



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1976

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P.W.D.'S SHA TIN NEW TOWN EXHIBITION OPENS
MAJOR ADVANCES IN SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT PREDICTED

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, TODAY (SATURDAY) PREDICTED MAJOR ADVANCES IN WORK ON SHA TIN NEW TOWN THIS YEAR, AND ESTIMATED THAT SOME \$400 MILLION OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FUNDS WOULD BE POURED INTO THE PROJECT IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

MR. MCDONALD WAS SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE P.W.D.'S SHA TIN NEW TOWN EXHIBITION IN THE SHOPPING COMPLEX OF THE NEW LEK YUEN ESTATE AT SHA TIN. THE EXHIBITION — THE FIRST OF ITS KIND — IS BEING STAGED BY THE P.W.D.'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 A.M. TO 7 P.M. EACH DAY UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY (MARCH 18).

MR. MCDONALD SAID: +THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PROJECT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY PUT A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EFFORT INTO PREPARATORY PLANNING WORKS FOR THE NEW TOWN.

+NOW IT IS AT THE STAGE WHEN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WILL BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE.

+THESE WILL INCLUDE MAJOR LAND RECLAMATION AND DRAINAGE, TRUNK ROADS, A SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, SERVICE RESERVOIRS, RAILWAY TRACK WIDENING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING, AND COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.+

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. NG CHAN-LAM, OFFICIALLY OPENING THE SIX-DAY EXHIBITION, SAID: +I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW TOWN'S COMPLETION WITH A FEELING OF EXCITEMENT.+

MR. NG PLEDGED THE SUPPORT OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF SHA TIN AS THE NEW TOWN GREW.

HE SAID: +THE PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBITION SPONSORED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO GIVE THE PUBLIC A CLEAR VIEW OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, AND THEREBY TO AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST.

+THE PLANS AND MODELS DISPLAYED IN THIS EXHIBITION HAVE GROWN OUT OF CAREFUL RESEARCH AND DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS, AND ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODERN IDEAS OF TOWN PLANNING.

+IT IS EVIDENT THAT TO DEVELOP AN AREA SO THAT ITS INHABITANTS CAN SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT IS A TASK WHICH NEEDS A DOUBLE-SIDED APPROACH.

+IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY THAT THERE SHOULD BE CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, SO THAT DEVELOPMENT WORKS MAY PROCEED SMOOTHLY.+

HE AGREED WITH MR. MCDONALD THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT THE EXHIBITION SHOULD BE HELD IN THE LEK YUEN HOUSING ESTATE — NOW NEARING COMPLETION BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE P.W.D.

LEK YUEN IS THE FIRST OF ELEVEN HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES WHICH WILL HOUSE 300,000 OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN'S PROJECTED POPULATION OF 500,000 PEOPLE BY 1985.

+THE ESTATE HAS A PRIORITY QUOTA RESERVATION OF FLATS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS,+ SAID MR. NG. +IT OCCUPIES AN ENORMOUS AREA, AND HAS ALL KINDS OF MODERN FACILITIES TO MAKE IT AS SELF-CONTAINED AS POSSIBLE.+

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY SPEECH AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT WITH THE RECENT GENERAL REVIVAL OF INTEREST AND ACTIVITY IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, IT WAS ALSO HOPED THAT THE EXHIBITION WOULD PUBLICISE THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO INVOLVE PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN THE NEW TOWN — INCLUDING THOSE WHO MIGHT NOW BE CONTEMPLATING TENDERING FOR THE AREA 48 SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR THE COMMERCIAL PREMISES IN THE LEK YUEN ESTATE.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PROJECT IS OF THE ORDER OF \$4,000 MILLION, AND MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT HAS ALREADY COMMENCED WITH SUCH PROJECTS AS THE \$400 MILLION PARAMATTA INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT IN AREA 14, AND THE \$200 MILLION WORLD-WIDE PROPERTIES SCHEME AT HUNG MUI KOK.+

HE ALSO NOTED THAT CONSTRUCTION WAS NOW WELL ADVANCED ON THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL STANDARD RACECOURSE AT SHA TIN, DUE TO OPEN IN 1978.

SPECIFICALLY, MR. MCDONALD SAID, THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS WOULD SEE:

- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TRUNK ROAD FROM THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL THROUGH SHA TIN TO HO TUNG LAU, WITH FIVE MAJOR ROAD INTERCHANGES PROVIDING CONNECTIONS TO THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS, AND TO THE NEW RACECOURSE=
- * THE START OF WORK ON THE WO CHE HOUSING ESTATE, WHICH WOULD HOUSE ANOTHER 34,000 PEOPLE=
- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERIM SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND THE TRUNK MAINS FOR A MAJOR SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR THE NEW TOWN= AND
- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHA TIN (NORTH) FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR, AND THE LAYING OF FRESH WATER AND SALT WATER TRUNK MAINS.

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+WORK WILL ALSO BEGIN ON THE NEW SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION, AND WIDENING OF THE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN WILL CONTINUE,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD. +FURTHER RECLAMATION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE NEW SITES FOR DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS HOUSING ESTATES, A PERMANENT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES LIKE SCHOOLS, POLICE STATIONS AND CLINICS.

+ALTOGETHER, THEY REPRESENT SPENDING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOME \$200 MILLION DURING THE 1976/77 FINANCIAL YEAR. AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT IS EXPECTED TO BE SPENT BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS.

+WHAT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ABOUT ALL THESE WORKS IS THAT THEY ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CREATION OF A BALANCED NEW TOWN WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE.

+DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES ARE PLANNED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT, BUT ALSO TO ATTRACT AND HOLD NEW RESIDENTS.

+THE CREATION OF SUCH A BALANCED COMMUNITY IS CONSIDERED TO BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN THE FUTURE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN AS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN SATISFY THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

+THE EXHIBITION SETS OUT TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS.+

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 A.M. TO 7 P.M. EACH DAY. THE LEK YUEN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, SITE OF THE EXHIBITION, IS NEXT TO THE ESTATE'S BUS TERMINUS, AND A FEW MINUTES' WALK FROM SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION.

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SALES OF LUCKY CAR NUMBERS FETCH NEARLY \$200,000

AT AN AUCTION AT THE CITY HALL TODAY (SATURDAY), 15 SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS FETCHED A TOTAL OF \$197,200 WHICH WILL GO INTO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE CITY HALL LECTURE ROOM, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER AF 8 GO FOR THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$35,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER, BJ 1, WAS SOLD FOR THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$30,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$3,000 FOR AB 73.

THE OTHER SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE SOLD AT THE FOLLOWING PRICES:

AS 2222	-	\$26,000	AE 1000	-	\$8,000
BE 7777	-	\$19,000	BG 55	-	\$8,000
AE 18	-	\$14,000	AC 383	-	\$7,200
AD 666	-	\$12,000	AB 1188	-	\$7,000
AH 11	-	\$11,200	AP 800	-	\$6,000
			AF 3300	-	\$5,800
			AK 23	-	\$5,000

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 28TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION.

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45 DISABLED PLACED TO WORK

THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOUND JOBS FOR 45 DISABLED PEOPLE LAST MONTH. THIRTY OF THEM WERE ABSORBED BY THE GARMENT INDUSTRY.

COMMENTING ON THIS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID :
+WE HOPE THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT THE ECONOMY IS PICKING UP AND THAT THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IS THRIVING AGAIN.+

OF THE 30 PLACED IN GARMENT FACTORIES, 17 WERE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND TEN DEAF. MOST OF THEM WERE EMPLOYED AS MACHINE-SEWING AND MACHINE-KNITTING OPERATORS.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE UPSURGE IN DEMAND, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE REHABILITATION DIVISION HAD BEEN ORGANISING CRASH COURSES FOR TRAINEES ON INDUSTRIAL MACHINE-SEWING AT THE VARIOUS VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES SINCE DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE PLACED TO WORK LAST MONTH WERE EMPLOYED ON A PIECE-RATE BASIS AND 19 ON DAILY RATES RANGING FROM \$12 TO \$20. THE OTHERS RECEIVED PAY RANGING FROM \$250 TO \$480 A MONTH.

+IT IS INDEED ENCOURAGING TO SEE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED IMPROVING AND MORE EMPLOYERS BECOMING PROGRESSIVE ENOUGH TO EMPLOY DISABLED WORKERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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