



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, July 12, 1973

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT FOR SHAM SHUI PO

A \$30 million programme is to be launched later this year to improve communication facilities in the crowded Sham Shui Po district.

The first stage of the project involves reclaiming some 30 acres of land off the Sham Shui Po waterfront along Tung Chau Street to provide more space for a combined new modern ferry and bus concourse and other community facilities.

Construction work on the 1,400-foot retaining seawall for the reclamation is expected to start within a few months and should be completed by September next year.

The new seawall will be 1,000 feet off the existing wall along Tung Chau Street.

When part of the reclamation is completed, a new ferry pier will be built off the new seawall about 1,100 feet north of the existing pier.

The new pier will be similar in design to the Tai Kok Tsui Ferry Pier and will be bigger and better equipped than the existing one at Sham Shui Po to cope with the increasing number of commuters.

It will be a double-deck structure with two ferry berths, incorporating upper floor waiting areas for first class passengers and separate on/off ramps for second class passengers.

Work on the new pier, which will cost an estimated \$7.25 million, is expected to start in October next year for completion by January 1976. During construction work the old pier will be kept in service to maintain traffic flow until the new one is completed.

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Serving the new pier will be a 150,000 square foot concourse which will include a bus terminus and taxi ranks with covered passenger ways.

At present, there are no back-up facilities to the old pier and it is expected that traffic congestion in the area will be considerably reduced once the concourse comes into operation.

It is also planned to build a sewage pumphouse and temporary cargo handling area on the reclamation. Sites will also be made available for government, institutional and community facilities, including a civic centre, three secondary schools, and a multi-storey car park. About two acres will be developed as public open space.

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PEOPLE URGED TO SUPPORT COUNCIL

The Vice-Chairman of the Urban Council, Mr. Hilton Cheong-leen, today called on the people of Hong Kong to support the Urban Council which he described as "your very own local council".

Mr. Cheong-leen, who was speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Tai Ping Shan Lions Club, pointed out that the council dealt with an extremely wide range of matters touching on the lives of everyone in Hong Kong.

"We deal with almost everything from preventing mosquitoes from breeding to rat control to importing symphony orchestras."

Mr. Cheong-leen urged the Lions to "join in". They could start by putting forward their suggestions and criticisms, if any, in a constructive way. He also asked them to help by urging others to join in.

He said one way in which people could hit back at the critics who accuse us of being an "apathetic lot" would be by showing genuine support for the Urban Council.

"By working through the Council," Mr. Cheong-leen said, "we can prove to these critics that we are far from being apathetic, but instead are deeply and genuinely interested in the welfare of our own community."

Mr. Cheong-leen said that the Council was currently setting about the task of laying down a truly strong foundation upon which everything else in the future will rest.

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He explained that Councillors were taking a very close, hard look at the state of the Urban Services Department. "We have left no stone unturned in our effort to try and find out where weaknesses lie, where our strength lies, what we can do, or not do, with the resources in hand."

The study will determine whether the Council has the means to introduce improvements to existing services; to enlarge their scope progressively and even to experiment with innovations in some areas.

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Note to Editors: Full text of the speech will be boxed separately.

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BIG NEW TERRITORIES SITE UP FOR SALE

A piece of industrial land covering about 155,000 sq. ft. in Tuen Mun -- the largest single lot so far available in the New Territories -- will soon be put up for sale by auction.

The rectangular-shaped block, measuring 234.5 ft. by 660 ft., can be developed for light industry or godown purposes.

The upset price is \$6 million.

A spokesman for the New Territories Administration said keen bidding is expected as several firms have expressed interest in the site.

The auction will take place at the Yuen Long Town Hall on July 30, beginning at 2.30 p.m.

Concessionary payment terms are available under which the purchaser can pay the premium over a period of 20 years at five per cent interest.

The purchaser can also gain possession of the site almost immediately after the sale as the land has already been formed and levelled.

The site is conveniently situated within a planned industrial area of the Tuen Mun new town. It is about 3,000 ft. from Castle Peak Road and can be approached via Causeway Road in Tuen Mun.

Four other lots of industrial land in Tuen Mun, ranging from 10,000 sq. ft. to 14,800 sq. ft. will also be available for sale by auction in August and September.

In March last year, eight lots of industrial land in the area were sold by auction.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained, and sale plans inspected, at the New Territories Administration, North Kowloon Magistracy, Taipo Road, Kowloon; and at the District Offices of Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Taipo, Sai Kung and Islands.

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"DISASTROUS RESULTS" FROM FAULTY GAS APPLIANCES ON PLEASURE CRAFT

The Marine Department today warned the owners of small craft about the dangers involved in keeping on board faulty or badly fitted appliances using liquefied petroleum gas (bottled gas).

A spokesman for the department said that there had been a number of serious fires and explosions on such boats due to leakage of bottled gas, from faulty fittings or poorly sited and improperly maintained appliances.

Owners are therefore advised to have the system expertly fitted and sited, and it should be overhauled regularly. The gas should be turned off when not in use, and a special leakage check made each time it is used.

The spokesman explained that bottled gas is heavier than air, and if allowed to leak from containers or piping it will flow to the bottom of the compartment.

In that condition, the gas forms an explosive mixture with air and can be ignited by various means, including lighted cigarette butts and sparking electrical equipment.

Also, escaped gas can be drawn into the air intake of an internal combustion engine leading to an "uncontrollable speeding up of the engine which may lead to disastrous results," he said.

Further information can be obtained from the Small Craft Licensing Section of the Marine Department.

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SCHOOLS HOLD ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS EXHIBITION

Members of the public will be able to see how students understand current issues by attending a three-day Economic and Public Affairs Project Exhibition in the main concourse of the Ocean Terminal from Saturday (July 14).

"Its aim is to stimulate pupils' awareness and interest in the needs of the community," a spokesman for the Education Department said today.

The Northcote and Sir Robert Black Colleges of Education as well as 22 secondary and middle schools are taking part in the exhibition which will feature drawings, charts, photographs, articles and models.

The colleges and schools were invited last November to make preparations for the exhibition, with the choice of topics and the number of participating classes left to the discretion of the teachers.

The exhibits by students of the two colleges of education will show "Aids to learning in economic and public affairs" and "Teaching E.P.A. through activities".

The topics chosen by the other schools include housing, transport, traffic, pollution, juvenile delinquency, trade, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, adoption and the role of youth.

The exhibition, organised by the Economic and Public Affairs Section of the Education Department, will be opened by Mr. N.M. Ho, Deputy Director of Education, at 12 noon on Saturday.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the opening ceremony.
The exhibition hours are as follows: July 14, 12 noon to 6 p.m.; July 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and July 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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OPENING OF 20TH SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT

The Social Welfare Department's 20th social security field unit will be established on Saturday (July 14) to deal with cases in the Fanling area.

This new unit will handle applications from people in Fanling, Sheung Shui, Ta Kwu Ling and Sha Tau Kok including Kat O and Ap Chau.

Up to now, applications from people in these areas had been dealt with by the Tai Po field unit, but because of the increasing number of applications, it was decided to establish one at Fanling.

The new unit (Tel. 12-662822) will take over the offices vacated today by the Tai Po Field Unit on the ground floor of Block "A", Mei Wan Building, Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market. This is a temporary arrangement until suitable premises can be found in Fanling.

The Tai Po field unit has moved to new offices on the ground floor of Gold Reserve Court, Tai Ming Lane in Tai Po Market (Tel. 12-665409).

It will in future handle applications from Tai Po, Sha Tin and north Sai Kung including Tap Mun, and Ping Chau.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS ON APLICHAU

The Building Authority today ordered the demolition of four buildings in Main Street on Aplichau.

Numbers 84 and 86 Main Street, which are two-storey pre-war buildings have been under observation since 1971. Recently there has been signs of movement in the front and rear walls and decay of the structural timbers in the floor and roof has advanced to a significant extent.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said it is considered that there is now a risk of collapse.

In the other buildings in Main Street -- numbers 116 and 118 which are three-storey pre-war buildings -- fractures have been observed in the party wall, indicating outward movement of the joint kitchen block. In addition, the timber work and steel supports to the roof of 116 have deteriorated to the extent that a collapse is possible.

Due to the defects in the reinforced concrete elements of construction, 118 is liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of the other building.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders for the four buildings in the Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on August 23, were posted today.

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TWO DISPUTES SETTLED

The dispute involving 320 workers of a Kwun Tong plastics factory which closed down late last month has now been settled.

It began on June 30 when the Plastics Manufacturing Corporation Ltd closed without prior notice to its workers.

After a series of five conciliation meetings arranged by the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department at Kwun Tong, the management and the workers agreed to the payment of a total of about \$150,000 to the workers.

An agreement was signed this afternoon in the San Po Kong office of the Labour Relations Service in the presence of Labour Officer Mr. Donald Chan Sui-tung.

Under the terms of the settlement, monthly-paid workers will get a month's pay and daily-paid workers will get seven days' pay in lieu of notice.

The workers will also be paid pro-rata year-end bonuses, and ex-gratia payments on a sliding scale tied to their length of service.

The money will be paid over to the workers on Saturday in the presence of officers of the Labour Relations Service at its San Po Kong office.

Another dispute was also settled today. This one involved the sacking of 14 workers by Vianini SP, one of the major contractors of the High Island Water Scheme.

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Each of the workers today received a payment of \$400 from the management in final settlement.

The dispute began on June 22 when two workers were dismissed on disciplinary grounds. Another 12 workers were dismissed the next day for leaving their posts without permission.

Some 670 workers later staged sit-ins at the site in protest against the dismissals, but returned to work on July 2 after a series of conciliation meetings arranged by the Labour Relations Service.

After further conciliation meetings, workers representatives agreed to the company's offer of a \$400 ex-gratia payment to the dismissed workers.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.