



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, March 26, 1973

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Plans to improve Victoria Park have been announced .....	1
The Housing Authority ends 19 years of service .....	3
The Director of Medical and Health Services issues appeal for more blood donations .....	6
Lady MacLehose opens the new Spastics Association Training Centre .....	7
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the new Medical Development Advisory Committee will hold a press conference tomorrow .....	8
There has been a sharp drop in the incidence of infectious diseases .....	9
Three new members have been appointed to the expanded Urban Council .....	10

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 1 -

\$3 MILLION PROJECT TO IMPROVE VICTORIA PARK  
Garden, Plaza And Children's Library Planned

\*\*\*\*\*

Victoria Park, serving thousands of people living in crowded buildings in the Causeway Bay and other urban areas on Hong Kong Island, will be further beautified to make it more attractive for visitors.

Many of its existing services will be improved and additional facilities will be incorporated.

This latest recreational project, costing more than \$3.1 million, has been made possible following the completion of the new Waterfront Road.

It is one of the many projects which the Government will undertake at no expense to the newly constituted Urban Council.

The project includes the re-development of the whole area bounded by the Queen Victoria Statue in the east, Causeway Road in the south, the Roxy Theatre car park in the west, and the walkway which runs through the middle of the park in the north.

The site will be converted into an ornamental "sunken" garden, a plaza with shelters, a children play area and a new children's library.

The "sunken" garden, near the Queen Victoria Statue, will be about four feet below road level. The main feature of this garden is a large fountain with submerged colour lights and movable jet nosels. The area round it will be turfed and decorated with flower beds.

Round the garden will be a plaza with sun shelters and benches. The shelters, to be built in groups, vary in heights. It will be an ideal place for those who wish to relax in the shade during the day and to enjoy the cool breeze in the evening.

/The enlarged .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 2 -

The enlarged children play area is situated at the north-west corner of the site. It will provide such facilities as junglegyms, plank swings, rocking horses, joywheels, and sand pit.

At present, the children's library is quite inadequate to meet the increasing demand.

It is proposed to build a new library to replace the existing one. On completion, the new library will consist of two study/lending rooms - one for children aged between eight and 14 and the other for those between 14 and 18.

Each room will have a floor area of about 1,000 square feet and a seating capacity for about 100 children.

Also included in the improvement scheme is the enlargement of the model boat pool near the knoll area in the Park.

This pool has proved to be a most popular spot among the model boat enthusiasts.

In view of this, a second pool of irregular shape will be added by the side of the existing one. They will be connected by a bridge in between.

Apart from these, a large sitting-out area and a new dog's garden will also be developed on a 54,000-sq.-ft. site near the Excelsior Hotel in Waterfront Road.

Commenting on the scheme today, a spokesman for the Urban Services Department said: "It has always been the Government's policy to provide new parks and playgrounds, and to improve the existing ones, whenever opportunities arise.

"An open space, such as Victoria Park, in the centre of built-up areas will surely be welcome by everyone living there."

.....

Note to Editors: A sketch showing the various new facilities in Victoria Park is attached to today's Daily Information Bulletin.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 3 -

HOUSING AUTHORITY ENDS 19-YEAR SERVICE WITH PROUD RECORD

Birth Of New High-Powered Housing Body

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hong Kong Housing Authority's achievements, aspirations and frustrations were today recounted by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. J.J. Robson.

Mr. Robson was speaking at a ceremony marking the end of the 19-year-old Authority which had been dissolved to make way for a newly reconstituted one to be formally installed on April, 1.

In terms of solid achievements, Mr. Robson said that the old Authority could take pride in the fact that it had provided homes at reasonable rents in good surroundings for 218,000 people, with accommodation for a further 46,000 near completion.

He said that the Authority had also taken over from the Public Works Department for management, 17 estates providing homes for 397,000 people.

Mr. Robson explained that the Authority, set up with the object of assisting in the solution of the housing shortage, was never intended to have a monopoly in this field.

At that time, it was estimated that 350,000 people needed to be rehoused from tenements alone, in order that living space of those remaining could be increased to the minimum of 35 sq.ft. per person.

This estimate, he said, took no account of the squatters who were already on the ground, and who were to spread rapidly in the ensuing years, or of the natural increase in population.

/"The fact .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 4 -

"The fact that 19 years later we are still facing a tremendous housing shortage, and are still struggling to house people at the same basic standard of 35 sq. ft. per person, is not a reflection of any inadequacy on the part of the Authority," Mr. Robson pointed out.

"In very great measure, it was due to the population explosion which increased the number of people in Hong Kong from an estimated two and a half million in 1954 to over four million in 1973.

"It also partly stemmed from the lack of sites for the Authority to take over and develop - which in turn restricted its expenditure so that even today we still have not taken up fully the original loan by Government of \$260 million," he said.

#### Frustration

"This," he added, "had been the cause of much frustration among both members and staff who had all felt that, given the essentials, they could have done so much more to counter the housing shortage and raise the people's living standards."

Mr. Robson went on to say that since the first estate at North Point was completed in 1958, the Authority had followed a policy of continuously seeking to improve the designs and features of its estate, while, at the same time, trying to reduce the effects of an ever-increasing price spiral.

He recalled that the Authority had always resisted suggestions, which were sometimes presented with some pressure, that it should lower its standards, for example, by abandoning the building of self-contained accommodation in favour of cheaper types of housing.

/Time, .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 5 -

Time, he said, had fully illustrated the wisdom of the Authority's policy.

Turning to the new Authority, Mr. Robson disclosed that as long ago as 1958, a special committee on housing had recommended that a separate Housing Department should be set up and that all Government funds for public housing should be expanded under one co-ordinated programme for housing, re-housing and resettlement.

It also proposed that the activities of the Housing Department and the Resettlement Department should be co-ordinated under one Housing Authority, he said.

"Although these particular recommendations were not adopted by the Government at that time, those who made them will be gratified to know that they have, at last, come to fruition, and that thereby the new Authority will be better equipped for its task than the old," Mr. Robson said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 6 -

### APPEAL FOR MORE BLOOD DONATIONS

Dr. Choa Pinpoints Importance Of Blood Bank

\*\*\*\*\*

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, today appealed to the public for more donations of blood to enable the British Red Cross to maintain a transfusion service for Hong Kong.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the new Blood Collection Centre in the Ocean Terminal.

He said he was sure the public realised the importance of a blood bank -- but such a bank needed blood to stock, and only the public could provide it.

He repeated this message: "The Red Cross does not ask for a donation. It only asks for a pint of blood. The few minutes you spend donating blood may save the life of a fellow human being. Also, the life you save may be your own."

Dr. Choa described the burden falling on the Red Cross as "heavy", and it was only by "sheer hard work and dedication" that it had been able to maintain a transfusion service for Hong Kong. But there were still difficulties and shortfalls.

He referred to 1972 as "a successful year" for two reasons. A total of 35,973 pints had been collected, as against 29,230 pints the year before, or an increase of 23 per cent. Also, local residents had constituted more than 72 per cent of donors, compared with 56 per cent in 1971.

"Our aim is not only to keep a supply of blood, but an ample supply to meet all requests, so as to stop once and for all people having to buy, or sell, blood," he said.

He firmly believed that if more people knew about the transfusion service, the Red Cross would get more donors.

Before leaving the new premises, Dr. Choa donated a pint of blood.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 7 -

LADY MACLEHOSE OPENS TRAINING CENTRE

\*\*\*\*\*

Lady MacLehose today described the new Spastics Association Training Centre in Sau Mau Ping as an attempt to provide the "optimum solution" to the "many and conflicting demands" put on agencies caring for handicapped children.

She was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Centre at Block 25 in Sau Mau Ping Resettlement Estate this afternoon.

She said there were about 30 agencies which had the care of handicapped children as a major, or indeed their sole, concern.

"These agencies, sometimes quite small, fulfil a need in providing help and expertise in certain fields."

The following is the full text of Lady MacLehose's speech:

"Miss Payne, Mr. Kvan, Friends of the Sau Mau Ping Centre:

"Thank you for your invitation to join you this afternoon. .

For many years it has been characteristic of the social services in Hong Kong that they have been the joint responsibility of Government and voluntary agencies. There are, I believe, about thirty agencies which have the care of handicapped children as a major, or indeed their sole, concern. A few of them go back many years but most of them came into being during the last twenty years or so. These agencies, sometimes quite small, fulfil a need in providing help and expertise in certain fields.

/"All those .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 8 -

"All those who have handicapped children in their care are striving to do the best they can for the children and their parents. Many and conflicting demands are put on such agencies and they have to find the optimum solution to such conflicts. The Centre we open here today is attempting one such solution, possibly a novel one, and our best wishes must go to it. The many friends who are represented here today have done so much to make it possible to reach this point and I am sure that I speak also for them in expressing my best wishes for the future work of the staff, the volunteers and the committee of this Centre.

"I now take great pleasure in declaring the Sau Mau Ping Training Centre open."

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRESS CONFERENCE

\*\*\*\*\*

Note to Editors: The Chairman of the new Medical Development Advisory Committee, Sir Albert Rodrigues, and the Vice-Chairman, Dr. G.H. Choa, will hold a press conference at noon tomorrow (Tuesday) in the G.I.S. theatre, Beaconsfield House, 5th floor. You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the conference.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 9 -

HEALTH REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Decline In Incidence Of Most Infectious Diseases

\*\*\*\*\*

The health report for February, issued today by the Medical and Health Department, shows a marked drop in the incidence of infectious diseases compared with the corresponding month last year.

The total of notifications fell from 1,056 to 657, and the number of deaths from 126 to 92.

Reports of typhoid fever dropped from 32 to 10, chicken pox from 116 to 20, and measles from 158 to 56.

Of the 92 deaths from infectious diseases last month, tuberculosis accounted for 86. In January, the same disease caused 138 deaths.

Two deaths resulted from amoebiasis and one each from bacillary dysentery, cerebrospinal meningitis, typhoid fever, and measles.

One case of malaria was notified, but a spokesman for the Medical and Health Department described it as "an imported case," that is, of non-local origin.

There were no reports of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

During the month, Hong Kong remained free from cholera or other quarantinable diseases.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 10 -

THREE NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO URBCO

Mr. James Wu Is Retiring On April 1

\*\*\*\*\*

The Governor has appointed three new members to the expanded Urban Council, two of whom will fill the additional seats allowed for in the new constitution.

The three new members are Mr. Alex S.C. Wu, Mr. Hu Fat-kwong and Mr. Wong Shiu-cheuck. Mr. Wu and Mr. Hu will serve for a term of three years, and Mr. Wong for a term of one year.

Of the ten appointed members serving in the existing Council, Mr. James M.H. Wu is due to resign on April 1, when the new constitution comes into effect.

The three new appointments, also effective from that date, will therefore increase the appointed membership to 12.

Mr. Wu, aged 50, holds appointments as managing director of Dai Nippon Printing Co. (International) Ltd., partner of Fidelity Inspection Service and Director of Canadian Tools Ltd.

He has served on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee, the Board of Governors of New Asia College, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Social Welfare Advisory Committee. He is also former chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee.

Mr. Hu, aged 49, is managing director of Ryoden Electric Engineering Co. Ltd. Widely respected for his sporting and recreational interests, he is currently chairman of the Children's Playground Association, the Hong Kong Festival 1973 Entertainment Committee and the Hong Kong Handball Association.

/A former .....

Monday, March 26, 1973

- 11 -

A former chairman and current vice president of the South China Athletic Association, Mr. Hu is also a member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee.

Mr. Wong, aged 49, is business development manager of American Express International Banking Corporation.

Appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1968, he is the manager of eight subsidized schools and for the past 17 years has been a leading member of several Chinese traditional welfare organisations and other community service bodies.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

更衣室

FOOTBALL PITCHES  
足球場

SAND PIT  
沙地

CHILDREN PLAY  
AREA  
兒童遊樂場

LAWN 草坪

兒童圖書館

CHILDREN'S  
LIBRARY

ORNAMENTAL  
SUNKEN GARDEN

地底花園

SHEDS IN  
GROUPS  
小亭

PAVILION  
涼亭

PLAZA  
行人廣場

FOUNTAIN  
噴水池

MOUND 假山

VICTORIA PARK MAIN  
ENTRANCE

維多利亞公園正門

CAUSEWAY ROAD  
高士威道

