS OF CONTRACT WORTH, IN SPITE OF THEIR RELATIVELY LOW REGISTERED CAPITAL.

+AS THE MARKET GROWS, WE DO NOT NEED TOO MANY CASES TO OCCUR TO WIPE OUT THE FUND AND DEFEAT THE INTENTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

+ONE MAY BEGIN TO WONDER IF THERE IS AS YET ANOTHER NECESSITY TO CREATE ANOTHER NEW FUND.

+WHERE IS THE END OF THIS?

+ONE MAY ALSO WONDER WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ON A MORE POSITIVE BASIS TO PREVENT DEFAULT IN ADDITION TO AFTERMATH TREATMENT.

+I BELIEVE THAT THOSE IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING BUSINESS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO MORE STRINGENT SCRUTINY AND CONTROL PROCEDURES IF COMPENSATION CLAIMS CAN THEREBY BE REALISTICALLY AVOIDED.

+INDEED, I WOULD ADVOCATE SELF-REGULATION BY THE INDUSTRY WHICH IS WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH TRADE PRACTICES.

+THIS WOULD BE IN-LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE THAT THE TRADE IS MOST EFFECTIVELY REGULATED BY PROFESSIONALS IN THE INDUSTRY,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

HE SAID WHILE SMALL INVESTORS SHOULD BE PROTECTED TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL, WHICH WAS THE AIM OF THE COMPOSITE AMENDMENT BILL, SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF ASSURANCE SO THAT MORE SHAREHOLDERS WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO JOIN THE COMPANY AND TOGETHER MAKE THE ENTERPRISE MORE PROSPEROUS.

ON THE PROPOSED LEVY SYSTEM, MR CHEUNG SAID HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT A LEVY WOULD PROVIDE SELF-GENERATING RESOURCES TO THE COMPENSATION FUND, BUT WHEN THE COMMISSION DECIDED THE RATE OF LEVY, IT SHOULD BE AT A LEVEL WHICH COULD YIELD SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE FUND BUT WHICH WOULD NOT AT THE SAME TIME CAUSE UNNECESSARY OPERATIONAL BURDEN TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PREPARE ITSELF WITH ADEQUATE MANPOWER AND ACCEPTABLE METHODS TO GOVERN THE COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF LEVIES, HE SAID.

THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN THAT A TRADER'S LICENCE COULD BE REVOKED DUE TO NEGLIGENCE TO PAY THE LEVY.

+THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE LEVY SYSTEM WOULD REQUIRE SINCERE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED,+ MR CHEUNG CONCLUDED.

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INTEREST OF SMALL INVESTORS TAKEN CARE OF  
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BOTH THE FUTURES EXCHANGE AND THE CLEARING HOUSE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THE INTEREST OF THE SMALL INVESTORS ARE NOT IGNORED, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ROUNDING UP THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, HE SAID BOTH THE EXCHANGE AND THE CLEARING HOUSE DID ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE SOME MEASURES OF PROTECTION.

+BUT IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ANY INVESTOR TO MAKE SURE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE NATURE OF THE INVESTMENT HE IS MAKING AND DOES NOT OVER-EXTEND HIMSELF,+ MR JACOBS SAID, NOTING THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE HON BILL BROWN OVER UNDUE SPECULATION BY SMALL INVESTORS.

+AS MR BROWN HAS INDICATED, ESSENTIALLY THE FUTURES MARKET IS FOR THE LARGER OR PROFESSIONAL INVESTOR.

+BUT HAVING SAID THIS, I MUST SAY THAT THE DEALERS IN THE MARKET SHOULD ALWAYS TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CLIENTS ARE PROPERLY ADVISED.

+THOSE WHO IGNORE THAT ADVICE OR TAKE RISKS BEYOND THEIR MEANS WILL HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME,+ MR JACOBS ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VIEW OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION WAS THAT THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARD AND CONDITIONS WERE THERE AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS.

TURNING TO THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG'S REMARK REGARDING THE COMPENSATION FUND, MR JACOBS SAID THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THIS FUND WERE DRAWN UP AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE PRACTICE IN OTHER EXCHANGES AND FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE.

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+WE HAVE TRIED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE EXCHANGE AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS, AND WE HAVE BEEN EVER CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF THE INVESTORS.

+THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUND IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGE TOWARDS THE INVESTING PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR MR CHEUNG'S CONCERN ABOUT THE BURDENS AND LIABILITIES ON SHAREHOLDERS, MR JACOBS SAID THE PROPOSALS WERE NOT TOO ONEROUS AND HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE EXCHANGE.

THE BILL WAS PASSED.

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BILL WITHDRAWN  
\* \* \*

THE DANGEROUS GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WAS WITHDRAWN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 52 OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GORDON MORTIMER, TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR MORTIMER EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS WITHDRAWING THE BILL FOR TECHNICAL REASONS AFTER RECONSIDERING THE NEED FOR THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE BILL.

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SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR CAR TESTING  
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PRIVATE CARS MAINTAINED IN GOOD CONDITION WOULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO ROAD SAFETY AND REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION DUE TO BREAKDOWNS, THE HON F.K. HU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES WILL REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND RECURRENT COST WHILE UTILISATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR CENTRES UNDER A PROPERLY MONITORED SCHEME CAN ACHIEVE THE SAME OBJECTIVES IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT ANY NET EXPENDITURE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS,+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL MADE THIS ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE.

/+THIS BILL .....

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+THIS BILL INCORPORATES NECESSARY DETAILS, MOSTLY IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE, TO ENSURE PROPER STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CORRUPTION AND MALPRACTICE,+ HE SAID.

HE CONCEDED THERE WAS NO PROVISION IN THE BILL FOR APPEALS BY AN AGGRIEVED CAR OWNER AGAINST THE RESULT OF AN EXAMINATION AT A CAR TESTING CENTRE, BUT THERE WAS PROVISION IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CAR OWNERS TO APPEAL TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AGAINST A DECISION OF A CAR TESTING CENTRE NOT TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS.

DETAILED PROCEDURE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED TO AVOID THIS RIGHT BEING ABUSED, HE SAID.

MR HU ALSO SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED THAT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE WOULD PROVIDE A PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC SOLUTION TO AN AGGRIEVED CAR OWNER.

POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE NEARLY 52 000 PRIVATE CARS OVER SIX YEARS OLD AND SOME MIGHT REQUIRE RE-EXAMINATION, HE PREDICTED THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL INSPECTIONS IN THE FIRST YEAR WOULD BE CLOSE TO 60 000.

HE URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR GARAGES APPROVED UNDER THE SCHEME HAD ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO HANDLE THIS VOLUME OF INSPECTION.

+IN CASE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO HANDLE ALL THE INSPECTIONS, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SUGGEST THAT THE SCHEME BE IMPLEMENTED STEP-BY-STEP REQUIRING THE EXAMINATION OF THE OLDER CARS FIRST, SAY THOSE OVER 10 YEARS OLD, AND THEN GRADUALLY REDUCING THE AGE LIMIT,+ HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING ON THE BILL, THE HON ANDREW SO, IN ABSTAINING FROM VOTING, SAID THE PRIVATE CAR INSPECTION SCHEME WAS BOUND TO BE FULL OF ABUSES.

HE SAID HE ABSTAINED FROM VOTING BECAUSE THE BILL DID NOT PROVIDE FOR APPEALS BY AGGRIEVED CAR OWNERS AND ALTHOUGH THE CODE OF PRACTICE DID HAVE SUCH PROVISIONS, INCONVENIENCE TO CAR OWNERS COULD NOT BE AVOIDED.

HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SET HIS MIND AT EASE ALTHOUGH MR HU, THE CONVENER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE BILL, HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR SO SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS ONLY A SMALL PLACE AND THE MILEAGE COVERED BY VEHICLES WOULD NOT BE TOO GREAT.

+GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIVATE CARS WHICH ARE MORE THAN SIX YEARS OLD IS STILL VERY GOOD.

/HE EXPRESSED .....

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HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONCEDE TO HIS +WELL-INTENTIONED+ PROPOSAL THAT ONLY PRIVATE CARS IN USE FOR SEVEN, OR MORE YEARS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION, AND THAT THOSE WHICH PASSED THE TEST WOULD BE INSPECTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS ONLY FROM THE TENTH YEAR ONWARDS.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, REFERRING TO THE QUESTION OF APPEALS RAISED BY MR SO, STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE ALREADY PROVIDED FOR A VEHICLE OWNER TO APPEAL TO THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL IF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT REFUSED TO LICENSE HIS VEHICLE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS NOT ROADWORTHY.

+THIS RIGHT WOULD APPLY TO INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY CAR TESTING CENTRES BY VIRTUE OF THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 25 PROPOSED IN CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL,+ HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO INSPECTION OF CARS, HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE LAID DOWN IN THE 1979 WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY WAS THAT ALL CARS OVER SIX YEARS OLD SHOULD BE EXAMINED ANNUALLY.

+THE AGE THRESHOLD PROPOSED IN THE BILL IS CONSERVATIVE COMPARED TO THE PRACTICE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, ALL CARS OVER THREE YEARS OLD HAVE TO BE INSPECTED ANNUALLY,+ HE SAID.

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DUE RECOGNITION URGED FOR +PRACTISING REFRACTIONISTS+  
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AN ANSWER TO THE CALL BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL OPTOMETRISTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF PRACTISING REFRACTIONISTS BY FULLY-TRAINED OPTOMETRISTS IN 1987 WAS GIVEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, MIDWIVES REGISTRATION AND NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID LIKE DOCTORS AND DENTISTS +WE ALSO HAVE WITHIN OUR ORDINANCES SECTIONS TO PROTECT THOSE 'GRANDFATHERS' IN OUR PROFESSION WHO, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS AS REQUIRED TODAY, HAVE NEVERTHELESS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THEIR PROFESSION IN THE YESTERYEARS+.

DR IP SAID SHE CONSIDERED IT JUSTIFIABLE TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE DUE RECOGNITION AND ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR PRACTICE, WITH RESTRICTIONS, OF COURSE, TO WHAT THEY COULD SAFELY PERFORM.

THIS EXPLAINED WHY +TO DETECT OCULAR DISEASES+ WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF THE WORK OF OPTOMETRISTS.

/+SUFFICE TO .....

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+SUFFICE TO SAY, THAT THIS CHAMBER WILL LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT THE REGULATIONS WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION ASSURES US WILL IRON OUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRACTISING REFRACTIONISTS AND THOSE PROFESSIONAL OPTOMETRISTS QUALIFIED TO DO MORE,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID THAT LIKE THE LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL ONLY HAD DISCIPLINARY POWER BUT LACKED AN ADVISORY ROLE.

+THIS IS A SERIOUS LIMITING FACTOR, AS TESTED OUT IN COURT WITH A CITED PRECEDENT CASE, AND IS IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER NON-MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS,+ SHE SAID.

+I HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INTO THIS DISCREPANCY.+

DR IP SAID AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE RIGHTLY GAVE THE COUNCIL WIDE POWER AND FLEXIBILITY TO REGISTER ANYONE IT SAW FIT WITHOUT NECESSARILY MEETING THE CRITERIA OF THE REGULATIONS.

THIS WAS IN KEEPING WITH THAT OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

+I WILL REPEAT THE SAME CAUTION THAT I EXPRESSED WITH THE PASSAGE OF THAT BILL, IN THAT THIS CLAUSE SHOULD BE EXERCISED SPARINGLY,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THE DISSATISFACTION BY THE PROFESSIONS AS REGARDS THE USE OF TERMINOLOGY ALSO EXTENDED TO THE USE OF THE CHINESE CHARACTER +YUEN+ TO DESCRIBE THE PERSON OFFERING PHYSIOTHERAPY.

THEY CONSIDERED ANOTHER CHARACTER 'SZE' SHOULD BE USED INSTEAD, IN KEEPING WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF THE OPTOMETRIST.

SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE USE OF THE TWO CHARACTERS.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE BILL AND THE ENCOURAGING SIGNS WERE THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUED TO EXTEND THE STANDARDISATION AND PUT UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL THE PRACTICE OF ALLIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

+THE PUBLIC NEEDS THIS PROTECTION AND REASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT WHOEVER THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ARE PROPERLY QUALIFIED TO DO SO,+ SHE SAID.

+I SINCERELY HOPE THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE AND THAT IT WILL EXTEND ITS CONTROL TO THE OTHER ALLIED PROFESSIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC.

+I ALSO HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE PUT OFF BY THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK, NOR THE EXTRA WORK LOAD IT HAS TO TAKE ON.

/+THE PROFESSIONS .....

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+THE PROFESSIONS WHICH I WOULD LIKE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO LOOK INTO ARE THE CHIROPRACTORS, THE ACUPUNCTURISTS, THE HERBALISTS AND THE BONE SETTERS IN THAT ORDER.+

THEY WERE ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND SHOULD BE DULY RECOGNISED RATHER THAN EXCLUDED FROM THE RELEVANT MEDICAL ORDINANCES.

THE PREVIOUS REACTION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WAS THAT, AS THERE HAD BEEN NO PROOF THAT THESE PROFESSIONS WERE DOING ANY DAMAGE, NOR THAT THESE DAMAGES WERE OF SIGNIFICANCE, THEY DECLINED TO ATTEMPT TO PUT SUCH PROFESSIONS UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL.

+I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE PRACTISING REFRACTIONISTS HAVE CREATED ANY DAMAGE NOR PROBLEM EITHER,+ DR IP SAID.

+YET THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS RIGHTLY TAKEN AN ACTIVE APPROACH.+

DR IP SAID SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SAME ENTHUSIASM AND DYNAMISM IT HAD ADOPTED FOR THIS BILL, IN PUTTING OTHER ALLIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONS SUCH AS CHIROPRACTORS, ACUPUNCTURISTS AND HERBALISTS UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL.

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BETTER HEALTH CARE SEEN FROM OPTOMETRY MOVE  
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THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, MIDWIVES REGISTRATION AND NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WOULD CERTAINLY RAISE THE STANDARD OF HEALTH CARE AND WOULD PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION TO THOSE WHO SOUGHT TREATMENT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE SETS OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COVERED BY THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE WERE ALREADY AT AN ADVANCE DRAFTING STAGE.

+THE BILL, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS SEEKS TO EXPAND THE REGULATION-MAKING POWERS LAID DOWN UNDER THE ORDINANCE, WILL ENABLE THESE LONG-AWAITED REGULATIONS TO BE MADE WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

/DR HO .....

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DR HO ALSO SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN PLACING THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL.

+WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE STANDARD OF THE OPTICAL INDUSTRY WILL BE RAISED IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC.

+I AM AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL OPTOMETRISTS HAS SOME QUERIES ABOUT THE DEFINITION AND FUNCTIONS OF OPTOMETRISTS, AS LAID DOWN IN CLAUSE 15 OF THE BILL,+ HE SAID.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THIS POINT AND INTENDED TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF OPTOMETRISTS IN THE REGULATIONS, AND HE THEREFORE SOUGHT THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMENT ON THIS POINT.

HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED THE RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING OPTOMETRISTS REGARDING THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF +OPTOMETRIST+.

AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WHICH STIPULATED THAT AT LEAST ONE DIRECTOR OF A COMPANY CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS OF A PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSION SHOULD BE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED, DR HO CONSIDERED THIS A POSITIVE STEP TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE GUIDED SOLELY BY COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

+I AGREE THAT WITH THE SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AT PRESENT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO REQUIRE ALL DIRECTORS OF A COMPANY CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS OF A PROFESSION TO BE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED.

+HOWEVER, I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE QUALIFIED DIRECTORS WITH THE INCREASED SUPPLY OF COMPETENT PERSONNEL IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

THANKING DR HO AND DR HENRIETTA IP FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE DEFINITION WAS TO DESCRIBE THE WORK OF THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION IN SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TERMS TO ENSURE THAT IT EMBRACED ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN OPTICAL WORK WHO OUGHT TO BE REGISTERED.

+THIS DEFINITION DOES NOT PURPORT TO DESCRIBE ALL THE WORK AN OPTOMETRIST MAY DO, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT DOES NOT PREVENT HIM FROM PERFORMING ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS THE DETECTION OF OCULAR DISEASES.

+BY THE SAME TOKEN, RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IMPOSED, THROUGH REGULATIONS, ON THE TYPE OF WORK WHICH CAN BE UNDERTAKEN BY DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF OPTOMETRISTS.

/+THREE ASSOCIATIONS .....

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+THREE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING OPTOMETRISTS HAVE WRITTEN TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE DEFINITION ADOPTED,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF OPTOMETRIST WHICH APPEARED IN THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE BILL, THE ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING OPTOMETRISTS WHICH HAD WRITTEN TO THE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE TERM USED HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE TRANSLATION HAD NO FORCE IN LAW AND THAT IN DUE COURSE THEY WOULD BE CONSULTED ON AN OFFICIAL TRANSLATION, HE SAID.

+IN ARRIVING AT A DECISION ON THIS TRANSLATION, WE WILL ALSO TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHINESE TERMS ALREADY USED TO DESCRIBE THE OTHER PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, HE SAID, HAD EARLIER GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CATER FOR THE INTERESTS OF THOSE IN THE PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS WHO HAD BEEN IN PRACTICE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAD GAINED THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE IN A PRACTICAL WAY.

+I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THAT ASSURANCE, AND TO DO SO WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION.

+THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE WORKING IN THE OPTICAL FIELD IN HONG KONG TODAY HAVE NOT RECEIVED FORMAL TRAINING. REGARD MUST BE PAID TO THIS SITUATION IN DEVISING THE LEGISLATIVE SCHEME FOR THE CONTROL OF THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SHARED DR HO'S HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PERSONS IN THE FUTURE, BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER EVEN THEN THE LAW WOULD NEED TO BE CHANGED TO REQUIRE THAT EACH COMPANY SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE QUALIFIED DIRECTOR.

IN REPLY TO DR. IP'S SUGGESTION THAT CERTAIN OTHER PROFESSIONS SHOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL, MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE SCOPE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSION ORDINANCE MIGHT BE EXTENDED IN FUTURE, THERE WERE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OVER GROUPS SUCH AS CHIROPRACTORS, ACUPUNCTURISTS AND PRACTITIONERS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, WHOSE SKILLS WERE OF A VERY DIFFERENT NATURE FROM THOSE OF THE OTHER PROFESSIONS COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE.

ON THE QUESTION OF CONSULTATION, HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT DRAFT REGULATIONS ON ALL FIVE PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO ALL CONCERNED ORGANISATIONS BEFORE THEY WERE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1985

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MTRC LOAN REPAYMENT GUARANTEED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO COVER THE REPAYMENT OF A \$22 MILLION LOAN.

THE SUM BORROWED UNDER THIS GUARANTEE WILL BE USED TO FINANCE AN ISLAND LINE CONTRACT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS OF THE KORNHILL DEVELOPMENT.

THIS BRINGS THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL GUARANTEE COMMITMENT TO THE MTR CORPORATION TO \$7 890 MILLION.

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PHONE NETWORK SERVICE CHARGES APPROVED  
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A MOTION TO INCLUDE THE AGREED CHARGES ON INTERCONNECTION OF VALUE-ADDED SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT SUCH SERVICES ARE VIEWDATA, FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC AND VOICE MAIL-BOXES, WHICH A SUBSCRIBER TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK PROVIDES TO A THIRD PARTY AT A PROFIT.

THE PROPOSED CHARGES OF \$60 A MONTH FOR AN INTERCONNECTION LINE, AND SEVEN CENTS A MINUTE FOR USE OF THAT LINE WERE THE SAME AS THE EXISTING CHARGES FOR INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN THE TELEPHONE NETWORK AND PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE, HE SAID.

THE CHARGES WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE SAME DATE AS OTHER REVISED TARIFFS.

MR JACOBS ALSO RECALLED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD RESOLVED ON JULY 24 TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM CHARGES THAT MIGHT BE LEVIED BY THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY.

AT THE TIME THAT RESOLUTION WAS MADE, NEGOTIATIONS WERE STILL UNDER WAY WITH THE TELEPHONE COMPANY CONCERNING THE CHARGES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE INTERCONNECTION OF VALUE-ADDED SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1985

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KOWLOON TUNNEL ROUTE 'POSSIBLE'  
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IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT DETAILED STUDIES OF BOTH TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE ROUTES BEFORE SELECTING A NEW TUNNEL ALIGNMENT BETWEEN SHA TIN AND NORTH-EAST KOWLOON, ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INDICATED THAT A TUNNEL ROUTE WAS POSSIBLE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SUCH STUDIES WOULD PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM, MR MACPHERSON SAID ALSO THAT HE HAD, IN FACT, ASKED FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN CATEGORY C OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO BE ENTITLED 'NEW ROAD LINK FROM SHA TIN TO THE URBAN AREAS'.

+THE ADMINISTRATION IS VERY MUCH IN FAVOUR OF THIS PROJECT AND I HOPE IT CAN BE UPGRADED QUICKLY TO ENABLE DETAILED PLANNING TO BEGIN,+ HE SAID.

LATER ON, IT WOULD BE FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF LIMITING PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, THIS MIGHT BE ANOTHER PROJECT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE SAID.

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LESS COMPLAINTS ABOUT ILLEGAL DENTAL PRACTICES  
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THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL DENTAL PRACTICES HAD DROPPED IN THE PAST SIX YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, DR KHOO SAID THAT COMPLAINTS ABOUT ILLEGAL DENTAL PRACTICE HAD DROPPED FROM 80 IN 1979 TO 37 IN 1984.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PRACTISING DENTISTRY ILLEGALLY, BECAUSE AS WITH OTHER INSTANCES OF ILLEGAL AND UNLICENSED PRACTICES, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN RELIABLE OR MEANINGFUL STATISTICS, HE SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT THE FIRST GROUP OF 59 DENTAL STUDENTS HAD GRADUATED FROM HONG KONG UNIVERSITY IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AND HE FELT IT WAS +TOO PREMATURE TO ASSESS THEIR IMPACT ON THE SUPPLY OF DENTISTS IN HONG KONG NOW+.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST ILLEGAL DENTAL PRACTICES COULD, PERHAPS, SERVE AS AN INDIRECT INDICATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE IMPROVING SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED DENTISTS IN HONG KONG.

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SLUDGE DISPOSAL PLANS IN THE PIPELINE  
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COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ALL SLUDGES WERE BEING DRAWN UP SO THAT SLUDGE MANAGEMENT COULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF HONG KONG'S WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY, SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON CHAU TAK-HAY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO TACKLE POLLUTION CAUSED BY SLUDGE DISCHARGED FROM WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THESE PLANS ON A BROADER FRONT, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY PLANNING ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES FOR SLUDGES PRODUCED BY FIVE OF THE 15 GOVERNMENT-OPERATED PLANTS.

+THE SLUDGE — KNOWN PROPERLY AS ALUM SLUDGE — CONTAINS A HIGH LEVEL OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS AS WELL AS ELEMENTS, SUCH AS ALUMINIUM, WHICH ARE POTENTIALLY TOXIC,+ MR CHAU SAID.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT WATER QUALITY MONITORING HAD NOT INDICATED CONCENTRATION LEVELS REACHING ANYWHERE NEAR THOSE WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A DIRECT OR INDIRECT THREAT TO PEOPLE.

THESE SLUDGES ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN IN RIVERS AND THE MARINE RECEIVING WATERS, HE ADDED.

REGARDING THE POINT ABOUT THE EXTENT OF POLLUTION AT SHING MUN RIVER CAUSED BY SUCH SLUDGE DISCHARGES, MR CHAU SAID ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF ALL THE SLUDGE PRODUCED AT THE FIVE TREATMENT PLANTS AROSE AT SHA TIN WHERE IT WAS DISCHARGED INTO THE UPPER SHING MUN RIVER.

+WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO MINIMISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SLUDGE PRODUCED AT SHA TIN, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT IT ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 10 TO 15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POLLUTION LOAD, MEASURED IN TERMS OF OXYGEN DEMAND, ON THE SHING MUN RIVER.

+THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE SLUDGE FROM A PLANT AT TAI PO, REPRESENTS ABOUT FOUR PER CENT OF THE OVERALL DAILY POLLUTION LOAD ON TOLO HARBOUR,+ HE SAID.

THE ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL SCHEMES UNDER ACTIVE PLANNING STARTED WITH THE PLANT AT SHA TIN.

+THE MAIN OPTIONS WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED ARE:

- (A) DIRECT DISCHARGE THROUGH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, OR
- (B) DEWATERING AND THICKENING OF THE SLUDGE PRIOR TO DISPOSAL,+ MR CHAU DISCLOSED, ADDING THAT WITHIN THE SECOND OPTION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE TREATED SLUDGE SHOULD BE DUMPED AT SEA OR IN CONTROLLED TIPS.

SELECTION A MATTER FOR BODY CONCERNED  
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THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT, UNDER PRESENT POLICY, STIPULATE THE MANNER IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES SELECTED CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON ADOLF HSU, SAID TODAY.

+THIS IS A MATTER ENTIRELY LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE NOMINATING BODY,+ MR HSU SAID. +THAT BEING SO, ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT THOSE NAMED FOR SUCH APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE ORGANISATION CONCERNED.+

HE WAS REPLYING A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD +CONSIDER ALLOWING REPRESENTATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES WHICH NOW NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES TO PUT FORWARD THEIR CANDIDATES BY ELECTION+.

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NO RELIEF SEEN YET FOR OVERCROWDING  
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THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE MEANS OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, AS SUPPLY COULD NOT MEET THE GREAT DEMAND, THE HON PANG YUK-LING, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, MR PANG SAID THAT THERE WAS +A TOTAL STOCK OF 143 700 TEMPORARY HOUSING PERSON SPACES FOR ABOUT 43 500 FAMILIES AS COMPARED WITH THE APPROVED TARGET OF 177 000 PERSON SPACES FOR ABOUT 53 600 FAMILIES+.

" THE STANDARD OF SPACE ALLOCATION, HE SAID, HAD IMPROVED FROM 1.86 SQ. METRES PER PERSON IN 1973 TO THE PRESENT 3.4 SQ. M. BUT THERE WERE AT PRESENT 3 975 +THA+ FAMILIES OCCUPYING SPACE AT DENSITY BELOW 1.86 SQ. M. PER PERSON, REPRESENTING ABOUT TEN PER CENT OF THE TOTAL +THA+ POPULATION OF 39 513 FAMILIES IN 46 +THA'S+.

SINCE JANUARY 1984, ALL VACANT +THA+ UNITS BELOW 7.43 SQ. METRES HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING, AND 758 FAMILIES HAD SO FAR BENEFITED FROM THIS POLICY, HE SAID.

A FURTHER 1 500 MORE SUCH SMALL UNITS WERE EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE FROM CASUAL VACANCIES.

MR PANG ALSO SAID THAT WORK WAS BEING CARRIED OUT ON 11 NEW +THA+ SITES TO PRODUCE ABOUT 12 500 PERSON SPACES FOR ABOUT 3 800 FAMILIES BY MARCH NEXT YEAR.

FURTHER MEASURES TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING COULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE SUPPLY SITUATION IMPROVED, MR PANG SAID.

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHER EDUCATION COURSES SET  
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THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OF AT LEAST SIX SUBJECTS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION WERE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO FULL-TIME TEACHER EDUCATION COURSES IN THE THREE GENERAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU ON THE CRITERIA USED IN SETTING THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO COURSES PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, MR LI SAID THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS REFLECTED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS POSSESSING A BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION AND A PROFICIENCY IN BOTH LANGUAGES.

+THE TWO-YEAR COURSE FOR APPLICANTS WHO POSSESS ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1980 WAS A FURTHER MEASURE TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE NON-GRADUATE TEACHING FORCE.+

MR LI SAID THERE WERE ALWAYS MORE APPLICANTS THAN PLACES AVAILABLE SO IN PRACTICE APPLICANTS WOULD NORMALLY NEED BETTER QUALIFICATIONS THAN THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS STATED.

+HOWEVER, EXCEPTIONALLY AN APPLICANT WHO SELECTS ART AND DESIGN, MUSIC OR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AS AN ELECTIVE AND WHO DEMONSTRATES OUTSTANDING ABILITY IN THESE SUBJECTS THROUGH THE PRACTICAL TESTS ADMINISTERED BY THE COLLEGES MAY BE ADMITTED EVEN THOUGH HIS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THOSE OF OTHER SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS,+ HE SAID.

ON REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO COURSES IN THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, MR LI SAID THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE THREE GENERAL COLLEGES BUT ADDITIONALLY REFLECTED THE SPECIALIST REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS IN TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS.

+ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO THE IN-SERVICE COURSES OF TRAINING VARY ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THE COURSE.+

+GENERALLY SPEAKING, THESE ARE LOWER THAN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FULL-TIME COURSES BECAUSE NORMALLY ENTRANTS ARE FULL-TIME SERVING TEACHERS WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE,+ MR LI SAID.

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VILLAGE LIGHTING SCHEME SPEEDED UP  
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THE INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC LIGHTING IN NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGES WOULD BE SPEEDED UP FOLLOWING A REVIEW CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN CANTONESE BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR CHAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED 4 700 PUBLIC LIGHTING POINTS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND SO FAR NEARLY 3 000 HAD BEEN INSTALLED.

SINCE 1981, PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE EACH YEAR FOR ABOUT 800 NEW LIGHTING POINTS IN NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGES UNDER THE PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAMME.

MR CHAN SAID THAT A REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES HAD RECENTLY BEEN CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE REVIEW HAD INVOLVED ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND THE POWER COMPANY.

+THE REVIEW HAS IDENTIFIED WAYS OF TRYING TO SPEED UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED WORKS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESENT BACKLOG WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BY THE END OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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SUPPLY OF PUTONGHUA TEACHERS ADEQUATE  
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THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TEACHERS FOR THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS WITHOUT EMPLOYING INSTRUCTORS FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN ON THE SUPPLY OF PUTONGHUA TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS, MR LI SAID THIS APPLIED TO TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS, EITHER AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY OR AS A SUBJECT IN THE CURRICULUM.

MR LI SAID THAT 619 TRAINED TEACHERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY UNDERGONE ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO ENABLE THEM TO TEACH PUTONGHUA.

+OF THESE, 386 ARE PRIMARY AND 233 ARE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS,+ HE ADDED.

/THESE IN-SERVICE .....

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THESE IN-SERVICE COURSES WERE PROVIDED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AND BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ITSELF, MR LI SAID.

+THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL ALSO OFFER A PROGRAMME OF PUTONGHUA STUDY TO SUITABLE STUDENTS AS PART OF THE COURSE FROM SEPTEMBER 1986,+ HE SAID.

+THESE INSTITUTIONS TOGETHER WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 1 426 TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.+

+THIS OUTPUT TOGETHER WITH THE 619 TEACHERS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE EXPECTED DEMAND, INITIALLY MAINLY IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND LATER ALSO IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WHEN THE PUTONGHUA PILOT SCHEME IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS COMPLETED IN THE SUMMER OF 1987,+ MR LI SAID.

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24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE BY NEXT MONTH  
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THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN WILL BE EXTENDED TO 24 HOURS A DAY FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAULINE NG.

DR KHOO SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE OPERATION HOURS OF THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WERE FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM DAILY.

THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WAS OPENED IN MAY 1984 AND ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE WAS PROVIDED FROM SEPTEMBER THAT YEAR.

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ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR DRINKING PUBLIC

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WITH THE PROMPT ACTION AND WARNING BY THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN, THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM ADULTERATED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON K.C. CHAN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO SAID: +ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS, DISTILS, MAKES, MANUFACTURES, SELLS, EXPOSES FOR SALE OR HAS IN HIS POSSESSION FOR SALE, SUPPLIES OR DEALS IN ANY ADULTERATED LIQUOR — AND I AM ADVISED WINE CONTAMINATED WITH DIETHYLENE GLYCOL FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY — COMMITS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 61 OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100 000, IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND FORFEITURE OF SUCH STOCK.+

+IT IS ALSO AN OFFENCE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE TO SELL ANY FOOD, INCLUDING AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, WHICH IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION,+ HE ADDED.

MR HO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE FOOD AND DRUG (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS DID NOT GENERALLY APPLY TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS MADE YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INCLUDED A PROVISION THAT IF ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE WAS MARKED OR LABELLED WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS, IT SHOULD CONFORM IN ALL RESPECTS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS.

FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY IN GERMANY OF THE TOXIC SUBSTANCE DIETHYLENE GLYCOL IN CERTAIN AUSTRIAN TABLE WINES THE CUSTOMS SERVICE IMMEDIATELY COLLECTED SAMPLES OF ALL AVAILABLE BRANDS OF SUCH WINES FOR TESTING. A HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN SAMPLES HAD SO FAR BEEN COLLECTED AND SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY. TESTS ON 104 SAMPLES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, 16 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED TO CONTAIN DIETHYLENE GLYCOL.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST'S TESTS, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE PUBLICISED THE NAMES OF THOSE BRANDS FOUND TO CONTAIN THE TOXIC SUBSTANCE AND WARNED THE PUBLIC OF THE DANGER TO HEALTH OF DRINKING THESE ADULTERATED WINES.

+THE TRADE HAS COOPERATED FULLY AND UP TILL TODAY, 1 674 BOTTLES OF SUSPECT AUSTRIAN WINES HAVE BEEN SURRENDERED FOR FORFEITURE,+ MR HO SAID.

## 'GRANT CUT SHOULD NOT AFFECT SCHOOLS'

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THE REDUCTION IN THE ADMINISTRATION GRANT TO AIDED SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON LI YUET-TING, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN ON THE REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATION GRANT TO AIDED SCHOOLS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF JANITORS, MR LI SAID THE REVISED RATES OF GRANT HAVE BEEN CALCULATED FOLLOWING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE JANITOR AND CLEANING SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ON WHICH THE GRANT WAS BASED.

+WHILE THERE MIGHT BE SOME SMALL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND BETWEEN AIDED SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, THESE ARE NOT SUCH AS TO JUSTIFY A DIFFERENT BASIS FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE GRANT.

+HOWEVER, THERE IS IN THE AIDED SECTOR A SMALL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WITH ADDITIONAL, NON-STANDARD TEACHING AREAS AND I HAVE MADE PROPOSALS TO THE THREE AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCILS WHICH WOULD PERMIT SOME ENHANCEMENT OF THE GRANTS TO THESE SCHOOLS TO MEET THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS,+ MR LI ADDED.

ON THE QUESTION OF GRANTING OF SEVERANCE PAY TO THE REDUNDANT WORKERS, MR LI SAID THE AWARD OF THE PAYMENT TO JANITOR STAFF COULD BE CHARGED TO THE ADMINISTRATION GRANT.

+GIVEN THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED HAVE ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES - MANY OF THEM UP TO THE PERMITTED THREE-MONTH LIMIT - THAT THE REDUCTION IS BEING PHASED IN OVER THREE YEARS AND THAT THE SEVERANCE PAYMENT IS REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF GRATUITY OR PROVIDENT FUND PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE, I DO NOT ENVISAGE ANY GENERAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE SCHOOLS,+ MR LI SAID.

+IN FACT SINCE MOST SCHOOLS HAVE THE SURPLUSES I HAVE MENTIONED AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUCH AS 'TONG FAI' AND SINCE THERE WILL BE NATURAL WASTAGE OF STAFF DURING THE THREE-YEAR PHASING IN PERIOD, THE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID DECLARATIONS OF SUDDEN OR 'EN BLOC' REDUNDANCIES,+ HE ADDED.

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PUBLIC MONEY SAVED BY FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM  
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THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR PARKING AND MOVING OFFENCES WAS WORKING SATISFACTORILY AND PUBLIC MONEY WAS BEING SAVED BY SUCH A SYSTEM INSTEAD OF BY ISSUING SUMMONSES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY THE EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY SAVED, BUT STATISTICS PROVIDED AN INDICATION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM, HE SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

IN 1984, A TOTAL OF \$136 040 030 WAS COLLECTED IN FINES ON 1 052 635 FIXED PENALTY TICKETS ISSUED FOR PARKING OFFENCES, SHOWING A COLLECTION RATE OF 92 PER CENT, AND \$77 126 670 WAS COLLECTED IN FINES ON 406 837 TICKETS ISSUED FOR MOVING OFFENCES, SHOWING A COLLECTION RATE OF 96 PER CENT, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

+THE INTENDED OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THE BURDEN ON THE POLICE AND THE COURTS OF TAKING SUMMONS ACTION AGAINST RELATIVELY LESS SERIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENCES IS BEING FULFILLED.

+IT IS ALSO GENERALLY REGARDED AS A CONVENIENT FORM OF ENFORCEMENT BY THE ROAD USERS AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

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19 BILLS PASSED  
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NINETEEN BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE DANGEROUS GOODS (CONSIGNMENT BY AIR)(SAFETY) (VALIDATION AND AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1984-85) BILL 1985, THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE TRAVEL AGENTS BILL 1985, THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED (RECLAMATIONS) BILL 1985, THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1985, THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, MIDWIVES REGISTRATION AND NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1985, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1985 AND THE BETTING DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

ONE BILL, THE DANGEROUS GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, WAS WITHDRAWN.

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FINAL OUTTURN  
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REFERRING TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, A FINANCE BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE FINAL OUTTURN FOR THE 1984-85 FINANCIAL YEAR WAS A DEFICIT OF \$1.6 BILLION AS COMPARED WITH THE ORIGINAL BUDGETED DEFICIT OF \$2.1 BILLION; \$1 BILLION OF THIS WAS FINANCED BY THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT BONDS LEAVING \$0.6 BILLION TO BE FINANCED FROM THE RESERVES.+

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SALARY RISE FOR DIRECTORATE APPROVED  
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION BY THE INDEPENDENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO INCREASE CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTORATE SALARIES BY BETWEEN 6 AND 13 PER CENT.

THE RECOMMENDATION, CONTAINED IN THE NINTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, HAD EARLIER BEEN ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

IT FOLLOWED A THOROUGH SURVEY WHICH SHOWED THAT SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES HAD LAGGED BEHIND THOSE OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

THE INCREASES APPROVED TODAY WOULD HELP NARROW THE GAP.

THE LAST OVERALL REVIEW OF DIRECTORATE STRUCTURE, SALARIES AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN 1982, AND THE LAST SURVEY OF REMUNERATION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1980.

THE LATEST SURVEY OF PRIVATE SECTOR REMUNERATION, WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS, WAS CONDUCTED BY SENIOR PARTNERS OF PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL AND CO AND PRICE WATERHOUSE ON AN INDEPENDENT BASIS.

THE CONFIDENTIAL SURVEY COVERED SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS AT SENIOR MANAGEMENT LEVELS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT ENCOMPASSED 34 COMPANIES MAKING UP A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC LIFE.

THE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM ITS CONSIDERATION THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION OF TOP EXECUTIVES IN THE HIGHEST PAYING COMPANIES, AND ADOPTED AS A GENERAL RULE THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE RANGE OF COMPANIES.

WHILE THERE WERE NO OBVIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE JOBS, THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT DIRECTORATE SALARIES SHOULD NOT LAG TOO FAR BEHIND THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

IT ALSO SAW A NEED TO PROVIDE A SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE SALARY AND CAREER STRUCTURE AT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE TO ENSURE THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF MEN AND WOMEN OF HIGH CALIBRE.

/THE REVISED .....

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THE REVISED SALARY LEVELS, WHICH TOOK EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR, ARE:

<u>DIRECTORATE PAY POINT</u>	<u>EXISTING PAY</u>	<u>NEW PAY</u>
	\$	\$
D8/DJL8	56 400	64 000
D7	53 600	60 500
DJL7	50 350	57 000
D6/DJL6	47 200	53 500
D5/DJL5	42 650	48 000
D4/DJL4	40 500	45 500
D3/DJL3	35 600	40 000
D2/DJL2	31 600	34 500
D1/DJL1	27 250	29 000

IN APPROVING THE SALARY INCREASES, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT SALARIES FOR STAFF IN SOME DEFICIENCY SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS WHOSE PAY STRUCTURE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC AND SOME HOSPITALS, WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE RAISED.

APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE SUBVENTIONS WHERE NECESSARY.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$29 MILLION WILL BE NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW PAY STRUCTURE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WAS TO UPGRADE FROM D4 TO D5 THE HEADS OF FIVE DEPARTMENTS — CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, IMMIGRATION, INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

IT FOLLOWED A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE EXISTING CLASSIFICATION OF DEPARTMENTS AGAINST GRADING FACTORS WHICH SHOWED THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS WERE CORRECTLY GROUPED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIVE.

THE COMMITTEE'S NINTH REPORT, AT \$9 A COPY, WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE TOMORROW.

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NO NOMINATION RECEIVED  
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NO NOMINATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH WAS RECEIVED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SINCE THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS AND UP TO YESTERDAY (AUGUST 6), A TOTAL OF NINE NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

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PRESS BRIEFING  
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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, WILL GIVE A PRESS BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RULES AT 3 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 15TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, KOWLOON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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MORE DETAILS SOUGHT ON U.S. CUSTOMS PROPOSAL  
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THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS HAS PROPOSED THAT THE NEW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REGULATIONS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO ALL TEXTILE AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS FOR DUTY PURPOSES.

AT PRESENT THESE REGULATIONS APPLY TO SUCH PRODUCTS AS ARE COVERED BY THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS CONCERNED, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS WAS ONLY A PROPOSAL.

+WE ARE NOW CONSULTING WITH THE TRADE, SEEKING FURTHER DETAILS AND ASSESSING IMPLICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

WHILE THE MOVE MAY BE IN LINE WITH THE NEW ORIGIN REGULATIONS, MR TSANG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IN CONFLICT WITH UNIFORM AND ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL AND TARIFF PRACTICES.

/A NOTICE .....

A NOTICE IN THE U.S. FEDERAL REGISTER EXPLAINED THE PROPOSAL AND ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO MATTERS CONCERNING INSPECTION OF IMPORTS, LABELLING, PACKAGING AND CONTAINERS. FURTHER DETAILS WERE BEING SOUGHT.

+THERE IS NO NEED FOR PEOPLE TO BE UNDULY ALARMED AT THIS STAGE,+ SAID MR TSANG, +THIS PROPOSAL CALLS FOR COMMENTS TO BE MADE BY OCTOBER 1 AND WE WILL BE SPEAKING TO THE TRADE AND CONSIDERING IT FULLY ONCE MORE DETAILS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO ENSURE THAT AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE IS MADE.+

THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE STATED: +CUSTOMS RECENTLY PUBLISHED FINAL REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING CRITERIA TO BE USED BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN MAKING COUNTRY OF ORIGIN DETERMINATIONS FOR CERTAIN IMPORTED TEXTILE MERCHANDISE.

+THE CRITERIA ARE BASED ON PREVIOUS COURT DECISIONS AND CUSTOMS RULINGS ON A VARIETY OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ISSUES.

+THESE CRITERIA WILL BE APPLIED IN MAKING COUNTRY OF ORIGIN DETERMINATIONS FOR ALL CUSTOMS PURPOSES, INCLUDING DETERMINATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF ASSESSING DUTY ON IMPORTED TEXTILES.

+CUSTOMS IS AWARE THAT UNIFORM AND ESTABLISHED PRACTICES EXIST WHICH RECOGNISE CERTAIN COMMERCIAL PROCESSES AND ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS PERFORMED ON TEXTILES AS BEING DETERMINATIVE OF ORIGIN AND THAT THESE PRACTICES ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLISHED ORIGIN CRITERIA.

+ACCORDINGLY, CUSTOMS PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE ESTABLISHED AND UNIFORM PRACTICES THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE NEW CRITERIA. BECAUSE THESE CHANGES OF PRACTICE, IF ADOPTED, MAY RESULT IN HIGHER RATES OF DUTY BEING ASSESSED, THIS NOTICE INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THEM BEFORE ANY CHANGE IS MADE.+

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DB TO COLLECT VIEWS ON HOUSING GREEN PAPER  
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A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL BE LAUNCHED BY AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD TO COLLECT RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE REVIEW OF SUBSIDIES TO PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

AT A RECENT MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP DECIDED TO ISSUE A LEAFLET WHICH SUMMARISED THE MAIN POINTS OF THE GREEN PAPER AS A BACKGROUND REFERENCE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

/THIS WOULD .....

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THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A QUESTIONNAIRE AIMED AT ABOUT 50 000 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS. THE QUESTIONNAIRE WOULD SEEK TO ASSESS PEOPLE'S REACTION TOWARDS PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER.

TWO PUBLIC SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8 IN EASTERN AND WESTERN SHAM SHUI PO TO ALLOW DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO LISTEN TO THE OPINIONS OF RESIDENTS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, MR FUNG KIN-KEE, SAID CIVIC BODIES IN THE DISTRICT WOULD ALSO BE RECEIVING COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER, INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND A LETTER INVITING THEM TO COMMENT ON THE ISSUE.

+OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EMBRACE AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE A SPECTRUM OF OPINIONS, WHICH WILL THEN BE COLLATED IN A REPORT AND SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR FURTHER ACTION,+ MR FUNG SAID.

DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, RESIDENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ARE WELCOME TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD. SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE IN WRITING BEFORE AUGUST 31, TO THE WORKING GROUP THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 39 TONKIN STREET, SHAM SHUI PO.

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ANOTHER WINE FOUND TO BE TOXIC  
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AN ADDITIONAL BRAND OF AUSTRIAN WINE, ILLMITZER KAISERGARTEN WEIBBURGUNDER SPATLESE 1978, HAS BEEN FOUND TO CONTAIN DIETHYLENE GLYCOL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS BRINGS TO 17 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AUSTRIAN WINES CONTAINING THE TOXIC CHEMICAL.

INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO ESTABLISH HOW MANY BOTTLES OF THE LATEST DISCOVERY HAVE REACHED THE MARKET.

MEANWHILE, CUSTOMS OFFICERS TODAY SEIZED 1 150 BOTTLES OF THE TWO AUSTRIAN WINES ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY TO BE CONTAINING THE ANTI-FREEZE CHEMICAL. THE BOTTLES, IMPORTED FROM AUSTRIA BY A LOCAL TRADER, WERE STORED IN A WAREHOUSE IN TSUEN WAN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SO FAR, CUSTOMS HAD RECOVERED A TOTAL OF 2 842 BOTTLES OF VARIOUS BRANDS OF AUSTRIAN WINES IDENTIFIED AS CONTAINING THE CHEMICAL.

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WINNING COMPUTER PROGRAMMES FROM TEACHER, STUDENT  
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A SCHOOL TEACHER AND A STUDENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WALKED AWAY WITH THE TWO TOP PRIZES IN THE ROAD SAFETY COMPUTER PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION.

MR WONG KUN-WING, A SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, WAS THE OVERALL CHAMPION IN THE SENIOR SECTION AND WON RETURN AIR TICKETS TO FRANKFURT WHILE FORM 3 STUDENT SIT KWOK-CHOI WAS THE WINNER OF THE JUNIOR SECTION WHO WON A TRIP FOR TWO TO KUALA LUMPUR.

IN ADDITION, THEY WERE EACH AWARDED TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES WORTH \$3 000 AND A YEAR'S FREE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE HONG KONG COMPUTER JOURNAL.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (OPERATIONS) AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID THAT THE COMPETITION TOUCHED ON THREE FACTORS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG - THE APPLIED USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY- THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG- AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE THROUGH ROAD ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

+IF OUR SOCIETY IS TO DEVELOP AND PROSPER FURTHER, THEN THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO US THROUGH THE USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND WE MUST TAKE OUR PLACE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE 'THIRD WAVE',+ HE SAID.

+THIS COMPUTER REVOLUTION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WE UTILISE OUR GREATEST ASSET - THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS MOST SATISFYING TO SEE THE GREAT INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THE COMPETITION BY STUDENTS.+

MR LI PRAISED MEMBERS OF THE ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR IMAGINATIVE CHOICE OF A COMPUTER PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION AS A VEHICLE FOR PUBLICITY.

+IN HONG KONG WE HAVE ACHIEVED A LOT IN REDUCING ACCIDENT AND CASUALTY TOLLS, BUT PUTTING OVER THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE IN A FRESH MANNER GETS MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT AS THE YEARS GO BY,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH ROAD SAFETY AS A TOPIC COULD GET REPETITIVE, MR LI SAID, IT WAS BY FAR STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN QUALITY OF LIFE TERMS TO THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG.

+ROAD ACCIDENTS CAN EXACT A DRAMATIC AND TRAGIC IMPACT UPON AN INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE, THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

+THEREFORE THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE IS ONE THAT MUST NEVER BE FORGOTTEN,+ HE STRESSED.

/MR LI .....

MR LI AND THE MARKETING MANAGER OF CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, MR IAN SHUI, THEN PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE TWO WINNERS.

THE COMPETITION WAS ORGANISED BY THE ROAD SAFETY PUBLICITY COMMITTEE IN CONJUNCTION WITH CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, HANG SENG BANK, HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY AND SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES IN THE SENIOR SECTION WENT TO A TECHNICIAN, MR CHIU TZE-CHAU, AND MR WONG PUI-WAH, A FORM 7 GRADUATE.

FORM 5 GRADUATES, MR YAN TAK-WOON AND MR LAU CHUNG-HUNG, WERE CHOSEN AS THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP IN THE JUNIOR SECTION.

WINNERS OF CONSOLATION PRIZES IN THE SENIOR SECTION WERE MR YEUNG YING-KIT, MR TONG WA-YU, MR LAM YIP-SHING, MR CHAU CHI-SHING AND MR HOU WING-HONG, AND IN THE JUNIOR SECTION WERE MR AU-YEUNG WAI-SING, MR YIP PAK-CHING, MR CHOW TAK-SHING, MR WONG POK-SZE AND MR HUI CHI-CHUNG.

THESE PRIZES INCLUDED BANK COUPONS, FREE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE HONG KONG COMPUTER JOURNAL, BOOK COUPONS FROM SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AND T-SHIRTS.

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SAI KUNG DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO BE PRESENTED  
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THE OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF HO CHUNG, TSENG LAN SHUE, TAI PO TSAI, AND SILVERSTRAND WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE JUNK BAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING THIS FRIDAY (AUGUST 9).

THE PROPOSED PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR SAI KUNG DISTRICT IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE DISCUSSED BY BOARD MEMBERS.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS HOW TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION TO FACTORY OPERATORS BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IN TUI MIN HOI.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AT THE SITTING-OUT AREA FOR THE ELDERLY BEHIND MAN YEE PUBLIC SCHOOL IN SAI KUNG TOWN.

/INFORMATION WILL .....

INFORMATION WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN REBUILDING, IMPROVEMENT, CLEARANCE AND RESITING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES= A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE= AND THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROADS TO PORTAL C OF PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 9) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

EXPORTERS GET SHORT-SHIPMENT REMINDER  
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IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS ISSUED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE TRADE DEPARTMENT REMINDED EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS, PARTICULARLY QUOTA-SUPPLIERS AND TRANSFERORS OF TEMPORARY QUOTA, THAT THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT LICENSED QUANTITIES ARE WHOLLY SHIPPED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SHORT-SHIPMENTS, WHETHER AGAINST QUOTA OR EXPORT AUTHORISATION (INCLUDING FREE QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATION), WERE REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 14 WORKING DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE GOODS WERE EXPORTED.

CANCELLATION OF AN UNUTILISED EXPORT LICENCE MUST ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 14 WORKING DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE EXPORT LICENCE.

+COMPANIES WHICH FAIL TO DO SO MAY BE SUBJECT TO NON-CREDIT BACK OF THE SHORT-SHIPPED OR UNUTILISED QUANTITY FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-USE= NULLIFICATION OF THE SHORT-SHIPPED OR UNUTILISED QUANTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUOTA ALLOCATION; AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION ACTION,+ HE SAID.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CAUSEWAY BAY  
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CAUSEWAY BAY FOR THREE WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10) TO FACILITATE ROAD WORK.

THE CHANGES ARE:

- \* TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY DOWN HILL.
- \* BUSES ON CMB ROUTE 25 AND 25M HEADING FOR TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND BRAEMAR HILL ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND, FORTRESS HILL ROAD AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD.
- \* VEHICLES ON EASTBOUND CAUSEWAY ROAD HEADING FOR TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE HING FAT STREET, GORDON ROAD, ELECTRIC ROAD, POWER STREET AND FORTRESS HILL ROAD.
- \* VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE EITHER FORTRESS HILL ROAD OR TUNG LO WAN ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER, TAI HANG ROAD, LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD, YEE KING ROAD AND CLOUD VIEW ROAD.

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PROHIBITED ZONE  
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THE KERBSIDE LANE OF JUNCTION ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN DUMBARTON ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD IN KOWLOON WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLES FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY STARTING 10 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10).

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ROAD CLOSURE  
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THE SLIP ROAD LINKING THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WAI YIP STREET AND THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KAI CHEUNG ROAD IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12.30 AM TO 5.45 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 9) TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORKS.

MOTORISTS HEADING FOR KOWLOON BAY AND THE AIRPORT TUNNEL WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE WAI YIP STREET AND KAI FUK ROAD.

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