



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1983

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**TAI PO ROAD PROJECT  
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WORK WILL START IN THE NORTHERN PART OF TAI PO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR ON A MAJOR ROAD PROJECT WHICH FORMS A VITAL PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE.

THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE KILOMETRE OF A DUAL THREE-LANE TRUNK ROAD BETWEEN NORTH TAI PO AND LAM KAM ROAD, A GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGE AND A ROUNDABOUT WITH ASSOCIATED SLIP ROADS.

ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR MAJOR VEHICULAR BRIDGES AND FOUR PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS AND THE RETRAINING OF A SECTION OF LAM TSUEN RIVER.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 33 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, ARE NOW BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

ON COMPLETION, THE NEW SECTION OF THE TRUNK ROAD WILL LINK UP WITH SHA TIN - TAI PO COASTAL TRUNK ROAD VIA THE TAI PO BYPASS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, TO FORM A MAJOR PART OF THE CIRCULAR ROUTE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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**NEW MUSIC CENTRE IN NT OPENED  
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THE OPENING OF A NEW MUSIC CENTRE IN YUEN LONG TODAY WILL FURTHER PROMOTE MUSIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE IS THE SECOND OF ITS KIND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST -- THE NEW TERRITORIES MUSIC CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN -- WILL BE RENAMED TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE AND WILL COVER THE TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS DISTRICTS.

+WITH THE OPENING OF THE YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE, WE HOPE THAT THE INCREASING DEMAND IN THE YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICTS FOR MUSIC ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING WILL BE CATERED FOR.

+THE CENTRE WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN THE MUSIC OFFICE AND DISTRICT BOARDS AS WELL AS AMONG LOCAL CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN PROMOTING AND ORGANISING DISTRICT MUSIC ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

/LOCATED ON .....

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LOCATED ON THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS OF YUEN LONG CENTRE AT SAU FU STREET, THE MUSIC CENTRE CONSISTS OF SIX PRACTICE ROOMS, BAND AND ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL ROOM, A LIBRARY-CONFERENCE ROOM, A GENERAL OFFICE AND A COMMON ROOM FOR TEACHING STAFF.

MR LAU WONG-FAT, THE CHAIRMAN OF HEUNG YEE KUK; MR J.K. WILSON, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, YUEN LONG; MR LO KAR-CHUN, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TAI PO, AND OTHER NEW TERRITORIES DIGNITARIES OFFICIATED AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY HOSTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM.

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**TUEN MUN TO HOLD SEVENTH DB MEETING**  
**\* \* \* \***

RESULTS OF A SURVEY ON THE RESIDENTS' AND WORKERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY (MARCH 21).

THE SURVEY WAS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD'S COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE LAST OCTOBER.

ANOTHER REPORT ON A SURVEY ON THE EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TOWN WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE FUNDS ALLOCATION AND THE PROPOSED MEMBERSHIPS FOR COMMITTEES IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

SOME SEATS WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, AND PEOPLE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD TELEPHONE THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 0-843801.

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**←ACCIDENT-FREE CERTIFICATES→ FOR NTSD DRIVERS  
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THIRTY-SIX DRIVERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHO HAD A CLEAR RECORD WHILE ON DRIVING DUTY DURING THE LAST THREE TO FIVE YEARS WERE PRESENTED WITH ACCIDENT-FREE CERTIFICATES TODAY (SATURDAY).

TWENTY-EIGHT OF THEM RECEIVED CERTIFICATES FOR CAREFUL DRIVING FOR THREE YEARS WHILE THE REMAINING EIGHT WERE FOR FIVE YEARS.

THE DRIVERS WERE IN CHARGE OF VARIOUS NTSD VEHICLES, INCLUDING REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES, STREET WASHING VEHICLES, DESLUDGE VEHICLES AND MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPERS.

THEY WERE PRESENTED THEIR CERTIFICATES BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, AT A CEREMONY AT THE KOWLOON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT SAI YEE STREET.

PRESENTING THE CERTIFICATES, MR HEYWOOD SAID HE HOPED THAT THE DRIVERS' PERFORMANCES WOULD SERVE AS GOOD EXAMPLES TO THEIR COLLEAGUES AND HELP TO REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.

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**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ANNUAL DINNER  
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EIGHTY-EIGHT CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RECEIVED A WELCOMED SURPRISE FROM THEIR COMMISSIONER, MR T.G. GARNER AT AN ANNUAL STAFF DINNER LAST NIGHT WHEN THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY WOULD BE PROMOTED ONE GRADE FROM ASSISTANT OFFICER II TO ASSISTANT OFFICER I.

MR GARNER WHO SAID THE PROMOTIONS WERE TO STAFF NEW INSTITUTIONS REVEALED THAT MORE PROMOTIONS WERE ANTICIPATED DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

DURING THE DINNER, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1 400 MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, MR GARNER PRESENTED A COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE TO ASSISTANT OFFICER, MISS WONG YIN-FUNG OF THE REFUGEE UNIT FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF DUTY.

HE ALSO PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONER'S CUP TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR BEST PERFORMANCE AT THE ANNUAL PARADE.

MRS BEVERLEY GARNER ALSO PRESENTED SOUVENIR CUPS TO STANLEY PRISON AND TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION STAFF FOR ORGANISING THE BEST STALLS AT THE RECENT AUTUMN FAIR HELD AT STANLEY.

LAST NIGHT'S DINNER ALSO MARKED THE INAUGURATION OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

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SHA TIN STALLS FOR LETTING

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TWENTY STALLS IN SHA TIN WILL BE PUT UP FOR LETTING AT A PUBLIC AUCTION ON TUESDAY (MARCH 22).

ONE OF THEM WILL BE AT SHA TIN MARKET, 11 AT TAI WAI TEMPORARY MARKET AND EIGHT AT FO TAN WEST COOKED FOOD BAZAAR.

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 10 AM AT THE LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL IN LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE STALL AT SHA TIN MARKET IS FOR SELLING FISH AND THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL IS \$5 000, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OF THE 11 STALLS AT TAI WAI TEMPORARY MARKET, EIGHT ARE FOR SELLING WET GOODS, TWO FOR SELLING DRY GOODS AND ONE FOR SELLING ICE.

THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTALS FOR THE WET AND DRY GOODS STALLS RANGE FROM \$1 300 TO \$1 400 AND THAT FOR THE ICE STALL IS \$1 500.

THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL FOR THE EIGHT STALLS AT FO TAN WEST COOKED FOOD BAZAAR IS \$3 800 EACH.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY THE RENTAL QUARTERLY AND MAY START BUSINESS ON APRIL 1 ON A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BIDDERS WHO MUST BE OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE AUCTION.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF THE SHA TIN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-623467.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN CENTRAL

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THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FROM GILMAN STREET TO JUBILEE STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 4 PM NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 21), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

WITHIN THE SECTION, ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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LEARNER DRIVER PROHIBITION IN HO MAN TIN

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FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 21), LEARNER DRIVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE IN CHUNG HAU STREET, CHUNG MAN STREET, HAU MAN STREET, GOOD SHEPHERD STREET AND CARMEL VILLAGE STREET IN HO MAN TIN, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

## SUPPLEMENT

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
SIR EDWARD YOUDE, GCMG, MBE, AT THE  
OPENING OF THE 56TH GENERAL SCIENTIFIC  
MEETING OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF SURGEONS HELD ON 20 MARCH 1983

"HONG KONG - THE CITY WHICH CARES"

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be present today at the 56th General Scientific Meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Hong Kong is indeed honoured to have been chosen to play host to such a distinguished group of delegates and overseas visitors, and I welcome you all. I hope this meeting will provide an opportunity for you to establish closer ties among fellow surgeons and anaesthetists throughout the Western Pacific and South East Asia region, and also to get to know more about our city.

Many of you will have come to Hong Kong for the first time. No doubt your concept of it has been conditioned by programmes you have seen on television, and by what you have read in newspapers about us. You may well have a picture of a crowded city largely composed of skyscrapers filled with people whose only interest is in making money. We do indeed take pride in the enterprise and hard work of our business community and our labour force who have between them transformed Hong Kong from a modest port and trading centre into an international city in its own right. Hong Kong is now a major manufacturer, a leading financial centre and, to show that we have not forgotten our origins, has one of the largest container terminals in the world.

/But that .....

But that is at best a partial picture. Both the Government and the community are **keenly** concerned with the welfare of the people who live here. We seek to provide, within the resources available to us (because in spite of appearances we are not a rich community), services such as housing, social welfare, health and education which are essential to the well-being of our society.

As you move around Hong Kong, as I hope you will, you will see much that remains to be done. No one is more aware of that than we are. These are parts of this city of which we are not proud. But I hope that you will judge us, not only against the **things we need to improve** but against the **size** of the task, against the record of what has been achieved here over the last three decades, and the magnitude of our programmes for the future.

To set the scene let me remind you that at the end of the last war Hong Kong had a population of less than a million; today we number 5.3 million. If the same rate of increase had applied to Australia, its population today would be over 40 million, instead of only 15 million. Successive influxes of immigrants have dramatically increased our population, and have put an enormous strain on our social and economic infrastructure. To provide jobs, housing, education, medical services, and all the other things essential to a reasonable life, for such a large population in a territory which has no natural resources and very little space has been a mammoth task.

I could keep you here a long time this evening regaling you with statistics on what has been done to meet that challenge; on what we are now doing and what we plan to do. But the time allotted to me, and no doubt your patience, is limited so I will confine myself to a few examples in the fields of public housing, social welfare, education and medical and health services.

#### Housing

First, our public housing programme. This was launched in 1954, following a disastrous fire on Christmas Day 1953 which left more than 50,000 people homeless. In its initial stage, a number of two-storey structures with very basic facilities were built to provide emergency housing for the fire victims. These soon gave way to six and seven-storey resettlement blocks, which in turn are now being replaced by modern housing estates.

/During the .....

During the first twenty years of the housing programme, 68 estates were constructed providing better housing for about 1.7 million people who had previously lived in squatter huts and crowded tenements.

In 1973, a new phase of the programme was started, aimed at providing better quality flats in well planned self-contained communities, many of them in the new towns of the New Territories. Since then, 41 additional estates have been built, and today more than two and a quarter million people, or roughly 42% of our population, live in public housing of one sort or another provided or subsidised by the government. This percentage will grow as the public housing programme continues to develop.

A consequence of an improving standard of living has been the trend towards families wishing to buy homes of their own rather than relying on rented accommodation. People can of course do this by buying through the private sector. But to meet the aspirations of those who can not manage this, a Home Ownership Scheme was introduced in 1977 to enable lower-income families to buy their own flats at reasonable prices.

Nor are we concerned only with providing people with a place to live. In this modern age people must be made to feel that they belong. It is not enough simply to give people better accommodation than they had before. In consequence a prime task of all our district officers is to encourage the growth of the community spirit within our housing estates through the formation of Residents Associations, Mutual Aid Committees and other social groups. For our designers the challenge is not only to fit in large numbers of flats on the tiny areas of land available, but also to build in the environment and facilities on which a successful community can grow.

Hong Kong will continue with this public housing programme for so long as it is needed. There will be no pause in our efforts to make Hong Kong a better place in which to live.

#### Social Security & Social Welfare

Our social welfare services are based on the joint efforts and common concern of the Government and the community in helping those least able to help themselves and in improving the quality of community life.

/The Government .....

The Government is responsible for directing and coordinating the development of social welfare services. It provides certain social welfare services itself. For their part, the voluntary agencies, which have a proud record of community service, have long been involved in providing essential basic services, and they have done this to a greater extent than in many other communities. In Hong Kong's circumstances, there is an important role for a vigorous, progressive and responsible voluntary sector, working in close cooperation with the Government.

Our social security scheme is essentially a simple one. The mainstay is the public assistance scheme which is primarily an income-maintenance scheme to ensure that individuals and families do not live below a certain basic standard.

Services for the elderly are geared to promoting the well-being of those who have passed their 60th birthday by providing services that will enable them to retain their self-respect and, where necessary, residential care suited to their various needs. One recent development has been a scheme to purchase flats in private housing developments to accommodate able-bodied elderly people who do not require daily care or attention.

#### Education

We have been equally busy in the educational field in Hong Kong. After World War II, our school system was in ruins and had to be entirely rebuilt. Our first aim was to ensure primary education for all. By 1971, we had provided places for all children of primary school age free of charge in purpose-built schools and with trained teachers.

Since then priority has been given to secondary education, with the result that we now provide free junior secondary education for all children up to the age of 15. We have, in addition, markedly increased the provision of senior secondary education. Nor have we neglected the needs of disabled children. By providing schools with additional staff and facilities, we aim to integrate these children into normal schools. Furthermore, we have built technical institutes which provide technical education on a part and full-time basis, both at the craft and the technician level. For some of you who come from countries where free primary and secondary education is taken for

/granted that .....

granted that record may not seem to be very impressive. But if you judge it against the enormous growth in our school population, which has more than matched the five fold rise in our population in general, the size of the achievement is more evident.

In spite of that achievement these remain a long way to go before we can consider our education system satisfactory. We are much concerned to improve the quality of secondary education, and we are still sadly short of places in Hong Kong for students who wish to move on to higher education. Our two universities are now being expanded to provide both greater opportunity for students to study at this level and to provide the trained professionals which Hong Kong needs. The Hong Kong Polytechnic, founded in 1972, has already expanded to the point where it accommodates 11,000 full-time and equivalent part-time students and this figure will shortly reach 13,500. We are now planning another polytechnic which may eventually reach the same size, and I hope it will be possible to commence some courses next year.

We shall not of course stop there. Our aim is to expand our educational facilities and to improve them. With this in mind we recently commissioned, with the assistance of the O.E.C.D., a report by an international group of people highly qualified in these matters to advise us on the future of our education system. This report is now being studied and will I hope be published shortly for wider discussion.

#### Medical and Health Services

In the field of medicine and health, we aim at a balanced programme, which covers preventive, curative and rehabilitation services. Through improved sanitation, immunization programme, epidemiological surveillance and primary health coverage the Hong Kong health services have been able to contain the major communicable diseases. Bearing in mind the geographical location of Hong Kong, the speed and volume of international traffic and the fact that many of these communicable diseases are still present in a number of neighbouring countries, the task of keeping Hong Kong free from epidemics is enormous, and our achievement is something of which we are justifiably proud.

The common childhood communicable diseases such as diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and poliomyelitis have either been eradicated or brought under control. Tuberculosis among young children is now very

.....  
/rarely seen .....

rarely seen and the overall mortality rate for tuberculosis in 1982 was 8.7 per 100,000 population.

Our health indices compare very favourably with those of the developed countries. Our infant mortality rate at 9.9 per 1,000 live births for 1982 and a maternal mortality rate at 0.01 per 1,000 for the same period are amongst the lowest in the world. And with the improvements in the standard of living and medical care, life expectancy at birth is now 72 years for men and 78 for women.

A comprehensive health care programme for expectant mothers and children from birth to five years' old is provided through a network of family health centres. Services provided include ante- and post-natal care, infant welfare, family planning and health education.

Most of our health services are provided free. Nominal charges are made for attendance at out-patient clinics in government and subvented hospitals, but these charges may be waived in cases of hardship.

The growth of our population requires a continuing expansion of our hospital and clinic services. Apart from extensions to existing hospitals, five new hospitals of over 1,300 beds each will be built over the next ten years. Plans are in hand for another 20 new clinics and polyclinics. We hope, by 1992, to provide 6.1 beds per 1,000 population (compared with 4.2 beds per 1,000 population now) and to increase clinic provision to 7.6 consulting rooms per 100,000 population (compared with the present 5.5 consulting rooms per 100,000 population).

Concern with the welfare of the people is not confined to the government and voluntary agencies. It is the concern of a very wide part of our community both young and old. We have rich benefactors who have given generously to universities, hospitals and other charitable works. For every rich benefactor there are thousands who give, within their modest means, of their time and money in community service. On six Sundays this winter 75,000 people have joined sponsored walks on the Island and in the New Territories to raise over \$6 million for the Community Chest. The success of the Community Chest since its establishment in 1968, both in its ability to raise money and the growing number of its member agencies who receive financial assistance from it, exemplifies this spirit of community support and involvement which is one of the inner strengths of Hong Kong.

/Nor is .....

Nor is our concern **only** for material needs. We may be an urban city but we have some magnificent countryside which we are careful to preserve and make accessible through our Country Parks programme. You have just missed our Arts Festival but our cultural programmes are continuous. Our Philharmonic and Chinese orchestras have earned themselves a reputation regionally and not only in Hong Kong. Our youth groups are large and active both in community service and in providing enjoyment for their members.

### Conclusion

There is, of course, much more to be done. Public demand, quite understandably, continues to grow for better social security schemes, more and better quality housing, schools, hospitals and clinics and social progress generally. But much as we would all like these expectations to be met, and quickly, we cannot escape the fact that the rate of which we can make progress depends on the rate of economic growth. We have to live on what we earn and given our dependence on exports, our economy is heavily dependent on external influences over which we have little control. We are not a rich territory - we get no financial support or subsidy from outside - so we can only have what we can pay for through our own efforts.

I hope that this brief analysis of some of our main social programmes will convince you that we are a community who think not about money but about people; and not only about the essentials but about those things which make for a better life. You will see, and I have no doubt admire, our skyscrapers. But enjoy too our country parks. You will be struck by the numbers who still lack good housing, but do not forget the two million already provided with homes in the public housing programme. You will wonder perhaps at the size of our housing estates; do not fail to notice the provision for community services within them. Note as I am sure you will the application of all in Hong Kong to the business of the day, but do not overlook that many of those who work so hard earning their living all week are spending large parts of their time on voluntary service..

In short I hope that whatever the impression you arrived with, you will as a result of your visit here take away with you a picture not only of a hard working business community but also of a city of which it can well be said "It is a city which cares".