



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1976

45 MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NEXT FOUR YEARS  
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HONG KONG'S SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPANSION PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BUILDING OF 33 NEW SCHOOLS DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND 12 MORE TO BE CREATED BY CONVERTING A NUMBER OF UNDER-UTILISED GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY SEPTEMBER 1978.

THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1976-77 PROVIDE FOR A START ON 21 NEW PROJECTS.

EIGHT OF THE NEW SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING THIS COMING SEPTEMBER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TO-DAY.

TWO OF THESE PROJECTS ARE AT SHEK KIP MEI, ONE EACH AT KWUN TONG, KWAI CHUNG AND TAI HANG TUNG AND THE REMAINING THREE ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

ANOTHER TEN ARE PLANNED FOR COMPLETION BY SEPTEMBER 1977, 13 BY SEPTEMBER 1978 AND TWO BY SEPTEMBER 1979.

ULTIMATELY, THESE SCHOOLS WILL ACCOMMODATE 27,990 PUPILS IN FORMS 1-3, 2,880 IN FORMS 4-5 AND 960 IN FORM 6, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ADDITIONALLY 18 UNDER-UTILISED PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS WILL BE CONVERTED TO PROVIDE 13,300 FORMS 1-6 PLACES EQUIVALENT TO 12 STANDARD 24-CLASSROOM SECONDARY SCHOOLS. OF THESE PLACES, IT IS PLANNED THAT 8,880 WILL BE IN FORMS 1 TO 3, 4,000 IN FORMS 4 AND 5 AND 420 IN FORM 6.

CONVERSION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING IN 1978, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BUILDING AND CONVERSION COSTS INVOLVE AN ESTIMATED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN \$156 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR FINANCIAL YEARS.

THE BUDGET PROVIDES FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SOME \$34,300,000 AS FEE SUBSIDIES TO 76,273 STUDENTS WHO ARE LIKELY TO OCCUPY BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY MARCH 31, 1977.

OF THE 76,273 BOUGHT PLACES, 70,510 ARE THREE-YEAR AND 5,763 ARE FIVE-YEAR PLACES.

BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE NUMBER OF THREE-YEAR BOUGHT PLACES IS LIKELY TO TOTAL 61,910 AND ANOTHER 8,600 WILL BE ADDED FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1976, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SHA TIN NEW TOWN EXHIBITION

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DRAFT PLANS FOR THE TOWN CENTRE OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL BE PUT ON PUBLIC SHOW FOR THE FIRST TIME NEXT WEEKEND AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN NEW TOWN EXHIBITION IN LEK YUEN ESTATE.

THE EXHIBITION - THE FIRST EVER ON THE NEW TOWN - IS BEING STAGED BY THE P.W.D.'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SET UP IN 1973 TO BUILD HONG KONG'S THREE NEW TOWNS AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN.

IT WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY (MARCH 13) AT THE SITE OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT LEK YUEN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, NOW NEARING COMPLETION BY THE P.W.D. ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

THE FIRST WORKING MODEL OF THE NEW TOWN CENTRE WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION.

THE P.W.D.'S SHA TIN PROJECT MANAGER, MR. JOHN DON, SAID TODAY THE TOWN CENTRE WOULD BE THE +HEART+ OF THE NEW TOWN, PROVIDING IT WITH SOCIAL, CULTURAL, COMMUNITY, COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

IT WOULD CONTAIN A MAJOR CIVIC CENTRE COMPLEX, WITH A TOWN HALL, CENTRAL LIBRARY, AUDITORIUM AND RESTAURANTS.

THE CENTRE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SOME 2.8 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF COMMERCIAL FLOOR SPACE, AND HOUSE MANY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS -- POSSIBLY INCLUDING A NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

MR. ALAN CROSBY, THE N.T.D.D.'S CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER FOR THE SHA TIN PROJECT, SAID THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN CENTRE WAS BEING SPECIALLY PLANNED TO SEGREGATE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FROM PEDESTRIANS, WHICH WOULD IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE TOWN CENTRE, SPEED UP TRAFFIC FLOW AND ENSURE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE.

HE SAID THAT AT GROUND LEVEL IN THE TOWN CENTRE, TRAFFIC WOULD FLOW SWIFTLY ALONG ONE-WAY STREETS UNINTERRUPTED BY TRAFFIC LIGHTS. BUSES WOULD MOVE ALONG BUS-ONLY LANES, BY-PASSING NORMAL TRAFFIC BUILD-UP AND CUTTING TRAVELLING TIMES TO A MINIMUM.

ONLY SERVICE-TYPE SHOPS-- SUCH AS REPAIR SHOPS -- WOULD BE ALLOWED AT GROUND LEVEL, AND COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC USING THEM WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH OFF-STREET PARKING TO PREVENT CONGESTION.

MR. CROSBY SAID THERE WOULD BE MAJOR PARKING STATIONS IN THE OUTER AREAS OF THE TOWN CENTRE, SO MOTORISTS COULD LEAVE THEIR CARS AND STILL BE WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF EVERYTHING IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

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THE TOWN CENTRE WOULD HAVE LARGE +PEDESTRIAN PRECINCTS+ -- BIG PLAZAS -- LINKED BY STEPS AND WHEEL-CHAIR RAMPS TO AN UPPER LEVEL OF SHOPPING AREAS, LINKED BY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES ACROSS THE STREETS AND THE TRAFFIC BELOW.

+THIS UPPER LEVEL WILL INCORPORATE SITTING-OUT AREAS, RESTAURANTS AND SO FORTH,+ SAID MR. CROSBY.

+IN FACT, WITH THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCTS AT GROUND LEVEL AND THE SHOPPING AREAS ON THE UPPER LEVEL, PEDESTRIANS NEED NEVER COME INTO CONTACT WITH TRAFFIC IN THE TOWN CENTRE.+

HE SAID MAJOR ROADS WOULD BY-PASS THE TOWN CENTRE -- ANOTHER MEASURE AIMED AT ELIMINATING TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

THE TOWN CENTRE WOULD ALSO HOUSE THE HUB OF THE NEW TOWN'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE NEW SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION AND A MAJOR BUS TERMINAL. TO MAKE TRAVELLING EASY ALL THE AREA'S BUS AND TRAIN SERVICES WOULD INTER-CONNECT IN THIS TRANSPORT COMPLEX.

MR. CROSBY SAID THAT P.W.D. PLANNERS WERE NOW WORKING ON A MASTER PLAN WHICH WOULD GOVERN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE TOWN CENTRE, TO ENSURE THAT DETAILED DESIGN OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN CENTRE BLENDED INTO THE GENERAL DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE ITSELF, AND THE NEW TOWN AS A WHOLE.

+SHA TIN NEW TOWN CENTRE WILL BE PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE IN HAVING AN ABUNDANCE OF OPEN SPACE.

+THERE WILL BE SOME 1.3 HECTARES (3.3 ACRES) IN THE TOWN CENTRE ITSELF, AND ALONGSIDE THE TOWN CENTRE THERE'LL BE ANOTHER TEN HECTARES (25 ACRES) OF PARKLANDS BORDERING THE REALIGNED SHING MUN RIVER.

+THE OVERALL RESULT WILL BE A TOWN CENTRE WHICH IS CONVENIENT, FUNCTIONAL AND VISUALLY APPEALING+, HE SAID.

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NEW TSUEN WAN FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE MEETING

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A RE-ORGANISED FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP IN TSUEN WAN AND IS TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON TUESDAY (MARCH 9).

IT HAS NINE MEMBERS CONSISTING OF A PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST AS ADVISOR, TWO POLICE OFFICERS, TWO HOUSING MANAGERS, A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, A MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, A SOCIAL WORKER AND A SCHOOL HEADMASTER. THE DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER, TSUEN WAN, MR. HAROLD KWOK WAI-HONG, IS CHAIRMAN.

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE FOR TWO YEARS INITIALLY.

IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 20 TO THE CHAIRMEN OF EXISTING N.T. FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THAT THE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE REACTIVATED AND STRENGTHENED +IN CONSIDERATION OF THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME CAMPAIGN.+

HE WROTE, +I WISH THE DISTRICT FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WORK OF COMBATTING CRIME.+

CRIME, HE ADDED, WAS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST SINGLE PROBLEM HONG KONG FACED. +TO COMBAT CRIME SUCCESSFULLY REQUIRES THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC AND THEREFORE THE PART YOUR COMMITTEES WILL PLAY IN THIS RESPECT WILL BE MOST VITAL.+

MR. AKERS-JONES STRESSED THE NEED TO REVITALIZE THE COMMITTEES, TO STUDY LOCAL CRIME SITUATION AND TO STRENGTHEN THE LIAISON BETWEEN POLICE, CIVIC BODIES, ORGANISATIONS, AND CITIZENS +WHO ARE TAKING AN INTEREST IN FIGHTING CRIME, PARTICULARLY VILLAGE GUARDS.+

THE LETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, THE HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMEN AS WELL AS TO 27 RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

THERE ARE ANTI-CRIME COMMITTEES IN THREE DISTRICTS OF TSUEN WAN WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 24. THEY ARE MAINLY INVOLVED WITH PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME CAMPAIGN AND WILL CONTINUE TO FULFIL THIS ROLE. THE NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE WILL CONCERN ITSELF LARGELY WITH PLANNING MATTERS.

REORGANISING OF OTHER NEW TERRITORIES FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES IS IN PROGRESS.

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