



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1977

OVER 720 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN 1976

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A TOTAL OF 723 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE P.W.D.'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE LAST YEAR -- THE HIGHEST SINCE 1973, AND ABOUT 37 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1975.

THE UPTURN IN APPROVAL CONTINUED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WHEN 57 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED, COMPARED WITH 55 IN DECEMBER AND 50 DURING JANUARY 1976.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED LAST MONTH, 20 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 17 FOR KOWLOON AND 20 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR A NUMBER OF HIGH-RISE APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BUILDING OF 23 OR MORE STOREYS AT LOCKHART ROAD, KENNEDY STREET, HAK PO STREET, RECLAMATION STREET, JUNCTION OF KIANG HSI STREET AND KO SHAN ROAD AND YUEN LONG.

BUILDING PLANS FOR A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, SAI KUNG, A TEMPLE BUILDING AT NGONG PING, LANTAU ISLAND, AND SEVEN BLOCKS OF 12-STOREY AND 16-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS AT TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, WERE ALSO APPROVED.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING JANUARY THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$237.3 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$180.9 MILLION FOR DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO 194,078.4 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 38,316.7 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 155,761.7 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 54 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING A GYMNASIUM COMMUNAL HALL AND WORKSHOP AT HUNG HOM RECLAMATION, A FUNERAL PARLOUR OFF WINSLOW STREET, A PIER AT TSING YI ISLAND, A CINEMA COMPLEX AT HIU KWONG STREET, AND A CHAPEL AT SHEUNG SHUI.

SEVENTY-TWO COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING JANUARY.

/THEY INCLUDED .....

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1977

- 2 -

THEY INCLUDED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC OFF CHATHAM ROAD AT HUNG HOM RECLAMATION, A CINEMA BUILDING AT JORDAN ROAD, A CHURCH AND SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE BUILDING AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND A HOME FOR THE AGED AT TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO CONSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 39 BUILDINGS LAST MONTH.

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OPENING OF SECOND ASIAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 1977  
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THE SECOND ASIAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM FEBRUARY 22 TO 26 AT THE MACPHERSON STADIUM, YIM PO FONG STREET, KOWLOON.

FOURTEEN TEAMS WILL BE PARTICIPATING, ALL FROM THE ASIAN REGIONS, AND THE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG BADMINTON ASSOCIATION HOLD EVERY PROMISE OF BEING EXCITING AND THE PLAY OF A VERY HIGH STANDARD. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT AN INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION HAS BEEN HELD IN HONG KONG.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 22) AT THE MACPHERSON STADIUM.

ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 24), THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. DENIS BRAY, WILL HOST A COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE HOLIDAY INN FOR PARTICIPANTS IN AND DELEGATES TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY AND PRIZE-GIVING WILL BE HELD ALSO IN THE MACPHERSON STADIUM ON FEBRUARY 26 AFTER THE FINAL MATCHES WHICH WILL START AT 7 P.M. MR. BRAY WILL OFFICIATE ON THIS OCCASION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SPORTS EDITORS MAY CARE TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION WHICH IS INFORMAL AND WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM 4 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 24 IN THE HOLIDAY INN'S TOPAZ ROOM.

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COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN SHA TIN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STEADILY BUILDING UP COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT SHA TIN TO KEEP PACE WITH THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE FOCUS OF THE BUILD-UP IS THE \$3 MILLION CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE AMERICAN COUNSUL-GENERAL, MR. CHARLES CROSS, JUST BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE SHA TIN'S 50,000 RESIDENTS WITH A DAY NURSERY FOR 100 CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR, ROOMS AND OFFICES FOR FAMILY SERVICES, A LIBRARY, MEETING ROOMS, LECTURE ROOMS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, A MULTI-PURPOSE HALL AND A CHURCH.

AND BEFORE THE PAINT HAS BARELY DRIED ON THE CARITAS COMPLEX THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENING A NEW COMMUNITY HALL AT THE LEK YUEN ESTATE.

+THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HOPES TO OPEN THE DOORS OF THE HALL EARLY NEXT MONTH AND ALONG WITH THE CARITAS CENTRE, IT WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE OUTLET FOR COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS,+ THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY.

+IN ADDITION, WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED ON A TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND NEAR THE CARITAS CENTRE WHICH WILL HAVE A MINI SOCCER PITCH AND BASKETBALL COURTS AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE FINISHED LATER THIS YEAR.

+THIS PLAYGROUND WILL BE A GOOD BACK-UP TO THE SOCCER PITCH ALREADY OPERATING AT TAI WAI.+

MR. SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED AN INCREASE IN STAFF IN SHA TIN TO ENSURE A SMOOTH COMMUNITY BUILDING PROCESS.

AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. EDDIE CHAN, HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP A NEW POST AND HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CO-ORDINATING RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

+WE NOW ALSO HAVE A RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE NEW HALL AT LEK YUEN WILL ALSO ACT AS COMMUNITY YOUTH OFFICER AT SHA TIN UNTIL A FULL-TIME CYO IS APPOINTED,+ MR. SUEN SAID.

+IN ADDITION, THE USD HOPES TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A FULL-TIME URBAN SERVICES OFFICER IN SHA TIN LATER THIS YEAR.+

MR. SUEN SAID A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WERE BEING PLANNED, INCLUDING A SHA TIN ATHLETICS MEET NEXT MONTH PRIOR TO THE N.T.-WIDE ATHLETICS MEET IN MARCH, A SOCCER TOURNAMENT AND TAI CHI CLASSES AT TAI WAI AND LEK YUEN.

+WE WILL EXPAND THE RANGE OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES AS THE NEW TOWN GROWS,+ MR. SUEN SAID.

IMPORTANT ROLE OF F.M.O. STRESSED

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IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL FISHERMEN TO SELL THEIR CATCHES THROUGH THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (F.M.O.) -- A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BODY SET UP TO SERVE FISHERMEN, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES AND MARKETING) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR. ALEXANDER MURRAY SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET, HE NOTED THAT THE SIX PER CENT COMMISSION LEVIED ON THE LANDINGS VALUE AT THE F.M.O. WAS USED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE F.M.O. LOAN FUND FOR FISHERMEN.

HE ADDED THAT REVENUE FROM THE COMMISSION WAS ALSO USED TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE MARKETING SERVICES AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE NEWLY OPENED EXTENSION OF THE MARKET AT ABERDEEN AND THE INCREASE IN COLD STORAGE CAPACITY AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH MARKET.

+FUTURE PLANS INCLUDE A NEW MARKET AT KWUN TONG, WHERE WE ARE ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING FOR A SITE= A RECOMP OF THE OLD ABERDEEN MARKET WHICH MAY CAUSE SOME SHORT-TERM INCONVENIENCE BUT WHICH WE SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP TO A MINIMUM= THE REPROVISIONING OF THE TAI PO, CASTLE PEAK, AS WELL AS THE CHEUNG SHA WAN MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

MR. MURRAY DISCLOSED THAT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP A FISHERIES SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO MAKE GRANTS TO FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TO TRAIN INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS LIKELY TO BECOME LEADERS OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY.

FURTHERMORE, HE CONTINUED, THE THREE-YEAR SECONDARY MODERN COURSE OFFERED AT THE F.M.O. ABERDEEN SCHOOL WOULD BE CHANGED TO A FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY TECHNICAL COURSE.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REVEALED THAT TO HELP IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT SKILLS OF LOCAL FISHERMEN BOTH AT SEA AND ASHORE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LAUNCH A BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COURSE DURING THE COMING YEAR.

HE SAID THAT DESPITE SUCH NATURAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS EARTHQUAKES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND A SUCCESSION OF TROPICAL STORMS, SEVERE TROPICAL STORMS AND TYPHOONS LAST SUMMER, THE VOLUME OF FISH SOLD THROUGH THE F.M.O. LAST YEAR INCREASED FOUR PER CENT BY WEIGHT AND 11 PER CENT IN VALUE COMPARED WITH 1975.

+THIS IS A MATTER FOR SOME CONGRATULATION,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE SUBJECT OF OPENING UP NEW RESOURCES FOR FISHING, MR. MURRAY SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S FISHERIES VESSEL +CAPE ST. MARY+ WOULD NEXT MONTH BEGIN THE NECESSARY SURVEYS FOR PELAGIC FISH IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1977

- 5 -

+THESE SURVEYS ARE BEING CONDUCTED FROM A STRICTLY PRACTICAL VIEWPOINT, NAMELY TO ESTABLISH IF THERE ARE ADEQUATE STOCKS OF PELAGIC FISH TO SUPPORT A COMMERCIAL FISHERY AND IF SO, WHERE AND WHEN THEY ARE TO BE FOUND,+ HE INDICATED.

AFTER THE SPEECH, THE WIFE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. E.H. NICHOLS, PRESENTED PRIZES, CERTIFICATES AND LONG-SERVICE MEDALS TO A NUMBER OF FISHERMEN.

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS WERE EIGHT FISHERMEN WHO BETWEEN THEM SAVED 56 LIVES AT SEA DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS. TWO OF THEM, MR. KWOK KUN-FOR AND MR. CHENG WAI-HO, RESCUED 27 PEOPLE FROM A FREIGHTER WHICH RAN AGROUND ABOUT 280 KILOMETRES NORTH-EAST OF HONG KONG.

PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO 47 FISHERMEN WHO MARKETED THE LARGEST VALUE OF FISH THROUGH THE F.M.O. LONG SERVICE MEDALS WERE GIVEN TO 11 F.M.O. STAFF MEMBERS FOR HAVING COMPLETED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AND NINE YOUNG FISHERMEN WHO COMPLETED A SIX-MONTH TRAINING COURSE IN NAVIGATION GIVEN BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WERE AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATES.

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#### TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT MORRISON STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 8 A.M. ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 22), THE SECTION OF MORRISON STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT TRAMS.

THE CLOSURE WHICH AIMS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK RENEWAL WORKS, WILL LAST FOR ABOUT 3 MONTHS.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING WESTWARDS ALONG DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL ARE ADVISED TO USE HILLIER STREET TO GAIN ACCESS INTO CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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