



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1990

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GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTRODUCE COMPULSORY VOTING IN 1991: CS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTRODUCE COMPULSORY VOTING FOR THE 1991 ELECTIONS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON JAMES TIEN ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER INTRODUCING COMPULSORY VOTING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT BOARDS ELECTIONS IN 1991.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS HIGHLY DEBATABLE WHETHER DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE PRACTISED THROUGH COMPULSION.

HE SAID WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, MOST DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD DID NOT COMPEL PEOPLE TO TURN OUT TO VOTE BY LAW.

"IN HONG KONG, WE RECOGNISE THAT IT IS A RIGHT OF OUR PEOPLE TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS.

"IN A FREE SOCIETY SUCH AS OURS, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE FREE, CONSCIOUS CHOICE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO EXERCISE THIS RIGHT," HE SAID.

ON VOTER REGISTRATION, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SET A TARGET FOR THIS YEAR'S VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE AND WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO ENCOURAGE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO REGISTER.

BY OCTOBER 1, ABOUT 430,000 APPLICATION FORMS HAD BEEN RECEIVED, BUT MANY OF THESE WERE NOTIFICATIONS OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM THOSE ALREADY REGISTERED OR WERE DUPLICATES, HE SAID.

THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS, SAID SIR DAVID, WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN TWO DAYS' TIME, ON NOVEMBER 9, 1990.

"WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL HAVE 241,530 NEW VOTERS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING 1,597,567.

"AFTER WE HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DELETIONS ON ACCOUNT OF DEATH, EMIGRATION OR LOSS OF CONTACT, THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER WILL CONTAIN ABOUT 1.8 MILLION ELECTORS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL GETTING LATE APPLICATIONS, WHICH IF RECEIVED BEFORE NOVEMBER 20, WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REGISTER TO BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

"BY PROJECTION, WE EXPECT TO ADD ANOTHER 50,000 NEW VOTERS ONTO THE FINAL REGISTER. THIS WOULD BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER ON THE REGISTER TO ABOUT 1.85 MILLION, THAT IS A NET INCREASE OF 252,000 OVER THE NUMBER IN THE EXISTING REGISTER.

"THIS INCREASE COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE AGGREGATE NET INCREASE FROM 1985 TO 1989 OF 156,000," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

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JOIN HANDS TO DEVELOP SOUND WELFARE SERVICES: SHW

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SOUND FOUNDATION OF HONG KONG'S WELFARE SERVICES CAN BE FURTHER DEVELOPED TO CATER FOR THE CHANGING PATTERNS OF SOCIETY AND TO FULFIL THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ITS COMMUNITY INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO 1990'S AND BEYOND IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MRS WONG SAID SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

MRS WONG SAID SHE WAS GRATEFUL TO LEARN THAT MANY MEMBERS SHARED THE WORKING PARTY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY, CHILD CARE AND YOUTH SERVICES.

SHE STRESSED THAT THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES, WHICH WOULD WISH TO RE-EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

DURING THE DEBATE, MRS WONG NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN IMPORTANT REFERENCES TO THE NEED FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE LEAN YEARS OF OLD AGE PARTICULARLY AS THIS ELEMENT OF THE POPULATION WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE AND SOME MEMBERS HAD SUGGESTED THEY WERE BEING DUMPED BY THE YOUNG.

"GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF PROVIDING FOR SECURITY IN OLD AGE," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID THIS IN THREE WAYS: FIRST, BY ENHANCING SOCIAL WELFARE PROVISIONS FOR THE ELDERLY; SECONDLY, BY EXTENDING THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME; AND THIRDLY, BY ENCOURAGING THE CREATION OF, AND THE PROPER SUPERVISION OF PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

ON SOCIAL SECURITY, MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT THE APPLICABILITY OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE HAD BEEN IMPROVED AND PROGRESSIVELY EXTENDED SINCE 1988 FROM THE AGE OF 70 TO THE AGE OF 65 BY NEXT YEAR.

"THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS TO PROVIDE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THOSE CONTINGENCIES OF LIFE FROM WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY BY HIS OWN EFFORTS AND FORESIGHT.

"OUR SYSTEM IS, THEREFORE, BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF NEED," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE 1960S THERE HAD BEEN PERIODIC CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME FORMS OF COMPULSORY RETIREMENT SCHEMES IN HONG KONG.

/SHE ADDED

SHE ADDED THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE HAD BEEN ASSESSED BY SEVERAL WORKING PARTIES ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AND THE CONCLUSION REACHED HAD BEEN THAT COMPULSORY MEASURES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FORM OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND OR OTHER CONTRIBUTORY SCHEMES, WOULD HAVE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, A SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY.

FURTHERMORE, SHE SAID WHETHER OR NOT THERE EXISTED OTHER SCHEMES, THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES AND NEEDED THE PROTECTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SAFETY NET.

"OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM SUITS LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

"AS FAR AS SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WITHIN MY PURVIEW IS CONCERNED, WE CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD RETAIN OUR STRENGTH AND CONTINUE WITH THE SYSTEM AND DEVELOP IT FURTHER," SHE SAID.

"WHILST WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO CHANGE, EQUALLY, IF IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CHANGE, THEN IT IS NECESSARY NOT TO CHANGE," SHE REMARKED.

ON RENEWED CALLS BY MEMBERS ON RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND PROVIDENT FUNDS, MRS WONG SAID THEY WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AND THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

AS REGARDS, THE QUESTION OF EX-PRISONERS OF WAR PENSIONS, MRS WONG PROMISED TO GIVE IT EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.

COMMENTING ON MEMBERS' CONCERN ABOUT THE EXCLUSION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AND COMMUNITY BUILDING FROM THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER, MRS WONG SAID SHE WOULD EMBARK ON THE TASK JUST ASSIGNED TO HER TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION BY 1992.

"THIS TIMELY NEW INITIATIVE WILL INCLUDE REVIEWING THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VARIOUS REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, EXPLORE THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF DISABLED PERSONS AND CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS THROUGH WHICH PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN THE POLICY MAKING PROCESS CAN BE ENHANCED," SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS COMMUNITY BUILDING, MRS WONG STRESSED THAT THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FELL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMME AND THE POLICY PURVIEW OF SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

"COMMUNITY WORK HAS SINCE THE LAST DECADE PROGRESSED BEYOND 'WELFARE' AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT INCLUSION OF THIS IN THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER COULD FRAGMENT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMME," SHE EXPLAINED.

MRS WONG SAID SOME MEMBERS HAD CRITICISED GOVERNMENT FUNDING COMMITMENT AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY INTENTIONS AS SET OUT IN THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER AND THEY ALSO URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO AFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES.

"I WELCOME SUCH CRITICISM.

"CRITICISMS OF THIS KIND, ALBEIT BASED IN PART ON MISTAKEN ASSUMPTIONS, WILL BE HELPFUL TO ME IN SECURING BETTER FINANCIAL POSITION IN FUTURE NO DOUBT," SHE SAID.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT SOCIAL WELFARE EXPENDITURE, UNLIKE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, WAS PRIMARILY RECURRENT AND REPRESENTED A PERMANENT COMMITMENT.

"I SHOULD LIKE TO ADD, TOO, THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ENTIRE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE TO THE CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN RISING STEADILY FROM FOUR PER CENT 10 YEARS AGO TO 6.1 PER CENT IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"IT IS FORECAST THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE IN THE COMING YEARS," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE SAID SHE SHARED THE BELIEF OF THE WORKING PARTY THAT THE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN ITS DRAFT WERE AFFORDABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE REALISE THAT GOVERNMENT FUNDS COME FROM TAXPAYERS AND OUR HOPE LIES IN THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMY SO AS TO ENABLE US TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS BUT BETTER MEANS, AND TO CUT OUR COAT ACCORDING TO OUR CLOTH BUT FINER CLOTH," SHE SAID.

SHE THANKED MEMBERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE AND JOINED IN THEIR CALL FOR THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ENDED ON DECEMBER 17.

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HK ANTI II-LAWS EFFECTIVE: ASPREY

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IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG HAS IN PLACE LAWS WHICH EFFECTIVELY DETERS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, MR ASPREY SAID GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WERE VERY WELL AND VERY QUICKLY KNOWN TO PROSPECTIVE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

/REPLYING TO

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS, MR ASPREY EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BILL BY REFERENCE TO THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED, PROSECUTED AND IMPRISONED, AND TO REVIEW WHERE IT STOOD IN SIX MONTHS' TIME.

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO REDUCE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR THE OFFENCE OF ENTERING AND REMAINING UNLAWFULLY IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY FOR FIRST OFFENDERS. AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE NOT TO PROSECUTE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND AT PLACES OF WORK.

"THESE AND OTHER MATTERS CAN BE REVIEWED THEN.

"BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE," HE SAID.

HE AGREED WITH THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR AND THE HON ELSIE TU THAT THERE WAS A NEED, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, TO IMPORT LABOUR INTO HONG KONG.

"BUT I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THIS IMMIGRATION MUST BE CONTROLLED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL, INCLUDING IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES SO AS TO REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLOITATION," MR ASPREY SAID.

TURNING TO MEASURES WHICH EMPLOYERS, AND THOSE IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION SITES SHOULD TAKE TO ENSURE THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE NOT EMPLOYED ON THEIR PREMISES, MR ASPREY EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 17I NOW PROVIDED A DEFENCE FOR EMPLOYERS WHERE ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DETERMINE THAT THE EMPLOYEE HAD LAWFULLY BEEN EMPLOYABLE.

"A SIMILAR DEFENCE IS AVAILABLE TO A CONSTRUCTION SITE CONTROLLER CHARGED WITH AN OFFENCE UNDER THE NEW SECTION 38A," HE ADDED.

MR ASPREY SAID SEVERAL MEMBERS HAD REQUESTED THAT DETAILED GUIDELINES BE LAID DOWN AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTED "ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS".

"THE STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN WILL VARY FROM INDUSTRY TO INDUSTRY, FACTORY TO FACTORY AND CONSTRUCTION SITE TO CONSTRUCTION SITE.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SPECIFY ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS THAT WOULD BE APPLICABLE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SUCH MEASURES COULD INCLUDE CHECKING THE DETAILS OF THE IDENTITY CARD OF A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE, OR OTHER FORM OF IDENTIFICATION; TO INSTITUTE CHECKS ON SITE AT RANDOM TIMES; AND TO MAKE IT A CONDITION OF ENTRY TO A SITE, FACTORY OR OTHER WORK PLACE THAT A PERSON HAD TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF.

"PRACTICAL ADVICE TO EMPLOYERS AND TO THOSE IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS IN EACH POLICE DISTRICT.

"IN ADDITION, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL, ON REQUEST, BE GLAD TO GIVE ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYERS GENERALLY.

"BUT WHETHER THE MEASURES TAKEN CONSTITUTE AN ADEQUATE DEFENCE WILL BE FOR THE COURT TO DETERMINE IN EACH CASE," HE SAID.

THE BILL WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

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PROSECUTIONS POLICY DESIGNED TO DETER IIS, AG SAYS

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A PROSECUTIONS POLICY WHICH WOULD SEEK TO REPATRIATE ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVE OF THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

"SUCH A POLICY WOULD BE, IN MY VIEW, A VIRTUAL INVITATION TO ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO COME FLOODING INTO HONG KONG, THE VERY SITUATION THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO AVOID," SAID MR MATHEWS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROSECUTIONS POLICY WAS DESIGNED TO DETER THOSE CAME HERE FOR EMPLOYMENT.

MR MATHEWS SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO REVIEW THAT POLICY CAREFULLY AFTER SIX MONTHS.

"BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS RIGHT THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL AND THE POLICY DESERVE A FAIR CHANCE TO WORK," HE SAID.

"AS I SAID WHEN I SPOKE ON 17 OCTOBER I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHANGE THE POLICY IF IT DOES NOT WORK. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD, I SUGGEST, BE PREMATURE AND UNWISE TO GIVE THE UNDERTAKING THAT HAS BEEN SOUGHT THIS AFTERNOON THAT WE SHOULD ABANDON THAT PROSECUTIONS POLICY," SAID MR MATHEWS.

HE SAID HAD THERE NOT BEEN A POLICY OF PROSECUTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE NUMBERS COMING HERE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH GREATER.

MR MATHEWS WAS REPLYING TO SUGGESTIONS DURING THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL THAT THE PROSECUTIONS POLICY, ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 17 DURING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL INTO THE COUNCIL, SHOULD BE MODIFIED AND THAT IN FUTURE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES SHOULD BE REPATRIATED BACK TO CHINA WITHOUT PROSECUTION, BUT SHOULD BE PROSECUTED IF THEY CAME BACK HAVING BEEN WARNED.

ON THE QUESTION OF SENTENCES, MR MATHEWS SAID IN SEEKING A REVIEW OF SENTENCE HE DID SO IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ON TIGHTLY CIRCUMSCRIBED GROUNDS.

"THAT IS, IF I BELIEVE THE SENTENCE IS MANIFESTLY INADEQUATE OR WRONG IN PRINCIPLE.

"IT IS FOR THE COURT OF APPEAL TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT IT ACCEPTS MY SUBMISSION ON SENTENCE. THAT IS A MATTER ENTIRELY FOR THE COURT. IT HEARS MY SUBMISSIONS AND IT HEARS SUBMISSIONS FROM THOSE ON THE OTHER SIDE, AND IT TAKES A VIEW.

"IT IS WORTH RESTATING THAT PRINCIPLE CARDINAL TO OUR LEGAL SYSTEM THAT IT IS FOR THE COURT ULTIMATELY TO DECIDE SENTENCE," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

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INTENTION OF TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL FURTHER EXPLAINED

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THE PRINCIPAL INTENTION OF EXTENDING PROPER TOWN PLANNING TO THE RURAL AREAS IS TO ASSIST ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAME WAY AS THE LEGISLATION HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN APPLIED TO GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN AREAS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN HAVING A STATUTORY PLANNING SYSTEM, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN OPEN PROCESS WHICH WOULD GIVE CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT DEVELOPMENT IS DESIRABLE AND WHERE IT SHOULD GO, THUS HELPING LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS IN PLANNING AND USE OF THEIR PROPERTY AND IN MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS," MR LEWIS SAID, WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1939 TO PROVIDE FOR THE SYSTEMATIC PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF ZONING PLANS FOR FUTURE LAY-OUT OF EXISTING AND POTENTIAL URBAN AREAS.

IT PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN PLANNING BOARD; SPECIFIES THE CONTENTS OF THE PLANS THAT THE BOARD MAY MAKE; ESTABLISHES AN EXHIBITION AND OBJECTION PROCEDURE FOR DRAFT PLANS; AND SETS UP A PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF PLANS, THE GRANTING OF PLANNING PERMISSION AND THE RIGHT OF REVIEW OF THE BOARD'S REFUSAL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CONTROL IN ALL THE RURAL AND VILLAGE AREAS WAS CARRIED OUT THROUGH LEASE CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS. SUCH CONTROL WAS, HOWEVER, LIMITED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND AND NOXIOUS ACTIVITIES, AND DID NOT APPLY TO SITUATIONS WHEN A LANDOWNER CHANGED THE USE OF HIS LAND.

"DURING RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN CHANGES IN THE CHARACTER OF A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND AREA, MAINLY DUE TO CONVERSION OF LAND FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSE, WHICH IN TURN HAS GIVEN RISE TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT PROBLEMS.

"THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS A STRONG DEMAND FOR OPEN STORAGE, AND ACCEPTED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SERVED AN ECONOMIC NEED IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, IT WAS EQUALLY NECESSARY FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES TO BE PLANNED AND PROVIDED THROUGH PROPER MANAGEMENT OF LAND USE AND TO MEET CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL, INFRASTRUCTURAL AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXAMINED ALL RELEVANT EXISTING ORDINANCES WITH A VIEW TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SUITABLE AMENDMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE CONTROL.

"IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT ONLY THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE IS A SUITABLE VEHICLE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE BUT IN ITS PRESENT FORM CONTAINS NO SUCH POWERS," HE ADDED.

TO REMEDY THE SITUATION, THE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING MAIN CHANGES TO THE EXISTING ORDINANCE:-

- * FIRST, CLAUSES 2 AND 5 REMOVE THE CONSTRAINTS IN THE ORDINANCE RESTRICTING ITS PROVISIONS TO URBAN AND POTENTIAL URBAN AREAS; AND ADDS TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD'S DUTIES THE DESIGNATION OF DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS;
- * SECONDLY, CLAUSE 4 ALLOWS THE BOARD TO DELEGATE SOME OF ITS DUTIES TO COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, OR TO PUBLIC OFFICERS;
- * THIRDLY, CLAUSE 6(A) EXPANDS THE TYPES OF ZONING WHICH THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD MAY INCLUDE IN A DRAFT PLAN; AND
- * FOURTHLY, CLAUSE 8 CREATES PROVISION FOR PREPARING DRAFT PLANS DESIGNATING AREAS WITHIN WHICH A PERMISSIVE SYSTEM OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL WOULD THEN APPLY, AND POWERS TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SYSTEM.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A SERIES OF DEFINITIONS NEEDED FOR THE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

A CLAUSE PRESCRIBING THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH A PERSON MAY APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WHEN HE IS AGGRIEVED BY THE DECISION OF THE BOARD ON A REVIEW IS ALSO INCLUDED.

ON THIS, MR LEWIS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THIS PERIOD TO 60 DAYS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME FOR OUTLINE ZONING PLANS TO BE PREPARED TO COVER ALL THE RURAL AREAS WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED, MR LEWIS SAID THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD WOULD BE EMPOWERED UNDER THE BILL TO DESIGNATE, AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR, DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS WITHIN WHICH ALL PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN, WILL REQUIRE PLANNING PERMISSION.

THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS WOULD BE GAZETTED AND EXHIBITED IN THE SAME MANNER AND SUBJECT TO THE SAME OBJECTION PROCEDURE AS THE CURRENT STATUTORY OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT CONTROL THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS WAS INTENDED TO BE AN INTERIM MEASURE ONLY, PENDING COMPLETION OF AN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

"THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLAN WILL BE REPLACED BY AN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN WITHIN THREE YEARS (SUBJECT TO ONE YEAR'S EXTENSION), BUT ENFORCEMENT POWERS WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY EVEN WHEN THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLAN IS REPLACED BY AN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

"THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO INTRODUCE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS TO AREAS COVERED BY OUTLINE ZONING PLANS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED SYSTEM, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING WOULD BE GIVEN POWERS OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO DISCONTINUE AN UNAUTHORIZED DEVELOPMENT OR REINSTATE THE LAND WOULD, ON CONVICTION, BE LIABLE TO PUNISHMENT BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT.

"HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE COMMENTS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE BILL, I SHALL BE PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A REDUCTION IN FINES AND THE REMOVAL OF THE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCE," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A SECTION UNDER THE BILL WHICH PROVIDED FOR AN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION SYSTEM, WHEREBY AS FROM THE DATE OF GAZETTING (I.E. JULY 27, 1990), THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING WAS EMPOWERED TO PUBLISH PLANS OF INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MOVE WAS TO AVOID THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE BILL AS EXISTING USES PRIOR TO THE GAZETTING OF DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE.

UNDER THE SECTION, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING MAY APPROVE OR REFUSE APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE OF USE WITHIN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS. PENDING THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL, CONTRAVENTION OF THE INTERIM PLAN CANNOT BE ENFORCED.

/BUT IF

BUT IF THE BILL WAS PASSED AND IF THE AREAS COVERED BY THE INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION PLANS BECOME PART OF A DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE LEGISLATION, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S APPROVAL WOULD BE HONOURED AND DEVELOPMENTS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PLAN WOULD BE ENFORCEABLE.

MR LEWIS STRESSED THAT THE MAIN INTENTION OF THE AMENDMENT BILL WAS TO ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS WOULD PROCEED UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

IT WAS ALSO A POSITIVE MEASURE WHEREBY DEVELOPMENTS BENEFICIAL TO THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PLACE, BOTH IN THE SHORT TERM AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE
ON LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT, BEFORE CONSIDERING TAKING STEP TO INCREASE THE QUOTAS FOR THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEMES WILL NEED TO GAIN SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THE OPERATION OF THESE SCHEMES, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS QUOTA UTILISATION AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY COULD BE POLICED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A STATEMENT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR, MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO NEED TO ASSESS CONDITIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET, AND THE EFFECT OF IMPORTED LABOUR ON BOTH LOCAL WORKERS AND THE BUSINESSES INVOLVED.

"THE STEERING GROUP ON IMPORTATION OF LABOUR HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE QUOTA LIMITS OF THESE TWO SCHEMES SHOULD BE RAISED.

"GIVEN THAT REAL DEMAND EXCEEDS AVAILABLE QUOTA BY NEARLY THREE TIMES, THERE IS ON THE FACE OF IT A CASE FOR RECOMMENDING THAT THE QUOTAS SHOULD BE INCREASED," HE SAID.

OUTLINING TO MEMBERS THE PROGRESS MADE ON IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEMES FOR IMPORTING LABOUR INTO HONG KONG, MR YEUNG SAID WHEN THE SIX-WEEK APPLICATION PERIOD WHICH ENDED ON AUGUST 31, A TOTAL OF 4,524 COMPANIES HAD APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO IMPORT 57,558 WORKERS, MADE UP OF 15,823 SKILLED WORKERS AND 41,735 EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES.

"THESE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE SCHEMES HAVE BEEN OVER-SUBSCRIBED BY NEARLY SIX TIMES IN THE CASE OF SKILLED WORKERS AND OVER FOUR TIMES IN THE CASE OF EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES.

/"THE MAJORITY

"THE MAJORITY OF APPLICATIONS CAME, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, FROM THE GARMENTS INDUSTRY, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY CONSTRUCTION, AND BY THE HOTELS, CATERING AND TOURISM GROUP OF INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WERE NOW GEARED UP TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEMES FOR IMPORTING UP TO 2,700 TECHNICIANS, CRAFTSMEN AND SUPERVISORS, AND FOR IMPORTING UP TO 10,000 EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES.

MR YEUNG ASSURED THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO DEAL WITH VISA APPLICATIONS, ADDING THAT NO APPLICATION THAT WAS IN ORDER WOULD TAKE MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS TO BE APPROVED.

"SIMILARLY, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL INTERVIEW EMPLOYERS WHO NEED GUIDANCE AND GUEST WORKERS AFTER THEY ARRIVE, SO THAT THEY MAY FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"NEEDLESS TO SAY BOTH DEPARTMENTS WILL EXERCISE DUE VIGILANCE: THEY WILL ACT SWIFTLY ON ANY COMPLAINTS THEY RECEIVE ABOUT BREACHES OF VISA CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION," MR YEUNG NOTED.

MR YEUNG SAID MANY APPLICANTS HAD BEEN CONTACTED AND INTERVIEWED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT, ALTOGETHER 20,091 APPLICATIONS, REPRESENTING SOME 35 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, WERE REJECTED FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

THE REASONS INCLUDED: EMPLOYERS OFFERED WAGES BELOW THE PUBLISHED MEDIAN LEVELS, INVOLVED WORKERS WHOSE ATTRIBUTES FELL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE TWO SCHEMES, INVOLVED LABOUR NOT REQUIRED FOR THE BUSINESS CONCERNED, OR INVOLVED COMPANIES SHOWING A LOSS.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE FIRST THREE GROUNDS FOR REJECTION WERE CLEAR AND INCONTROVERTIBLE.

"AS REGARDS THE FOURTH REASON, THE STEERING GROUP ON IMPORTATION OF LABOUR TOOK THE VIEW THAT LOSS MAKING COMPANIES, UNLESS THEY ARE NEWLY ESTABLISHED, ARE IN GREATER DANGER OF GOING OUT OF BUSINESS.

"IF THEY DID THEY WOULD LEAVE BEHIND A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS.

"THERE IS THE FURTHER PROBLEM THAT THEIR INCLUSION WOULD HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF QUOTA BEING SPREAD VERY THINLY AMONG ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS. THIS COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL QUOTA UNDER-UTILISATION," MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

ON QUOTA ALLOCATION, MR YEUNG SAID THE REJECTIONS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF 842 APPLICATIONS LEFT THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BALANCE OF 10,174 JOB APPLICATIONS FOR SKILLED WORKERS AND 26,451 JOB APPLICATIONS FOR EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES.

"THIS STILL REPRESENTED AN EXCESS OF DEMAND OVER AVAILABLE QUOTA OF 3.8 TIMES AND 2.6 TIMES RESPECTIVELY.

"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE STEERING GROUP HAS HAD TO SCALE DOWN ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS INVOLVING EXCESSIVE NUMBERS, AND TO RANK ALL APPLICATIONS IN SOME ORDER OF MERIT," MR YEUNG SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A VERY SMALL RESERVE, VIRTUALLY ALL QUOTA HAD BEEN ALLOCATED, AND NO INDUSTRY HAD AN ALLOCATION LOWER THAN 12 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF SKILLED WORKERS APPLIED FOR, OR BELOW 15 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES APPLIED FOR.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT LETTERS INFORMING SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF THEIR QUOTA ALLOCATION WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 8 AND EMPLOYERS WOULD BE GIVEN FOUR MONTHS WITHIN WHICH TO RECRUIT WORKERS, CONCLUDE CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND ARRANGE FOR THE WORKERS TO OBTAIN VISAS.

"ALL QUOTA SHOULD BE FILLED WITHIN THIS FOUR-MONTH PERIOD.

"UNLESS AN EXTENSION IS GRANTED, FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN QUOTA BEING WITHDRAWN," MR YEUNG ADDED.

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RESOLUTION TO EXTEND TEMPORARY CONTROL OF BUILDING DENSITY
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY CONTROL OF DENSITY OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON) ORDINANCE 1989 FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

THE ORDINANCE IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1990.

MR LEWIS SAID: "THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER OF 1989 PERMITS THE RELAXATION OF AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

"THE TEMPORARY CONTROL ORDINANCE, ENACTED ON JULY 14, 1989, RESTRICTED BUILDINGS TO THE DENSITIES ACHIEVABLE UNDER THE FORMER AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS, BUT ALLOWED GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN BUILDING DESIGN BY PERMITTING THE ERECTION OF TALLER BUILDINGS UP TO THE REVISED AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

"WHEN THIS ORDINANCE WAS FIRST ENACTED IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE AREAS WHERE PERMANENT DENSITY LIMITATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY WOULD BE FEW AND THAT THE LIMITATIONS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF IMPOSITION THROUGH THE AMENDMENT OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

/"SINCE ENACTMENT

"SINCE ENACTMENT, HOWEVER, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN MOST AREAS IS FAR GREATER THAN CAN BE PROVIDED FOR SATISFACTORILY WITH EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE," MR LEWIS SAID.

MOREOVER, HE ADDED, WHEN KAI TAK AIRPORT IS REMOVED AND THERE IS NO FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR HEIGHT LIMITATIONS UNDER THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTION) ORDINANCE, THE REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL WOULD BE LIMITED ONLY BY THE BUILDING (PLANNING) REGULATIONS OR THE STATUTORY OUTLINE ZONING PLANS AND LEASE CONDITIONS, IF APPLICABLE.

"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THERE IS AN OVERALL POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING ACCOMMODATION IN THE URBAN AREA FOR A POPULATION AT A LEVEL WHICH FAR EXCEEDS ANY REASONABLE PLANNING INTENTION.

"BUT TO SET THE LEVELS OF CONTROL SENSIBLY AND EQUITABLY NEEDS EXTENSIVE STUDY - FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WE FORESAW WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS FIRST ENACTED. THESE STUDIES AND THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF THE OUTLINE ZONING PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR RESULTS WILL TAKE A FURTHER THREE YEARS.

"THIS PERIOD WILL BE TAKEN AS THE TARGET TOWARDS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMPLETE ALL THE NECESSARY TASKS AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF PROPOSING ANY FURTHER EXTENSION BEYOND THIS PERIOD," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS ALSO SAID THE LAND MARKET IN KOWLOON HAD ALL ALONG BEEN BASED ON THE LEVEL OF DENSITIES PERMITTED UNDER THE ORIGINAL ORDERS FOR OVER 30 YEARS; THIS ORDER MERELY CONTINUED TO RETAIN THE DENSITIES AT THAT LEVEL, IT DID NOT REDUCE THEM.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, I SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION THAT ALL FORMS OF DENSITY OR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL WILL BE LIFTED AT THE EXPIRY OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION PERIOD OF THREE YEARS," MR LEWIS SAID.

HE SAID SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL WOULD BE NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE SO AS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE LONG-TERM PLANNING STRATEGY FOR THE REGION AS A WHOLE AND FOR INDIVIDUAL AREAS.

"FURTHERMORE, WE ALSO HAVE TO ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL BE MADE WITHOUT EXCEEDING THE CAPACITY OF INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT," MR LEWIS SAID.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1990

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BILL TO ESTABLISH HK'S NEW SHIPPING REGISTER PASSED

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THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION) BILL 1990, WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH HONG KONG'S NEW SHIPPING REGISTER AND CONSTRUCT A PACKAGE OF FEES AND CHARGES TO BE PAYABLE BY SHIPOWNERS, WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID WITH ITS OWN SHIPPING REGISTER, WHICH WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 3, HONG KONG WOULD SUCCEED IN ENHANCING ITS POSITION AS A MAJOR CENTRE OF TRADE AND SHIPPING AND THAT IT WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC IDENTITY OVERSEAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, SHE BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSTRUCTED A PACKAGE OF FEES AND CHARGES THAT WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPETE WITH OTHER REGISTERS OF SIMILAR STANDING.

MRS CHAN SAID THE AIM OF THE BILL WAS TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S SHIPPING REGISTER MAINTAINED A HIGH REPUTATION WHILE BEING COMPETITIVE ENOUGH TO ATTRACT NEW TONNAGE.

"IT BEARS REPEATING THAT HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS WILL BE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND THAT WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN SEEING HONG KONG BECOME A 'FLAG OF CONVENIENCE'.

"THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR EXISTING HARD-EARNED POSITION AS A LEADING CENTRE OF SHIPPING AND MARITIME COMMERCE," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE PROPOSED CHARGES INCLUDED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ANNUAL TONNAGE CHARGE.

IN RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS FROM SHIPOWNERS THAT THE COMBINATION OF THIS CHARGE AND THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR THE TAXATION OF SHIPPING PROFITS WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE HONG KONG REGISTER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED THAT EXEMPTION FROM PROFITS TAX WOULD BE GRANTED IN RESPECT OF PROFITS DERIVED FROM THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS, MAIL, LIVESTOCK AND GOODS UPLIFTED IN HONG KONG BY OCEAN-GOING SHIPS REGISTERED ON THE NEW REGISTER.

THIS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ENACTMENT BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, MRS CHAN ADDED.

"THIS EXEMPTION, WHICH WE INTEND WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW REGISTER, WILL ALSO APPLY TO THE CHARTER HIRE OF OCEAN-GOING SHIPS, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE SHIPS ARE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG.

/"IT WILL

"IT WILL NOT APPLY TO INCOME ARISING FROM JOURNEYS WITHIN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG, AND BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU AND OTHER PLACES IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA."

MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO KEEP THE FEES AND CHARGES STRUCTURE UNDER REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT THE REGISTER REMAINED COMPETITIVE.

THE DRAFT REGULATIONS WHICH CONTAINED THE PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE AMOUNT OF THE PUBLICITY THAT THE REGISTER SHOULD RECEIVE, MRS CHAN SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE REGISTER WAS WELL PUBLICISED AND ACTIVELY PROMOTED.

"THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 23, WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE AND HIS PROFESSIONAL STAFF WILL HOST TWO SEMINARS FOR SHIPOWNERS, SHIPPING MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, BANKERS, MARINE LAWYERS, INSURERS, SHIPBUILDERS AND SHIP CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES TO INTRODUCE THE NEW REGISTER TO THEM IN DETAIL," SHE SAID.

MOREOVER, AFTER THE REGISTER OPENED FOR BUSINESS, MRS CHAN SAID THERE WOULD BE AN EXTENDED PROGRAMME OF VISITS TO INDIVIDUAL SHIPOWNERS AND SHIP MANAGEMENT COMPANIES TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THEM TO MAKE USE OF THE REGISTER.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE MUCH GENERAL PUBLICITY, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS," SHE ADDED.

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PHASING-OUT STRATEGY FOR URBAN LANDFILLS

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OFFENSIVE URBAN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS WOULD BE PROMPTLY PHASED OUT UNDER THE PRESENT STRATEGY FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR LEWIS SAID THE PRESENT STRATEGY FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTES WAS BASED ON THREE LARGE LANDFILLS SITUATED IN REMOTE AREAS AND SERVICED BY A NETWORK OF URBAN REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS.

"INCINERATORS CANNOT ENTIRELY REPLACE LANDFILLS BECAUSE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF OUR WASTE CANNOT BE BURNT.

"ALSO, INCINERATORS PRODUCE ASH WHICH AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF THE WEIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL WASTE, AND REQUIRES DISPOSAL AT LANDFILLS," HE SAID.

/MR LEWIS

MR LEWIS POINTED OUT THAT MODERN DOMESTIC WASTE INCINERATORS, EVEN WITH HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT, WERE NOT POLLUTION-FREE.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE WITH THE USE OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY TO REMOVE MOST OF THE POLLUTANTS GENERATED, THERE WOULD STILL BE SOME TOXIC CONSTITUENTS IN THE CHIMNEY EMISSIONS.

"THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THESE INCINERATORS WOULD BE FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY OUR TOPOGRAPHY AND PROLIFERATION OF HIGH RISE BUILDINGS, WHICH MEANS THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BUILD INCINERATORS IN PLACES FAR AWAY FROM HEAVILY-POPULATED AREAS."

HE SAID THESE IMPLICATIONS AND THE CAPITAL INTENSIVE NATURE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PLANTS HAD MADE INCINERATION A VERY EXPENSIVE OPTION.

"A MODERN INCINERATION PLANT WOULD BE ALMOST THREE TIMES AS COSTLY AS A LANDFILL OF EQUIVALENT CAPACITY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVERTHELESS GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A POTENTIAL ROLE FOR INCINERATORS IN ITS LONGER-TERM STRATEGY, MR LEWIS ADDED.

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BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 INTRODUCED

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THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO AMEND THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO EMPOWER THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO DEMOLISH EXPEDITIOUSLY UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS AND BUILDING WORKS IN CERTAIN PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MR MARTIN LEWIS, SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO ENABLE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO CONTROL THE PROBLEMS OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND DANGEROUS HILLSIDES MORE EFFECTIVELY, AS WELL AS STRENGTHENING THE APPLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN OTHER AREAS.

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIORITY DEMOLITION ORDER BY THE AUTHORITY TO THE DISTRICT COURT WOULD BE WARRANTED WITH THE EXISTENCE OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES:

* WHERE THERE IS AN IMMINENT DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY;

/* WHEN THE

- * WHEN THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING IS ERECTED OR THE BUILDING WORKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT WITH A VIEW TO SALE, LETTING OR DISPOSAL;
- * WHERE THE BUILDING IS SITUATED, OR THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT, IN A COMMON AREA OF A BUILDING OR ON LAND IN MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND SUCH BUILDING WORKS ARE SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE AMENITIES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND
- * WHERE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING OR BUILDING WORKS CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

AN AGGRIEVED PERSON WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN COURT AND THE MAKING OF AN ORDER FOR PRIORITY DEMOLITION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT, MR LEWIS SAID.

ANOTHER MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL IS TO EXPEDITE THE CARRYING OUT OF REMEDIAL WORKS ON DANGEROUS HILLSIDES.

"CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL SEEKS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAY BY ENABLING THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO SERVE TWO ORDERS, ONE REQUIRING INVESTIGATION AND THE SUBMISSION OF REMEDIAL WORKS PROPOSALS, AND THE OTHER REQUIRING THE CARRYING OUT OF THE WORKS SPECIFIED IN THE PROPOSALS.

"IF THE OWNER DOES NOT CARRY OUT THE INVESTIGATION BY A DATE SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST ORDER, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY MAY STEP IN AND CARRY OUT THE INVESTIGATION AND NECESSARY WORKS TO MAKE THE LAND OR STRUCTURE SAFE WITHOUT SENDING THE SECOND ORDER.

"THESE NEW PROCEDURES WOULD SPEED UP THE NECESSARY REMEDIAL WORKS ON DANGEROUS HILLSIDES, THUS ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS SAID AT PRESENT, EXCEPT IN CASES OF EXTREME EMERGENCY, IT NORMALLY TOOK ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO DEMOLISH UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS OR BUILDING WORKS.

IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS AND BUILDING WORKS WERE DEMOLISHED IN A MATTER OF DAYS FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

SINCE 1985, MORE THAN 460 APPEALS HAD BEEN LODGED AGAINST THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS OR BUILDING WORKS.

"CLAUSE 9 OF THE BILL NOW SEEKS TO DETER FRIVOLOUS APPEALS BY EMPOWERING THE APPEAL TRIBUNAL TO AWARD COSTS FOR THESE APPEALS," HE SAID.

IT ALSO ENABLED THE APPEAL TRIBUNAL TO HOLD ITS HEARINGS IN PUBLIC AND PUBLISHED ITS DECISIONS IF THE TRIBUNAL CONSIDERS THE SUBJECT OF THE INQUIRY TO BE OF IMPORTANCE OR INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE BILL WERE SOME MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THE AMENDMENTS SOUGHT TO CORRECT A TEXTUAL ERROR BY REPLACING "AUTHORISED ARCHITECT" WITH "AUTHORISED PERSON"; TO MAKE THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALLOCATING BUILDING NUMBERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY; AND TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF AN APPEAL TRIBUNAL TO BE REMUNERATED AT A RATE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR, INSTEAD OF HAVING REMUNERATION DETERMINED IN EACH CASE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO STRENGTHEN CONTROL ON UNTREATED MILK AND ANIMAL TRADERS
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THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO PROVIDE POWERS TO ENABLE THE SETTING OF HYGIENE STANDARDS FOR UNTREATED MILK AND TO EXTEND THE EXISTING ENABLING POWERS RELATING TO THE LICENSING OF ANIMAL TRADERS AND THEIR BUSINESS PREMISES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS CHAN SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN THE CEILING FOR PENALTIES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) ORDINANCE.

MRS CHAN SAID MILK MUST BE HEAT TREATED TO DESTROY BACTERIA AND OTHER MICRO-ORGANISMS BEFORE IT COULD BE MARKETED.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT STANDARD FORMS OF HEAT TREATMENT, SUCH AS PASTEURIZATION, REQUIRED THE INPUT OF REASONABLY HYGIENIC MILK AND COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO MAKE HEAVILY CONTAMINATED MILK COMPLETELY SAFE.

IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT UNTREATED MILK WAS KEPT FREE FROM CONTAMINATION SO THAT THE MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS SOLD TO THE PUBLIC WOULD BE SAFE AND HYGIENIC, SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DAIRIES REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF DAIRIES BUT THEY DID NOT SET HYGIENE STANDARDS FOR UNTREATED MILK OR PROVIDED FOR ITS BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

"THE BILL THEREFORE PROVIDES FOR POWERS TO ENABLE ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS TO BE MADE ALLOWING THE TAKING OF MILK SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, SETTING STATUTORY STANDARDS FOR BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION AND PROHIBITING THE SALE OF CONTAMINATED MILK.

/"THE STANDARDS

"THE STANDARDS TO BE SET WILL BE THE SAME AS THOSE SPECIFIED IN THE MILK BY-LAWS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, WHICH APPLY TO THE SALE OF TREATED MILK OR MILK BEVERAGES," SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE ENABLING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER THE STANDARDS MAINTAINED BY PERSONS OR BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN THE TRADING, BOARDING OR EXHIBITION OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, WHEREAS AT PRESENT ONLY A PERSON ENGAGED IN THE TRADING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS HAS TO BE LICENSED, THE BILL WILL ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE EXTENDING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS TO PREMISES WHERE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ARE KEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE BUSINESS," SHE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO RAISE THE PENALTY CEILING FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE REGULATIONS, WHICH WAS LAST REVISED IN 1970, FROM \$2,000 TO \$5,000 TO MAINTAIN THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT, MRS CHAN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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DISQUALIFIED DRIVERS TO SURRENDER ALL DRIVING LICENCES

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REQUIRING A DRIVER DISQUALIFIED UNDER THE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS SCHEME TO SURRENDER ALL HIS DRIVING LICENCES AND PERMITS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, MR LEUNG SAID THE LICENCES AND PERMITS SURRENDERED WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE DISQUALIFIED PERSON UPON EITHER HIS DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG OR THE EXPIRY OF THE DISQUALIFICATION PERIOD, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURRED EARLIER.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT WHEN A PERSON WAS DISQUALIFIED FROM DRIVING FOR HAVING INCURRED 15 OR MORE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS WITHIN TWO YEARS, HE WAS REQUIRED TO SURRENDER HIS HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCE.

"BUT HE MAY STILL DRIVE USING HIS INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN DRIVING LICENCES OR PERMITS DURING THE DISQUALIFICATION PERIOD. THIS BREACHES THE SPIRIT OF THE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS SCHEME," HE SAID.

THE BILL HE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RECTIFIED THIS ANOMALY.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG SAID THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERED THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO CALCULATE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS ACCORDING TO THE METHOD USED BY MAGISTRATES.

HE SAID: "WHEN A PERSON HAS INCURRED 15 OR MORE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MUST APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR A SUMMONS.

"THE PRESENT LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT WHERE TWO OR MORE OFFENCES HAVE ARISEN OUT OF THE SAME ACT, ONLY THE OFFENCE ATTRACTING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POINTS SHOULD BE COUNTED, AND WHERE THEY ATTRACT THE SAME NUMBER OF POINTS, ONLY ONE OF THE OFFENCES SHOULD BE COUNTED.

HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER IS NOT AT PRESENT EMPOWERED TO USE THIS METHOD OF CALCULATION AND MUST RECORD ALL MULTIPLE OFFENCES AND REFER CASES TO A MAGISTRATE, THEREBY CREATING UNNECESSARY WORK," MR LEUNG SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT THAT THE BILL BROUGHT ABOUT WAS TO CLARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN LIABILITY TO A FIXED PENALTY AROSE, CEASED, OR REVIVED. NO POLICY CHANGES WERE INVOLVED.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FLEXI-STAFF DEPLOYMENT TO COPE WITH INFLUX OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC
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TO COPE WITH THE VOLUME OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC AT TIMES OF PEAK DEMAND AT THE LO WU TERMINAL, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS ADDITIONAL STAFF TO MAN AS MANY IMMIGRATION COUNTERS AS POSSIBLE IN THE DIRECTION WHERE DEMAND IS HIGHEST.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EDWARD HO, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS AIMING AT COMPLETING IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE OF ALL PASSENGERS WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF 30 MINUTES.

"THIS STANDARD IS GENERALLY ACHIEVED, INCLUDING AT THE LO WU TERMINAL.

"HOWEVER, DURING PEAK PERIOD AND FESTIVE PERIODS, PARTICULARLY AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, SOME PASSENGERS MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR MORE THAN 30 MINUTES," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT THE DAILY AVERAGE PASSENGER FLOW THROUGH LO WU IN 1990 IS 73,000, WHICH IS 2,000 LESS PER DAY THAN IN 1988.

/HOWEVER, HE

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HOWEVER, HE SAID, FUTURE GROWTH IN TRAFFIC MUST BE EXPECTED.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNDER PLANNING A PROJECT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WAITING SPACE OF ABOUT 1800 SQUARE METRES AND AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTERS FOR PASSENGER CLEARANCE FROM 88 TO 160.

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331 TAXI-METER OFFENCE CASES PROSECUTED IN TWO YEARS

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THE NUMBER OF TAXI-METER OFFENCE CASES PROSECUTED BY THE POLICE SINCE OCTOBER 1988 TOTALLED TO 331, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR LEUNG SAID THESE CASES RESULTED FROM POLICE ACTING ON COMPLAINTS AS WELL AS CONDUCTING RANDOM ROADSIDE CHECKS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

MR LEUNG SAID DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 476 COMPLAINTS CONCERNING OVERCHARGING AS A RESULT OF SUSPECTED TAMPERING OF TAXI-METERS.

OF THESE, 243 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION AFTER THE COMPLAINANTS HAD INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO FURTHER PURSUE THEIR COMPLAINTS.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS CONCERNING TAXI-METER OFFENCES RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DURING THE SAME PERIOD WAS 615, INCLUDING THOSE REFERRED BY THE TCU.

MANY OF THE COMPLAINTS RESULTED IN PROSECUTIONS BEING INSTITUTED UNDER OTHER SECTIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE UPON FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE.

MR LEUNG SAID APART FROM ACTING ON COMPLAINTS, THE POLICE ALSO TOOK ACTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT TAXI-METER OFFENCES BY CONDUCTING RANDOM ROADSIDE CHECKS. THIS WAS SHOWN IN THE HIGH PROSECUTION FIGURE OF 331, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1990

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MOTION ON SOCIAL WELFARE DRAFT WHITE PAPER PASSED

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THE MOTION ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, MOVED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LEGCO) TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIXTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION AND THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION UNDER THE TEMPORARY CONTROL OF DENSITY OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON) ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

MOVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE MOTION EXTENDED THE ORDINANCE TO DECEMBER 31, 1993.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER HAD MADE A STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR.

MEANWHILE, TWO BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE LEGCO. THEY WERE THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION) BILL 1990 AND THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

IN ADDITION, FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

DEBATE ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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NEW AIRPORT VITAL TO FUTURE PROSPERITY

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HONG KONG SHOULD APPROACH THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WITH A SENSE OF WELL-EARNED PRIDE IN PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO ACHIEVE STILL MORE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE BUSINESS INFORMATION DAY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS OF ECONOMICS, AT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE.

SHE SAID THAT HONG KONG LIVED BY TRADE AND THAT 30 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 16 PER CENT OF RE-EXPORTS AND 20 PER CENT OF IMPORTS BY VALUE PASSED THROUGH KAI TAK LAST YEAR. EIGHTY-FIVE PER CENT OF TOURISTS ARRIVED BY AIR. AN EFFICIENT AIRPORT IS VITAL TO THE TERRITORY'S PROSPERITY.

"LET US BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS. WE ALREADY FACE STRONG COMPETITION FROM OUR NEIGHBOURING CITIES, AND THIS COMPETITION WILL INCREASE," MRS CHAN SAID.

"HONG KONG MUST NOT ALLOW ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD BACK BY INADEQUATE AIRPORT FACILITIES.

"THIS YEAR WE EXPECT TO SEE THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING THE KAI TAK TERMINAL TO REACH 18.5 MILLION, REPRESENTING A 14 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1989 AND A CONTINUATION OF THE AVERAGE 15 PER CENT GROWTH EXPERIENCED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

"CARGO THROUGHPUT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY SOME EIGHT PER CENT TO 788,000 TONNES AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS BY OVER 12 PER CENT TO 106,000.

"IF THESE TRENDS CONTINUE THEN KAI TAK WILL HAVE REACHED FULL CAPACITY BY 1993.

"EVEN ON THE MORE CONSERVATIVE GROWTH RATES ASSUMED BY OUR CONSULTANTS IN 1988, CAPACITY WILL STILL BE REACHED BY 1996 AND, AT THAT POINT, WE WOULD BEGIN TO HAVE TO TURN BUSINESS AWAY."

MRS CHAN SAID MUCH HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT WEEKS OF APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ESTIMATES OF ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS WHICH HONG KONG WOULD SUFFER IF IT HAD TO MAKE DO WITH AN AIRPORT OPERATING AT, OR BEYOND CAPACITY.

"IN FACT THERE WAS NO REAL DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONSULTANTS CONCERNED, BOTH OF WHOM PREDICTED ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS WELL IN EXCESS OF \$100 BILLION AT PRESENT PRICES WERE NO NEW AIRPORT TO BE PROVIDED BY 2010.

/"THE REASON

"THE REASON WHY THE CONFUSION AROSE WAS THAT ONE CONSULTANT ALSO FORMULATED OTHER ESTIMATES OF THE ECONOMIC COST BASED ON COMPARISON WITH A SCENARIO IN WHICH GROWTH AT KAI TAK WAS CONSTRAINED BY MEASURES SUCH AS RAISING AIRPORT CHARGES TO AN UNREALISTICALLY HIGH LEVEL AND DRASTICALLY LIMITING ACCESS BY AIRLINES," SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID COMMON SENSE DICTATED THAT A SITUATION WHERE THE AIRPORT WAS UNDER CHRONIC RESTRAINT SHOULD BE AVOIDED -- COMPETITORS WOULD QUICKLY SNAP UP THE RESULTING LOST BUSINESS.

"AS MANY OF YOU KNOW WE CAN ONLY OBTAIN MORE RIGHTS FOR OUR AIRLINES TO FLY TO EXISTING OR NEW DESTINATIONS IF WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER RECIPROCAL RIGHTS TO FLY TO HONG KONG TO THE AIRLINES OF OUR AVIATION PARTNERS.

"IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE CAN ONLY OFFER SUCH RIGHTS IF WE HAVE AN AIRPORT WITH ENOUGH CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE MORE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES."

MRS CHAN SAID THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD OFFER TREMENDOUS IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGES OVER KAI TAK AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLE LONGER TERM BENEFIT TO HONG KONG'S AVIATION INDUSTRY AND THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

"EVEN WITH ONLY ONE RUNWAY OPEN THE AIRPORT WILL PROVIDE MUCH GREATER CAPACITY THAN KAI TAK AS A RESULT OF ITS BETTER LOCATION AND ABILITY TO OPERATE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.

"THE 350,000 PEOPLE LIVING UNDER THE KAI TAK FLIGHT PATH WILL BE RELIEVED OF THE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF NOISE THEY CURRENTLY ENDURE AND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SO CLOSE TO DENSELY POPULATED URBAN AREAS WILL IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEAR.

"THE POTENTIAL FOR ROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATION WILL OFFER PARTICULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A HUB FOR LONG-HAUL DESTINATIONS," SHE SAID.

"WE CAN ALSO EXPECT TO SEE LARGE INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF FREIGHT BEING HANDLED AT THE NEW AIRPORT, GIVEN THAT CARGO SERVICES CAN MAKE USE OF TAKE-OFF AND LANDING SLOTS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHICH ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE TO PASSENGER SERVICES," SHE ADDED.

ANOTHER BENEFIT WOULD BE THE AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR AIRPORT-RELATED BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

"PRESENT PLANNING ENVISAGES THE TERMINALS AND MAIN AIRPORT SUPPORT FACILITIES LOCATED BETWEEN THE TWO RUNWAYS, THEREBY CUTTING DOWN ON THE TIME SPENT BY AIRCRAFT TAXIING TO AND FROM THE MAIN RUNWAYS AND INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF ROUTINE LOADING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS," MRS CHAN SAID.

ON CRITICISM OF THE PROJECT, MRS CHAN SAID: "I AM FRANKLY SURPRISED AND DISMAYED THAT SO MANY IN THIS COMMUNITY SEEM TO DOUBT THE NECESSITY FOR A NEW AIRPORT AND OUR ABILITY TO COMPLETE IT.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE NOT A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS A REPUTATION FOR FAILING TO DELIVER. ON THE CONTRARY, AS A GOVERNMENT AND A COMMUNITY WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN OURSELVES CAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLETING IT ON SCHEDULE AND WITHIN BUDGET, TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

"THE LAST 20 YEARS HAVE SEEN US TURN NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGES INTO SELF-CONTAINED NEW TOWNS HOUSING SOME TWO MILLION PEOPLE. WE HAVE BUILT TWO CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNELS, A NEW MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, RESERVOIRS, MAJOR NEW ROADS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

"THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ON WHICH WE ARE NOW EMBARKED IS AN AMBITIOUS ONE, BUT WE ARE EMBARKING ON IT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES TO SEE IT THROUGH."

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WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE ESSENTIAL TO STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

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IF HONG KONG IS TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997, IT IS IMPERATIVE AND ESSENTIAL THAT THE TERRITORY CAN COUNT ON A STEADY SUPPLY OF A WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE.

THIS WORKFORCE SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF ADJUSTING AND ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LI SAID THIS AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR TRAINER TRAINING COURSES OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE HELD AT CITY HALL.

"IN FACT OUR 'ECONOMIC MIRACLE' DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT ON OUR WORKFORCE'S ABILITY TO COPE WITH AND RESPOND TO THE MANY CHALLENGES OF CHANGES, WHICH INCLUDE THE RAPIDITY OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, THE DEMANDS OF INCREASED COMPETITION, AND THE NEED TO PENETRATE NEW MARKETS," HE SAID.

TO PRODUCE THIS WORKFORCE, HE SAID HONG KONG MUST HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS AND TRAINERS WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

MR LI SAID THIS TASK WAS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR TRAINING PROGRAMMES WILL PROVIDE THE WORKFORCE WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO PRODUCE SERVICES THAT WILL MEET WORLD CLASS STANDARDS.

HE WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, IS PLANNING TO EXPAND ITS PRESENT TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO INCLUDE COURSES FOR TRAINERS IN FURTHER AND ADULT EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

"I AM EQUALLY DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT, IN ORDER TO UPDATE AND FURTHER DEVELOP THE INSTRUCTIONAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED BASIC TRAINING FROM THE COLLEGE IN THIS AREA, THE COLLEGE WILL START THE FIRST CLASS OF THE NEW ADVANCED COURSE IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES IN FEBRUARY 1991," HE SAID.

MR LI ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO SENIOR EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS IN BOTH COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO HAD SHOWN A KEEN INTEREST IN THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND HAD GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COURSES.

A TOTAL OF 496 GRADUATES FROM THE TRAINING PERSONNEL OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES FROM MR LI.

OF THE TOTAL GRADUATES, 35 PER CENT WERE FROM PRIVATE FIRMS, 25 PER CENT FROM THE SERVICING INDUSTRIES, 20 PER CENT FROM THE TRAINING WINGS OF 10 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND FIVE PER CENT FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES.

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HK AND NEW ZEALAND SHARE COMMON COMMITMENT

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HONG KONG AND NEW ZEALAND SHARE A COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE FREE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY, MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM ENSHRINED IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADES AND TRADE (GATT), THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING ORGANISED BY THE NEW ZEALAND HONG KONG ASSOCIATION.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG AND NEW ZEALAND HAD WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ECONOMIES AND TO BALANCE THE EXTREME POSITIONS ADOPTED BY SOME OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

"WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, CO-SPONSORED PROPOSALS ADVOCATING A FORMULA APPROACH TO TARIFF REDUCTION; A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO REDUCE NON-TARIFF MEASURES; PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SPEED UP THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCESS; AND THE OPERATION OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW MACHANISM TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GATT SYSTEM.

"ON MANY OTHER BEING DEBATED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND, WE HAVE ALSO FOUND OURSELVES HOLDING SIMILAR, IF NOT IDENTICAL, VIEWS," HE SAID.

APART FROM THE AREA OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE POLICY, MR CHAN SAID BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND NEW ZEALAND HAD ALSO BEEN GROWING IN MANY WAYS AND THEIR MUTUAL INVESTMENT HAD BEEN INCREASING.

/HE SAID

HE SAID TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND HONG KONG INCREASED FROM LESS THAN \$1.4 BILLION IN 1985 TO OVER \$2.3 BILLION IN 1989, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL COMPOUND GROWTH RATE OF MORE THAN 14 PER CENT.

"I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THE EVER-GROWING NUMBER OF NEW ZEALAND COMPANIES COMING TO HONG KONG TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES AND OTHER BUSINESS OPERATIONS," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG WAS TAKING STEPS TO SUPPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT OF MORE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES.

"WE ARE NOW BUILDING AN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WHICH IS PLANNED TO COME ON STREAM EARLY IN 1993, TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR NEW AND SMALL-SCALE HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES.

"A SERIES OF SERVICES SUCH AS PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, AND PRODUCT DESIGN WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS TO HELP SHARPEN THE COMPETITIVE EDGE OF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID ALL THESE ACTIONS WERE AIMED AT ENABLING HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC INDUSTRIAL AND TRADING ECONOMIES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

"TOGETHER, THEY CONSTITUTE A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING, THAT OF BUILDING FOR A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THAT AS HONG KONG ENGAGED IN THIS PROCESS, THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN AND LOCAL COMPANIES ALIKE.

"WE WELCOME COMPANIES FROM NEW ZEALAND TO JOIN US IN OUR GREAT UNDERTAKING," HE SAID.

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SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST GIVEN FACELIFT

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MA SHI CHAU, A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST OFF TAI PO, WAS GIVEN A FACELIFT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTER A SPECIAL CLEAN-UP OPERATION ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

THE ISLAND WAS DESIGNATED A SPECIAL SITE IN 1982 BECAUSE OF ITS RARE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCUMULATION OF LITTER AND JUNK WASHED ASHORE BY TIDAL WAVES.

/CLEANING UP

CLEANING UP THE ISLAND WAS NO EASY JOB AS IT IS NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD AND LANDING FROM A BOAT IS DIFFICULT.

AT TODAY'S OPERATION, MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE JOINED HANDS WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, FISHERMEN AND YOUNGSTERS IN REMOVING EYESORES ON THE ISLAND AND GIVING IT A NEW, CLEAN LOOK.

PRESENT AT THE OPERATION WERE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS MS HO ON-NEI, MR LAI KWOK-IU, MR YEUNG PO-KWAN AND MR HUMPHREY KEENLYSIDE, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR MR TANG PUI-TAT, TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MS LAM WAI-LING, MR CHAN KOON-YAU AND MR KWONG KAI-TO, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE YIM TIN TSAI MARICULTURE ZONE AND 40 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS FROM TAI PO.

THE PARTY WAS TAKEN ASHORE BY A LANDING CRAFT PROVIDED BY THE BRITISH FORCES WHO HAD RENDERED ASSISTANCE IN SIMILAR OPERATIONS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

DURING THE SIX-HOUR OPERATION, WHICH ALSO COVERED YIM TIN TSAI, A TOTAL OF THREE TONNES OF REFUSE COMPRISING HOUSEHOLD WASTES, FOAM BOXES AND WOODEN PLANKS WAS COLLECTED.

THE REFUSE WAS LOADED ONTO THE LANDING CRAFT AND THEN TRANSPORTED BY A REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE TO THE NEARBY SHUEN WAN LANDFILL FOR DISPOSAL.

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CAREERS SHOW FOR YOUTHS

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YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PERSONAL GUIDANCE WITH THEIR FUTURE CAREERS BY VISITING THE "CAREERS '91 EXHIBITION" TO BE OPENED AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 9).

THE 10-DAY EXHIBITION, NOW IN ITS 19TH YEAR, IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

TWENTY-FOUR ORGANISATIONS FROM COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, SOCIAL SERVICE, BANKING, PROFESSIONAL BODIES, PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION.

"THIS ANNUAL EVENT PROVIDES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, TO GET FIRST-HAND CAREERS INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE," A LABOUR OFFICER OF THE CAS, MRS NORA YEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE EXHIBITORS WILL PRESENT INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF JOBS OFFERED, NATURE OF WORK, APPLICATION PROCEDURES, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND PROSPECTS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARTS AND GRAPHS, MODELS, AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, MICROCOMPUTERS AND LEAFLETS," MRS YEUNG SAID.

"A SERIES OF CAREERS TALKS AND VIDEO SHOWS ON VARIOUS TRADES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE EXHIBITION VENUE," SHE SAID.

IN ADDITION, JOB DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS WILL BE STAGED BY VARIOUS DISCIPLINED AND AUXILIARY SERVICES AT THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND THE NEW TOWN PLAZA ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS DURING THE EXHIBITION PERIOD.

TO AROUSE VISITORS' INTEREST, A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WILL BE ORGANISED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, WITH THE EXHIBITION AND ITS OUTDOOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS AS THE THEME.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR PROFESSOR POON CHUNG-KWONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AND COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR TONY HAMMOND ON FRIDAY.

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, WINNERS OF A STUDENT BOOK MARK DESIGN COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXHIBITION WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES.

"THE WORK OF THE CHAMPION, ILLUSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING A RIGHT CAREER, HAS BEEN PRINTED FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE EXHIBITION," MRS YEUNG SAID.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 9.30 AM TO 6.30 PM DAILY UNTIL NOVEMBER 19. ADMISSION IS FREE.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP VISITS MAY CONTACT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 601 5075.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "CAREERS '91 EXHIBITION" AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY, SHA TIN TOWN HALL, AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 9).

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WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 9) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES BOUNDED BY FU YUNG STREET, YUEN TUN CIRCUIT, TAI HO ROAD AND SHA TSUI ROAD.

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