DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1975

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FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1975

SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY

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DRILLING WORKS AND THE LAYING OF WATER MAINS INSIDE THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL IS NEARING COMPLETION AND WORK ON BUILDING A ROADWAY THROUGH IT WILL BEGIN WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE WATERWORKS SIDE OF THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES TUNNEL DRILLING, CONCRETE LINING, PORTAL WORKS AND THE LAYING OF MAINS, HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED.

THE TUNNEL WILL SOON BE HANDED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE WHICH WILL SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROADWAY.

THIS PART OF THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-LANE CONCRETE CARRIAGEWAY THROUGH THE 1,411-METRE TUNNEL, TOGETHER WITH A SHORT APPROACH ROAD LINKING ITS KOWLOON END WITH WATERLOO ROAD AND AN EXTENSION OF THE TOLL PLAZA AT ITS SHATIN END.

TWO NEW TOLL BOOTHS, SIMILAR TO THE SIX NOW IN OPERATION, WILL ALSO BE BUILT AT THE SHATIN ENTRANCE. IN ADDITION, TWO TWO-STOREY BUILDINGS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO HOUSE VENTILATION AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW TUNNEL.

TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PART OF THE PROJECT ARE INVITED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE. WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER AND SHOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW TUNNEL, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL OPERATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXISTING ONE SO THAT EACH OF THE TWO-LANE TUBES WILL CARRY TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION - THE SAME SYSTEM AS IN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

+THE TWO EXTRA TRAFFIC LANES WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHATIN AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OF SHATIN NEW TOWN IN PARTICULAR,+ HE ADDED.

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MAXI-CAB SERVICES PROPOSED FOR N.T.

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PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FEEDER ROUTES, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS +MAXI-CAB+ SERVICES, ARE LIKELY TO OPERATE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SERVE AREAS WHERE THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT PASSENGERS TO JUSTIFY THE PROVISION OF LARGE BUSES.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT THIS AFTERNOON TABLED A LIST OF 14 PROPOSED MAXI-CAB ROUTES FOR THE N.T. AT A REGIONAL MEETING WITH NT-PLB REPRESENTATIVES, CHAIRED BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT, MR. PETER MILLER.

THE PARTIES DISCUSSED THE OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS OF FEEDER ROUTES, INCLUDING FIXED TIMETABLES, FARES AND VEHICLE ALLOCATION, APPROVED STOPPING PLACES, THE GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT FOR A PARTICULAR ROUTE, AND THE ISSUE OF PERMITS TO ENTER CERTAIN PLB PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED ZONES, IF NECESSARY.

PLB REPRESENTATIVES GENERALLY SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE PROPOSALS AND THEY WERE INVITED TO STUDY THEM MORE CLOSELY AND SUBMIT WRITTEN APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON ANY OF THE FEEDER ROUTES THEY MAY BE INTERESTED IN OPERATING.

MR. MILLER SAID THAT IN CASES WHERE MORE THAN ONE APPLICANT APPLIED FOR ONE PARTICULAR FEEDER ROUTE, CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN EITHER ON THE BASIS OF +FIRST COME FIRST SERVED+ OR BY MEANS OF A BALLOT, WHICHEVER THE PLB OPERATORS WOULD PREFER.

THE PROPOSALS ENVISAGE FEEDER ROUTES RUNNING FROM TUNG KOK WAI TO LUEN WO MARKET, TSZ TIN TSUEN TO TUEN MUN, LAU FAU SHAN TO NIM WAN, SHEUNG SHUI TO LIN MA HANG, WU KAU TANG TO TAIPO MARKET, AND FROM KWAI SHING NORTH TO TSUEN WAN FERRY.

TODAY'S MEETING WAS THE SECOND OF A SERIES CONVENED ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THE FIRST WAS HELD LAST MONTH WITH PLB OPERATORS OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE NEXT WILL BE FOR KOWLOON PLB OPERATORS WITH WHOM PROPOSALS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED ON FEEDER ROUTES FOR KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON AREAS.

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NEW 'NERVE' CENTRE FOR KOWLOON POLICE

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POLICE IN KOWLOON WILL HAVE A NEW OPERATIONAL CENTRE BY MID-1976 TO CO-ORDINATE ALL THEIR OPERATIONS.

THE NEW 'NERVE' CENTRE WILL BE HOUSED IN A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING WHICH FORMS STAGE II OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW KOWLOON DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN ARGYLE STREET.

WORK ON THIS STAGE OF THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR PROJECT IS DUE TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE BUILDING WILL PROVIDE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE KOWLOON POLMIL OPERATIONS CENTRE, THE 999 CONTROL CENTRE, AND THE BEAT RADIO SCHEME.

THE REST OF THE FLOOR SPACE WILL BE TAKEN UP BY A CAR-PARK IN THE BASEMENT AND AN ASSEMBLY HALL/GYMNASIUM ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

THE BUILDING WILL BE LINKED BY OVERHEAD BRIDGES WITH STAGE I OF THE NEW KOWLOON POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHICH WAS COMPLETED LATE LAST YEAR AND IS NOW OCCUPIED BY UNITS OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT AND TRAFFIC HEADQUARTERS (KOWLOON).

STAGE III OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL COMPRISE A THREE-STOREY BUILDING WHICH WILL BE MAINLY USED AS BARRACKS FOR BOTH THE REGULAR AND AUXILIARY POLICE.

THE NEW KOWLOON POLICE HEADQUARTERS REPLACES THE 50-YEAR-OLD POLICE BUILDING IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WHICH WILL BE PULLED DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM.

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MARRIAGE FEES TO BE REVISED

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CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT UNDER THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE ARE TO BE REVISED WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE REVISED CHARGES WILL MEAN THAT A COUPLE WILL, IN FUTURE, PAY $100 INSTEAD OF $60 FOR A MARRIAGE. THE FEE FOR FILING AND EXHIBITION OF NOTICE OF MARRIAGE WILL BE INCREASED BY $10 TO $20 WHILE THE FEE FOR A MARRIAGE AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE WILL BE INCREASED BY $30 TO $80.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER INCREASES WHICH WILL NOT NORMALLY AFFECT A COUPLE GETTING MARRIED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED TODAY THAT THE REASON FOR DELAYING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INCREASED MARRIAGE FEES TO NOVEMBER 1, IS TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN NOTICE OF MARRIAGE (THAT IS, BEFORE AUGUST 1) WILL ONLY HAVE TO PAY THE MARRIAGE FEE OF $50 WHICH WAS IN FORCE AT THE DATE ON WHICH THEY GAVE NOTICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON FEES IS, THAT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THEY SHOULD BE AT LEAST SUFFICIENT TO RECOVER COSTS.

THE DEFICIT FOR THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY IN 1975/76 IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT $1.25 MILLION AND WITH THE INCREASES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM NOVEMBER 1, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THEY WILL PRODUCE REVENUE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST OF RUNNING THE REGISTRY.

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DEFERMENT OF CLERKS PAY RISES CLARIFIED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY EMPHASISED THAT THE DECISION TO DEFER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CLERICAL CLASS WAS +A DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.+

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL GIVE CLERKS SALARY INCREASES AND IMPROVED PROMOTION PROSPECTS COSTING SOME $13.44 MILLION A YEAR AND ARE TO BE INTRODUCED FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL 28 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, EXCEPT FOR ONE MODIFICATION CONCERNING PROFICIENCY INCREMENTS. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL THAT THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR COULD NOT BE AGREED IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

AS THE NORMAL PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED IN THE CASE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF 'GOVERNMENT PROMISES OR AGREEMENTS HAVING BEEN BROKEN' AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN SOME QUARTERS.

THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE IS THAT THE PACKAGE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM APRIL 1, 1976.

THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE FINANCIAL SITUATION AT THAT DATE BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE A SIUTATION OF VERY REAL SERIOUSNESS IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL TERMS TO PREVENT THESE ARRANGEMENTS FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED THEN.

IN A SPECIAL COMMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. TONY HAMMOND, SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE CLERICAL ASSOCIATION IS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL NEXT YEAR, +JUST AS THERE IS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY ABOUT THE UNAVOIDABLE POSTPONEMENT OF SOME OF THE PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES AND OTHER DESERVING CAUSES.+

MR. HAMMOND ADDED THAT THE CLERKS HAVE ALWAYS PERFORMED THEIR DUTIES EFFICIENTLY AND THE DEFERMENT OF THE SALARY INCREASE DOES NOT REFLECT AT ALL ON THEIR WORK. THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN PURELY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.

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COMPENSATION PROCEDURES OF TENANCY TRIBUNAL TO BE STREAMLINED

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THE PROCESS OF AWARDING COMPENSATION TO PROTECTED TENANTS OF PRE-WAR BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO CLOSURE ORDER SERVED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL BE STREAMLINED UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, IF PASSED, WILL ENABLE THE TENANCY TRIBUNAL TO ACCEPT THE INCREMENTAL VALUE ASSESSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AS PART OF THE EVIDENCE WHEN ASSESSING THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO INDIVIDUAL TENANTS.

UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, TENANTS OF PREWAR BUILDINGS WHICH ARE DECLARED DANGEROUS ARE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION PAYABLE BY THE OWNERS. HOWEVER, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAID, WHICH IS DETERMINED BY THE TENANCY TRIBUNAL, SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE INCREMENTAL VALUE WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, IS THE INCREASE IN MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS VACATED.

BY GIVING THE TENANCY TRIBUNAL THE CHANCE TO CONSIDER THE ASSESSED INCREMENTAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, THE BILL WILL FACILITATE ITS WORK IN DECIDING THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID.

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COURSES FOR INDUSTRIAL TRADE INSTRUCTORS

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THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WILL BEGIN COURSES FOR TRADE INSTRUCTORS AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE INDUSTRIAL TRADE INSTRUCTORS COURSES INCLUDE A PART-TIME DAY RELEASE COURSE LASTING FOR 12 WEEKS AND A PART-TIME EVENING COURSE LASTING FOR 20 WEEKS. THE FEES FOR THE TWO COURSES IS $80 AND $75 RESPECTIVELY.

+BOTH COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CHINESE WITH ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY,+ A SPOKESMAN OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

+THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRADE INSTRUCTORS AND WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR DAY-TO-DAY TEACHING DUTIES. FROM THE COURSES WE ARE OFFERING, THEY WILL LEARN TO IMPROVE THEIR METHODS OF TEACHING, STUDY EDUCATION THEORY AND EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE COLLEGE AT 373, QUEEN'S ROAD, EAST, HONG KONG. ALL COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 5, 1975.

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STATEMENT BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ON TEACHING VACANCIES
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT ABOUT 450 TEACHING VACANCIES IN AIDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN TO COMPETITION BY GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.

THIS ESTIMATE WAS GIVEN TO THE COLLEGES IN AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS EARLIER THIS YEAR FROM MARCH TO MAY WITH THE NECESSARY CAUTION THAT THE ESTIMATE COULD ONLY BE CONFIRMED LATER, WHEN WASTAGE IN THE FORM OF RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS CREATING VACANCIES BECAME KNOWN, AND WHEN VACANCIES IN DEVELOPING AND NEW SCHOOLS COULD BE DETERMINED.

THERE WAS THE FURTHER PROBLEM OF THE REDEPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS FROM SCHOOLS IN WHICH UNDER-UTILISED CLASSES WERE BEING CLOSED.

IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AS AN EMPLOYER TO ASSIST ITS EMPLOYEES IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AND THIS IT IS DOING THROUGH A SPECIALLY CREATED PLACEMENT SERVICE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

COLLEGE GRADUATES WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE PROVISION OF THIS INFORMATION IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED ANY COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO GUARANTEE APPOINTMENTS.

WHILE THE DEPARTMENT WAS SYMPATHETIC AND WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO HELP THE COLLEGES AT AN ANXIOUS TIME, STUDENTS WERE REMINDED THAT IT REMAINED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

COLLEGE AUTHORITIES HAVE ALWAYS ASSISTED GRADUATES BY RELAYING INFORMATION FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF VACANCIES IN SCHOOLS, BUT THIS YEAR PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED AS A REFLECTION OF OFFICIAL CONCERN AT A SPECIALLY DIFFICULT TIME.

IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ESTIMATES WILL GIVE WAY TO DEFINITE FIGURES OF VACANCIES IN EARLY AUGUST. THIS IS BECAUSE THE REDEPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS ALREADY IN SERVICE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THEN, AND BECAUSE NEW SCHOOLS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO BE HANDED OVER TO THEIR SPONSORS HAVE YET TO FINALISE THEIR CLASS ORGANISATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1975.

FIGURES FOR VACANCIES ARE NECESSARILY FLUID FROM DAY TO DAY AS TEACHERS RESIGN, RETIRE OR TRANSFER FROM THE PRIVATE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, VICE VERSA, BUT THE ESTIMATE OF 450 VACANCIES IN AIDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPEN TO COMPETITION, AFTER REDUNDANT SERVING TEACHERS HAVE BEEN PLACED, STILL APPEARS SOUND.

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COLLEGE GRADUATES HAVE CLAIMED THAT +MORE THAN 700 FULL-TIME GRADUATES+ ARE SEEKING POSTS THIS YEAR. COLLEGE INFORMATION IS THAT 664 FULL-TIME STUDENTS COMPLETED TWO AND THREE-YEAR COURSES THIS YEAR, AND THAT OF THESE 158 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO STAY ON AT COLLEGES FOR THIRD YEAR COURSES.

THUS, 506 GRADUATES APPEAR IN FACT TO BE SEEKING POSTS, AND OF THESE 114 HAVE INFORMED THE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SECURED POSTS.

THIS LEAVES 392 SEEKING POSTS, BUT COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE WELL AWARE THAT APPOINTMENTS IN AIDED SCHOOLS ARE IN THE HANDS OF SPONSORS WHO RUN AIDED SCHOOLS. THESE SPONSORS ARE FREE TO OFFER VACANCIES TO SUITABLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IRRESPECTIVE OF YEAR OF GRADUATION.

THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE STUDENTS, WHO WERE LATER TO GRADUATE, WERE INFORMED IN A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DATED MARCH 29, 1975, THAT +GRADUATES WHO ARE UNABLE TO GET TEACHING POSTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE ADVISED TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS, INCLUDING ASSISTED PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THOSE OFFERING BOUGHT PLACES+.

THIS ADVICE WAS REITERATED AT TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN COLLEGE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN MAY.

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NEW HOMES FOR FISHERMEN

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THE FOURTH ROUND TABLE KIN REFUGEE REHOUSING VILLAGE AT MUI WO ON LANTAU ISLAND WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE OPENING OF THE VILLAGE MARKS A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS THE HONG KONG ROUND TABLE'S AIM TO PROVIDE MORE DECENT HOMES FOR FISHERMEN. THREE SIMILAR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN BUILT ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND SINCE 1961, PROVIDING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 700 PEOPLE.

THE VILLAGE AT MUI WO IS BUILT ON A SITE DONATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE BEING MET BY CONTRIBUTIONS RAISED LOCALLY AND ABROAD.

THIRTY OF THE 52 SELF-CONTAINED UNITS IN THE VILLAGE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THESE WILL ACCOMMODATE 180 PEOPLE.

EACH FAMILY UNIT HAS A LIVING ROOM WITH A LOFT WHICH CAN BE USED AS A BEDROOM, AND A TOILET AND A SMALL KITCHEN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR. AKERS-JONES' SPEECH AT TOMORROW'S OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

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