



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1976.

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## HK BEGINS A NEW ERA IN ITS POSTAL HISTORY

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HONG KONG'S POSTAL SERVICE WILL TURN A NEW PAGE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHEN THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE OPENS THE \$43 MILLION NEW G.P.O. BUILDING AT CONNAUGHT PLACE.

BUILT ON A 40,000 SQ.FT. SITE AT THE WATERFRONT, THE FIVE-STORY BUILDING PROVIDES A TOTAL OF 170,000 SQ.FT. OF FLOOR SPACE -- MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT IN THE 65-YEAR-OLD G.P.O. BUILDING IN PEDDER STREET WHICH WILL BE PULLED DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR MTR WORK.

THE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MECHANISED SYSTEMS IN THE NEW COMPLEX PUT HONG KONG'S MAIL HANDLING FACILITIES ON A PAR WITH THOSE IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

ITS CHAIN CONVEYOR SYSTEM -- OVER 1,000 FEET IN LENGTH -- IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO TAKE PHYSICAL EFFORTS OUT OF CONVEYING MAIL BAGS AROUND THE BUILDING, PROVIDING AUTOMATIC DISCHARGES ALONG ITS ROUTE.

ANOTHER MODERN MECHANICAL DEVICE IS THE HIGH-SPEED LETTER TRANSPORT SYSTEM WHICH CAN CONVEY LETTERS FROM THE SORTING OFFICE TO THE P.O. BOX PROCESSING AREA AT A RATE OF 45,000 ITEMS AN HOUR.

THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF MAIL LAUNCHES BERTHED ALONGSIDE THE PIER ADJOINING THE BUILDING IS ALSO DONE BY AUTOMATIC MECHANICAL DEVICES.

THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT IN THE SORTING OFFICE IS THE +STAMP CANCELLER MACHINE+ WHICH IS CAPABLE OF SEGREGATING AND STAMPING 25,000 LETTERS AN HOUR.

THE OPERATIONS OF ALL THESE DEVICES TOGETHER WITH OTHER MODERN EQUIPMENT IN THE BUILDING ARE MONITORED BY CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION.

THE NEW FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED POSTAL COMPLEX IS PROVIDED WITH A CENTRALISED VACUUM CLEANING SYSTEM -- THE FIRST EVER USED IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM SERVING AS THE NERVE CENTRE OF MAIL HANDLING, THE NEW BUILDING ALSO HOUSES THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST OFFICE.

A SPACIOUS PUBLIC HALL WITH COUNTERS FOR STAMP SALES AND ACCEPTING REGISTERED MAIL IS LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR WHICH IS LINKED WITH THE GROUND FLOOR BY ESCALATORS AND THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE BY ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE.

/THE NEW .....

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THE NEW G.P.O. BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE P.W.D. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THE POST OFFICE, AND P.W.D. CHIEF ARCHITECT, MR. K.M. TSENG, WAS THE PROJECT ARCHITECT.

MR. TSENG SAYS ITS MODERN DESIGN MAKES IT AN APPROPRIATE SYMBOL OF A DYNAMIC AND FAST-GROWING METROPOLIS - JUST AS ITS PREDECESSOR, THE 1911-VINTAGE VICTORIAN STYLE FORMER G.P.O. RECALLS THE HONG KONG OF AN ERA NOW PAST.

THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE OF THE P.W.D. HANDLED THE CONTRACT FOR POSTAL MECHANISATION INSTALLATION, AND THE POSTAL MECHANISATION SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS FROM THE BRITISH POST OFFICE CONSULTANCY SERVICE.

OUTLINING THE HISTORY OF THE PROJECT, MR. TSENG SAID THAT PLANNING FOR THE NEW G.P.O. BEGAN IN 1969 AND PILING AND CONSTRUCTION IN 1974. THE BUILDING ITSELF TOOK 21 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR. TSENG SAID MORE THAN 25 COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT CONTRACTS UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE P.W.D. THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR WAS TECHNIC CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

THE MAIN PUBLIC HALL OF THE NEW G.P.O. IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR WHERE WHITE MARBLE COUNTERS, FLOURESCENT LIGHTING, LIFTS AND ESCALATORS PROVIDE A BRIGHT, SPACIOUS ENVIRONMENT. IN ADDITION TO STAMP SALES COUNTERS, THIS FLOOR PROVIDES 12,400 POST OFFICE BOXES, NEARLY TWICE THE NUMBER OF THE OLD G.P.O.

A MODEL OF THE NEW BUILDING AND SURROUNDING AREA AS WELL AS PHOTOGRAPHS OF HONG KONG'S POSTAL HISTORY ARE CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY IN THE MAIN PUBLIC HALL.

ACCORDING TO MR. TSENG, THE EXTERIOR WALLS OF THE BUILDING ARE FINISHED IN WHITE GLASS MOSAIC AND FITTED WITH TINTED GLASS AND ANODISED ALUMINIUM WINDOWS. HE SAYS AT NIGHT THESE WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH SODIUM YELLOW-CAST LAMPS TO CONTRAST WITH THE WHITE FLOODLIGHTING OF THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE.

COMPANIES FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT CONTRACTS. APART FROM THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR, TECHNIC CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. WHICH IS A HONG KONG CONCERN, SUBSTANTIAL ORDERS WERE ALSO WON BY FIRMS FROM BRITAIN, JAPAN, HOLLAND AND MALAYSIA, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH HONG KONG-BASED SUBSIDIARIES OR REPRESENTATIVES.

BRITAIN SUPPLIED THE SPECIALIST CONVEYORS AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL CONTROLS THROUGH A CONSORTIUM PUT TOGETHER BY JARDINE ENGINEERING CORP. COMPRISING VICKERS, MANUFACTURERS EQUIPMENT, GEORGE ROBSON, DAVIS PRITCHARD AND RICHMOND AND MIDLAND DYNAMO UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICE CONSULTANCY SERVICE.

/GENERAL .....

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GENERAL ELECTRIC PROVIDED THE BUILDING'S ELEVATORS, CHUBB THE STRONGROOM DOORS, WORMALD INTERNATIONAL THE FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES AND PHILIPS HANDLED THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION. FROM JAPAN, FUJISASH WON THE TENDER FOR ALUMINIUM WINDOWS AND SUZUKI SHUTTER CO. SHIPPED IN THE ROLLING SHUTTERS.

THE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE ITSELF WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD, WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE FOR PILING AND FOUNDATION AND THE CONVENTIONAL REINFORCED CONCRETE COLUMN AND BEAM METHOD FOR THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

THE COMPLETION OF THIS IMPRESSIVE NEW BUILDING FILLS HONG HONG'S NEED FOR INCREASED MAIL-HANDLING CAPABILITY, WHICH IN TURN IS A REFLECTION OF THE CONTINUING DYNAMIC GROWTH OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

THE NEW G.P.O. WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 8 A.M. ON THURSDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE REMINDED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE NEW G.P.O. BUILDING. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE NEW G.P.O. NOT LATER THAN 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY). G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN AIR PASSENGERS AND CARGO  
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SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BOTH AIR PASSENGERS AND CARGO HAS BEEN RECORDED AT KAI TAK AIRPORT DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR. BRIAN KEEP, SAID TODAY.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF LION ROCK, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS HAD QUADRUPLED AND THE AMOUNT OF CARGO HAD INCREASED BY NEARLY TEN TIMES COMPARED WITH THE FIGURES TEN YEARS AGO.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, MORE THAN FOUR MILLION PASSENGERS PASSED THROUGH THE AIRPORT, THE LARGEST NUMBER HANDLED IN ANY ONE YEAR SO FAR, WHILE 152 MILLION KILOS OF AIR FREIGHT WERE HANDLED - REPRESENTING INCREASES OF NEARLY TEN PER CENT IN PASSENGERS AND A STAGGERING 46 PER CENT IN CARGO OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

HE NOTED THAT THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FIGURES WERE SHOWN BY THE EARNINGS OF THE AIRPORT AT \$220 MILLION IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR, THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AT \$3,000 MILLION, NOT TO MENTION THOSE OF THE AIRLINES RELATED TO HONG KONG WHICH PROBABLY AT LEAST EQUAL THOSE OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY.

ON THE CARGO SIDE, MR. KEEP SAID 25 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND 30 PER CENT OF RE-EXPORTS WERE CARRIED BY AIR, REPRESENTING A TOTAL OF OVER \$8,500 MILLION OF TRADING.

THE FACT THAT THE AVIATION INDUSTRY HAD BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THESE RATES OF INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF CARGO, WAS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF, HE SAID.

FORTUNATELY, MR. KEEP CONTINUED, THE GROWTH IN THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND CARGO HAD NOT HAD TO BE MATCHED BY A SIMILAR GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AND, IN FACT, THE TOTAL 1975 MOVEMENTS WAS ONLY 2-1/2 TIMES THOSE OF 1965.

THIS MAINLY RESULTED FROM THE USE OF MORE WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT WHICH CARRIED MORE PASSENGERS. +IF THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY HAD NOT ADOPTED LARGER AIRCRAFT BUT CONTINUED TO USE AIRCRAFT OF 1965 VINTAGE, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO HANDLE SOME 90,000 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AT HONG KONG AIRPORT LAST YEAR INSTEAD OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF 50,000.+

HOWEVER, WITH A PATTERN OF AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS SIMILAR TO THAT AT PRESENT, HE SAID CONSTRAINTS COULD BE EXPECTED TO APPEAR ABOUT 1984 DUE TO LACK OF CAPACITY.

THE GOVERNMENT, MR. KEEP WENT ON, HAD NOT BEEN INSENSITIVE IN THE PAST TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE FROM LACK OF AIRPORT CAPACITY. +THE IMPORTANCE WHICH IT ATTACHES TO THE CONTINUING EFFICIENCY OF THE AIRPORT AND THE AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM MAY BE JUDGED FROM THE EXPENDITURE WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR PROJECTS AT THE AIRPORT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND THE COMMITMENTS WHICH IT HAS MADE FOR THE FUTURE.+

/AT LEAST .....

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AT LEAST \$370 MILLION HAS BEEN OR ARE BEING SPENT ON EXPANDING OR IMPROVING THE VARIOUS AIRPORT FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY AND THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, AND THE VISUAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS.

+ALL THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL MAXIMISE THE USE WHICH WE CAN GET FROM OUR VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND MODESTLY PROFITABLE INVESTMENT IN THE AIRPORT,+ HE SAID.

IN 1976, THE AIRPORT IS EXPECTED TO CARRY PASSENGERS NUMERICALLY EQUAL TO THE WHOLE POPULATION OF HONG KONG. UNLESS THERE IS A RETURN TO THE CRISIS DAYS OF 1974, MR. KEEP SAID AIR TRAFFIC COULD BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE STEADILY AGAIN UNTIL REACHING THE PRACTICAL CAPACITY.

TO THIS END, CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AN EXTENSIVE STUDY OF THE PRESENT AIRPORT AND THE ALTERNATIVE COURSES AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT, HE SAID.

ON CIVIL AVIATION IN GENERAL, MR. KEEP SAID THERE WAS SCARCELY A CORNER OF THE WORLD WHICH WAS NOT SERVED BY REGULAR AIRLINE SERVICES.

+BUT THE INTERNATIONALISM OF AIR TRAVEL GOES FAR BEYOND TERRITORIAL ASPECTS. HOW IS IT THAT CIVIL AVIATION IS ABLE TO FUNCTION WITH THE DEGREE OF RELIABILITY, REGULARITY AND SAFETY WHICH IT HAS ACHIEVED OVER THE YEARS?

+THERE IS NO OTHER TRANSPORT INDUSTRY WHICH IS OPERATED TO THE SAME UNIFORMITY OF HIGH STANDARDS AS CIVIL AVIATION.+

FOR A FEW EXAMPLES, HE SAID AVIATION IS OPERATED UNDER ONE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION LANGUAGE, ONE SET OF RULES OF THE AIR (THE AVIATION HIGHWAY CODE), STANDARDISED NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, STANDARDISED OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT AND THE LICENSING OF AIRCREW, AND STANDARDISED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE AVIATION CENTRES OF THE WORLD.

ALL THESE HAD SPRUNG FROM THE SETTING UP IN 1945 OF AN AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS KNOWN AS THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO).

THE ORGANISATION COMPRISES 132 MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE AGREED TO ABIDE BY THE CONVENTION ON CIVIL AVIATION, ITS ARTICLES, STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES.

THE MACHINERY OF ICAO AND THE WILLINGNESS OF ITS MEMBERS TO USE THAT MACHINERY EFFECTIVELY HAD, THEREFORE, BEEN THE BACKBONE OF THE ORDERLY TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR. KEEP ADDED.

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ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT SUMMER CAMP  
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THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IS TO VISIT THE FIRST SCHOOL FIELD STUDIES AND RECREATION CAMP AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 12).

THE CAMP, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECT SECTION AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, FORMS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

MR. HADDON-CAVE, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. DENIS BRAY AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, WILL SEE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CARRYING OUT FIELD STUDIES IN BIOLOGY AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS AND CAMPING ACTIVITIES.

SOME 30 STUDENTS FROM WA YING COLLEGE AND PO LEUNG KUK C.F.A. NO. 1 COLLEGE ARE TAKING PART IN THE FIVE-DAY CAMP WHICH BEGAN ON AUGUST 9.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT. MR. HADDON-CAVE WILL ARRIVE AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE AT 3 P.M. ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 12).

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COMPENSATION FOR VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

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THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD TODAY (TUESDAY) DECIDED TO AWARD A BURIAL GRANT OF \$1,100 TO THE FATHER OF THE LATE NG WAI KUEN, THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD VICTIM OF SUSPECTED RAPE AND MURDER. THE BODY OF THE GIRL WAS FOUND IN THE LAM TIN ESTATE ON AUGUST 8, 1976.

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE IS PAID OUT FROM PUBLIC FUND THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS  
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 71, HOI PA VILLAGE, TSUEN WAN LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND REQUIRES THAT THE BUILDING SHALL BE DEMOLISHED.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THIS SINGLE-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED WITH A PITCHED TIMBER ROOF ON LOAD-BEARING WALLS, WHICH WERE OF IRREGULAR CONSTRUCTION AND SHOWED SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS.

THE ADJACENT BUILDINGS AT NOS. 72 AND 73, HOI PA VILLAGE ARE OF SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION, AND WERE RECENTLY THE SUBJECT OF EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS FOLLOWING A PARTIAL COLLAPSE. DEMOLITION OF THESE BUILDINGS IS NOW NECESSARY.

IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NO. 71, HOI PA VILLAGE WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE DEMOLITION OR FURTHER COLLAPSE OF NOS. 72 AND 73, HOI PA VILLAGE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1976 WAS POSTED TODAY.

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INVESTIGATION INTO ACCIDENT AT TSING YI TANKER JETTY  
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THE HONG KONG PILOTAGE AUTHORITY HAS APPOINTED A BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO AN ACCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY 24 THIS YEAR, INVOLVING THE KUWAITI TANKER +KAZIMAH+ AND THE MOBIL OIL COMPANY JETTY AT TSING YI ISLAND.

THE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION, WHICH WAS SET UP AFTER PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES, WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND ON THURSDAY AT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. KENNETH MOK WAH-KO, DEPUTY CROWN SOLICITOR, ASSISTED BY CAPTAIN J. MAYO, SENIOR SURVEYOR OF SHIPS AND COMMANDER A.H.F. WILKS, OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

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RECORD PRICE FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND AT TUEN MUN  
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A DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TODAY PAID A LOCAL RECORD PRICE OF \$208.50 A SQUARE FOOT FOR AN AREA OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN TUEN MUN.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF HOI KA COMPANY LTD., BOUGHT 18,610 SQUARE FEET (1,729 SQ. METRES) OF LAND IN THE NEW TOWN EARMARKED FOR GODOWN AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES FOR \$3.88 MILLION.

IT WAS THE FIRST AUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN TUEN MUN FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS.

AT THE LAST AUCTION, IN SEPTEMBER 1974, THE WINNING BID WAS \$67 A SQUARE FOOT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, WHICH CONDUCTED THE AUCTION, SAID TODAY'S FINAL BID MORE THAN DOUBLED THE UPSET PRICE OF \$1.8 MILLION.

+THE KEEN INTEREST AND VERY COMPETITIVE BIDDING REFLECT THE CONTINUING INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF TUEN MUN AND THE NEW TOWNS GENERALLY,+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND REPULSE BAY AREAS WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 12) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IN TSIM SHA TSUI IS BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD, AUSTIN ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD, AUSTIN AVENUE, KIMBERLEY ROAD AND OBSERVATORY ROAD, INCLUDING HILLWOOD ROAD.

IN REPULSE BAY, THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE HOUSE NOS. 12, 16, 20, 24, 37, 41, 43 AND 45 REPULSE BAY ROAD.

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