



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1976

FIRST GOVERNMENT PLASTIC SURGERY UNIT IN P.M.H.

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DISFIGURED PEOPLE ARE HAVING A BETTER CHANCE OF LEADING NORMAL LIVES AGAIN WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALISED PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE UNIT IN THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

THE UNIT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR, NOW HAS 30 BEDS CATERING FOR BOTH MEN, WOMEN AS WELL AS CHILDREN.

IT IS RUN BY A TEAM OF TRAINED PLASTIC SURGEONS, ASSISTED BY DOCTORS, TRAINED NURSES, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND A SOCIAL WORKER.

ACCORDING TO THE CONSULTANT IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT, CASES ADMITTED INTO THE WARD CONSIST MAINLY OF BURNS AND POST BURN CONTRACTURES, CONGENITAL ANOMALIES SUCH AS CLEFT LIP AND PALATE, HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, AND HAND SURGERY.

+THE MAIN AIM OF OUR OPERATIONS IS TO RESTORE FUNCTIONING POWER,+ HE SAID. +COSMETIC EFFECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN APPEARANCE ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.+

+WE DO NOT NORMALLY ACCEPT COSMETIC CASES UNLESS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE A PERSON'S MINOR DISFIGUREMENT AFFECTS HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL MAKE-UP AND CONFIDENCE TO THE EXTENT THAT HIS ABILITY TO WORK IS IMPAIRED,+ HE ADDED.

THE CONSULTANT POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE UNIT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS WITH THE EVER-RISING INSTANCES OF INDUSTRIAL AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN HAND OR FACIAL DISFIGUREMENT.

STATISTICS HAVE ALSO SHOWN THAT ONE OUT OF EVERY 800 NEW-BORN BABIES HAVE SOME SORT OF PHYSICAL ANOMALIES SUCH AS CLEFT LIP AND PALATE OR DEFORMED HANDS AND FINGERS.

+PLASTIC SURGICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR ARE OFTEN EXPENSIVE AND THE NEED FOR A GOVERNMENT-RUN UNIT PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES AT A LOW COST HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME TIME,+ THE CONSULTANT SAID.

PATIENTS ADMITTED INTO THE UNIT AT P.M.H. ARE CHARGED THE STANDARD RATE OF \$3 PER DAY AND ALL OPERATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

AT PRESENT AN AVERAGE OF TEN CASES ARE BEING DEALT WITH EVERY WEEK BY THE PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE UNIT.

/THESE CASES, .....

THESE CASES, THE CONSULTANT POINTED OUT, RANGED FROM RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO HIGHLY COMPLEX ONES REQUIRING A SERIES OF FOUR OR FIVE OPERATIONS.

+TWO OF OUR MORE NOTABLE RECENT CASES ARE THE TRANSFER OF A LITTLE TOE TO THE HANDS OF A FINGERLESS CHILD AND THE REPLANTING OF THE SEVERED HAND OF AN OLD WOMAN,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE WARD IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, OUTPATIENT PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE CLINICS ARE ALSO RUN ONCE A WEEK AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH AND KWONG WAH HOSPITALS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A THIRD PART-TIME OUT-PATIENT CLINIC WILL START OPERATING AT THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG POLYCLINIC IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE 30 HOSPITAL BEDS AVAILABLE AT P.M.H. ARE BEING FULLY UTILISED, BUT THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR PHYSICAL EXPANSION OF THE WARD INSIDE THE HOSPITAL.

TO MAKE FUTURE EXPANSION POSSIBLE, THE UNIT IS CARRYING OUT A CAREFULLY PLANNED IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS AND NURSES.

THE PLASTIC SURGEONS, WHO HAVE ALL RECEIVED SPECIALIST TRAINING OVERSEAS, ARE ORGANISING REGULAR LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR FIVE TRAINEE DOCTORS. TWO NURSES TRAINED IN PLASTIC SURGERY ARE ALSO HELPING TO TRAIN OTHER NURSES FOR THE JOB.

+WHEN OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS CAN BE RELEASED FOR FULL-TIME DUTIES IN THE UNIT AND AS OUR TRAINEE DOCTORS GET MORE EXPERIENCE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO CATER FOR THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS SEEN AT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND TO SHORTEN THE WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION AND SURGERY,+ THE CONSULTANT SAID.

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#### PROMOTION OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH \* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, TODAY COMMENDED LOCAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOLS FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN PROMOTING SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MR. TOPLEY WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THREE-DAY HONG KONG INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETIC MEET ORGANISED BY THE SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

HE RECALLED THAT INITIALLY ONLY A FEW HUNDREDS COMPETITORS TOOK PART IN THE EVENTS BUT DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS THE NUMBERS HAD INCREASED STEADILY. NOW THERE WERE MORE THAN 2,000 COMPETITORS.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS HAD ALSO INCREASED AND MANY NEW TRACK AND FIELD RECORDS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

+THESE ACHIEVEMENTS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID, +ARE LARGELY DUE TO THE UNFAILING ENERGY AND EFFORTS OF THE ORGANISERS.+

HE SAID IT WAS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT THIS SPORTS MEET WAS BEING HELD FOR THE 30TH TIME.

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LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK

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LION ROCK, WHOSE RUGGED TERRAIN AND TREACHEROUS CLIFFS ARE POPULAR WITH HIKERS AND ROCK CLIMBING ENTHUSIASTS, ALSO ATTRACTS MANY PEOPLE WHO GO THERE FOR LESS ARDUOUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE EARLY THIS YEAR, SCENIC LANDSCAPES AROUND THE ROCK HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR DESIGNATION AS THE PROPOSED COUNTRY PARK.

IT WILL COVER ABOUT 557 HECTARES (1,376 ACRES) AND STRETCH FROM TAI PO ROAD RUNNING EAST, INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF THE RIDGE, TO SHATIN PASS ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE ROCK.

CURRENTLY, THE LOWLAND AREA OF HUNG MUI KUK AND SEVERAL PLACES NEAR THE ADJOINING AMAH ROCK ARE MAINLY FREQUENTED BY FAMILIES AND STUDENTS FOR PICNICS AND BARBECUES. ALTOGETHER THERE ARE AT PRESENT FOUR PICNIC AND FOUR APPROVED BARBECUE SITES.

FACILITIES INCLUDE THE USUAL TABLES AND BENCHES, PLAY AREAS, BARBECUE PITS AND LITTER BINS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: FIRES, PARTICULARLY IN THE DRY SEASON, ARE A CONSTANT THREAT TO ALL THE COUNTRY PARKS. THE LIGHTING OF FIRES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY PARKS IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN APPROVED BARBECUE SITES BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF FIRE AND SERIOUS DAMAGE.

THE TWO LOCALITIES WERE VISITED BY OVER 20,000 PEOPLE IN 1975 - AN INCREASE OF SOME 150 PER CENT OVER THE 1974 FIGURE.

ANOTHER ATTRACTION OF THE LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK IS THAT IT HAS A LONG STRETCH OF ROAD, LINKING WANG TAU HOM AREA TO SHATIN, WHICH IS USED BY MORNING WALKERS - WHO ARE MOSTLY MIDDLE-AGED RESIDENTS OF THE NEARBY PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

BETWEEN 600 AND 800 PERSONS WALK ALONG THE STEEP ROAD EVERY MORNING AND 50 PER CENT OF THEM SPEND UP TO TWO HOURS IN THIS ACTIVITY.

TOWARDS THE NORTHERN END OF THE SHATIN PASS, IT IS PLANNED TO PROVIDE SIMILAR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE USE OF PEOPLE FROM THE SHATIN NEW TOWN AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT NO PICNIC OR BARBECUE SITES IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY PARK.

WE ARE INVOLVED IN A JOINT SCHEME WITH SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO REHABILITATE A LEVELLED AREA (BORROW LAND) WHICH WILL BE TURFED AND PROVIDED WITH FACILITIES UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

WORK ON THIS HAS NOT YET BEGUN, BUT WILL START AS SOON AS IT IS FEASIBLE. THE AREA IS EXPECTED TO BECOME POPULAR BECAUSE VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A PANORAMIC VIEW OF BOTH KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES, HE ADDED.

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NEW HOME FOR THE AGED OPENED  
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THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT INCREASED VOLUNTARY EFFORT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME PLAN ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TZ'U TE HOME FOR THE AGED AT TAI O MUN, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD.

MR. LEE NOTED THAT THERE WAS A CONTINUING NEED FOR EXPANDING THE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN HONG KONG, AND THAT THIS COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

HE CONGRATULATED MEMBERS OF THE CHAM SHAN MONASTERY FOR HAVING BUILT THE HOME AFTER YEARS OF PLANNING AND HARDWORK.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE PROJECT BY PROVIDING THIS PIECE OF CROWN LAND TO THE MONASTERY AND GRANTING \$300,000 FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO MEET PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING COSTS, HE SAID, IT WAS THROUGH THE ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION, UNTIRING EFFORTS AND RESOURCEFULNESS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MONASTERY THAT THIS PROJECT BECAME A REALITY.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE AT HA TSUEN  
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS AT HA TSUEN RURAL COMMITTEE FOR RESIDENTS AND PERSONS LIVING NEARBY FOR THREE DAYS FROM DECEMBER 13 (MONDAY).

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN OR WARDS OF 11 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DAILY.

ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS.

THEY SHOULD REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1976

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON THE MORNING OF TUESDAY (DECEMBER 7) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN WAN CHAI.

SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES IN STEWART ROAD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT AT THE JUNCTION OF HENNESSY ROAD AND STEWART ROAD.

EASTBOUND VEHICLES IN JOHNSTON ROAD WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO TURN LEFT INTO HENNESSY ROAD AT THE JUNCTION OF JOHNSTON ROAD AND HENNESSY ROAD NEAR THE PETROL FILLING STATION.

THE SECTION OF HEARD STREET BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY FROM HENNESSY ROAD TO WAN CHAI ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Sunday, December 5, 1976.

A PROPER HOME OF THEIR OWN - AT LAST

A year ago, a tenant of the partially-occupied Lek Yuen Estate at Sha Tin moved into a proper home for the first time in her life.

She is Mrs Wong Tong Yuk-ngun who, with her family, was rehoused to Lek Yuen after their hut on a hillside near the entrance to Lion Rock tunnel was badly damaged by a landslip resulting from a tropical storm.

A widow, Mrs Wong is now paying \$200 a month for the 315 square feet, seven-person flat.

She was not accustomed to paying rental at first, but, now one year later, Mrs Wong has settled down and is enjoying life in the estate.

"From all angles my children and I are happy here," Mrs Wong said.

"Originally, we felt uneasy spending \$200 a month because we had not been paying rent before. But, we now realise it is worthwhile for much better accommodation. I could not get the same value in a private flat," she said.

The Wong family previously lived in a hut measuring approximately 450 square feet.

Facilities were primitive and there were inconvenience with transportation, sanitation and postal service.

Now, Mrs Wong and her five children live comfortably.

"Psychologically, we feel safer living in a public housing estate rather than in a hut," she said.

"The flat protects us from rain and burglary."

"We have many advantages from the well-located site, such as better transport, welfare and shopping facilities."

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Mrs Wong added that the rent took a proportion of the family income, but it was worth it because of the facilities offered.

Her flat has an individual toilet, balcony, kitchen and water supply. From the balcony the family has a pleasant view over the surrounding countryside.

A year ago, a tenant of the partially-occupied Lek Yuen Estate at Sha Tin moved into a proper home for the first time in her life. She is Mrs Wong Teng Yin-nan who, with her family, was rehoused to Lek Yuen after their hut on a hillside near the entrance to Lion Rock Tunnel was badly damaged by a landslide resulting from a tropical storm.

A widow, Mrs Wong is now paying \$200 a month for the 315 square feet seven-person flat.

She was not accustomed to paying rental at first, but, now one year later, Mrs Wong has settled down and is enjoying life in the estate.

"From all angles my children and I are happy here," Mrs Wong said. "Originally, we felt uneasy spending \$200 a month because we had not been paying rent before. But, we now realize it is worthwhile for much better accommodation. I could not get the same value in a private flat," she said.

The Wong family previously lived in a hut measuring approximately 400 square feet. Facilities were primitive and there were inconvenience with transportation, sanitation and social services.

Now, Mrs Wong and her five children live comfortably. "Psychologically, we feel safer living in a public housing estate rather than in a hut," she said.

"The flat protects us from rain and burglary." "We have many advantages from the well-located site, such as better transport, welfare and shopping facilities."



HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Sunday, December 5, 1976

THE HI-BALL STRIKES, AND DOWN GOES THE OLD  
AT SHEK KIP MEI

Swinging from a crane like the pendulum of a clock, a three-ton hi-ball is crunching and crumping its way through seven Mark I blocks at Lower Shek Kip Mei Estate in the latest stage of a \$200 million redevelopment scheme there.

Thus are the hands of time turning a full circle at Shek Kip Mei, for there is where Hong Kong's public housing programme began in 1954, when eight of the first Mark I blocks were thrown up in one year to provide roofs over the heads of 53,000 people made homeless on Christmas Day, 1953, when a terrible fire ripped through thousands of squatter huts.

Blow by blow, like a giant hammer, the hi-ball is smashing down block after block to clear an area of almost six acres on which part of a new-generation housing estate rivalling Oi Man and Wah Fu will rise.

The first stage of a commercial complex of two storeys, featuring 99 shops, markets with some 360 stalls of various sizes and 10 cooked-food stalls, will also go up on the site formerly occupied by Blocks Four, Five and Six.

The second stage of the commercial complex, which has yet to be built, will include 46 shops, 80 market stalls, an emporium, a supermarket, a restaurant, welfare premises, a school, kindergarten, nursery and 10 cooked-food stalls.

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These commercial projects will totally transform Shek Kip Mei Housing Estate.

The old Mark I blocks are not giving in without a fight. Though built hurriedly, they were built solidly too and their skeletons of concrete are laced with sinews of steel bars and veins of steel rods which withstand blow after blow of the hi-ball until the concrete shreds away and the steel framework surrenders reluctantly and sags like lattice-work on the dusty rubble.

Section by section, the hi-ball shears away the six-storey blocks, and rooms where families grew up and children reached adulthood are suddenly exposed for the first time to the glare of the sun, tattered joss signs still pasted over doorways and small fung shui mirrors still nailed on walls.

What stories these walls could tell if they could speak .....

Of families rising above such humble living conditions to gain fortune in commerce through hard work; of children who learnt their first lessons in the rooftop schools above their blocks and learnt those lessons well enough to now occupy good jobs in the Government, leading commercial houses or big factories; of other children who migrated to the United States, Canada, Britain or Europe and consequent prosperity, steeled in their determination to succeed by the experience of growing up in a resettlement estate; of marriages and births, festivals and anniversaries, joy and sadness.

The families these blocks housed all strived for a better life ---- and now these old blocks are going so that other families can enjoy a better life in the new Shek Kip Mei Estate.

The redevelopment of Shek Kip Mei will take five years. When finished the whole scheme will accommodate approximately 33,000 people -- almost 50 percent less than the original population.

This scheme will fulfil the Housing Authority's aim in providing more space for tenants and relief overcrowding in the old estates.

The majority of the domestic units existing in Shek Kip Mei are 120 square feet.

But planned flats sizes of the redeveloped blocks will vary from 308 square feet to 420 square feet which will be much bigger and more comfortable, based on the current allocation standard of 35 square feet per person.

It is further planned that living space per person will reach 50 square feet in the foreseeable future.

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