DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

FOUR NT BUILDINGS TO BE PRESERVED 1

300 000 VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS DISTRIBUTED 3

SAFETY RULES FOR SCHOOLS ON COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS 4

77 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AWARDED IN JULY 4

NEW OFFICE FOR TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD 5

SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON 5

HOLIDAY REMINDER TO EMPLOYERS 6

FOUR NT BUILDINGS TO BE PRESERVED

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FOUR STRUCTURES WHICH REFLECT THE WAY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED AND WORKED IN HONG KONG IN PREVIOUS CENTURIES WILL BE PRESERVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THESE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS, TO BE DECLARED AS MONUMENTS UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE, ARE SITUATED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ARE THE LARGEST GROUP TO BE SO DECLARED AT ANY ONE TIME.

THEY ARE :

* MAN LUN FUNG ANCESTRAL HALL IN FAN TIN TSUEN, SAN TIN-
* FAN LAU FORT ON THE SOUTH-WEST TIP OF LANTAU-
* SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE BY THE PAK TAM CHUNG ESTUARY IN SAI KUNG- AND
* DISTRICT OFFICE (NORTH) BUILDING IN TAI PO.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THESE BUILDINGS ARE OF INTEREST NOT ONLY TO STUDENTS OF SOCIAL HISTORY BUT ALSO TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE AND FAN LAU FORT IN PARTICULAR, WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE SAI KUNG EAST, AND SOUTH LANTAU COUNTRY PARKS RESPECTIVELY, WILL BE WELL WORTH A VISIT BY HOLIDAY-MAKERS AFTER WORK ON RESTORATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THE MAN LUN FUNG ANCESTRAL HALL IS ONE OF THREE ANCESTRAL HALLS OF THE LONG-ESTABLISHED MAN CLAN IN HONG KONG. THERE IS NO PRECISE EVIDENCE OF WHEN THE BUILDING WAS ERECTED, BUT THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WAS BUILT POSSIBLY OVER 200 YEARS AGO IN HONOUR OF MR MAN LUN FUNG.

THE BUILDING HAS THREE SEPARATE HALLS AND TWO ENCLOSED COURTYARDS IN-BETWEEN. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE EXCELLENT WOOD CARVING HAS DETERIORATED, THE FINE GRANITE COLUMNS ARE STILL IN GOOD ORDER AND THE BUILDING IS STRUCTURALLY SOUND.

THE HALL IS ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IS STILL REGULARLY USED IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER, FOR WORSHIP OF ANCESTORS, FOR FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES, AND FOR MEETINGS OF VILLAGE ELDERS.

FAN LAU FORT IS LOCATED ON HIGH GROUND ABOUT 60 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL, OVERLOOKING LANTAU CHANNEL, AN IMPORTANT PASSAGE TO THE PEARL RIVER ESTUARY AND CANTON.

RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE AND MEASURING 21 METRES BY 46 METRES, THE FORT HAS WELL-BUILT WALLS OF SEMI-DRESSED STONE AND RESEMBLES THE OTHER FORT (ALREADY DECLARED A MONUMENT) ON TUNG LUNG ISLAND, AT THE EASTERN APPROACHES TO HONG KONG.

/HISTORICALLY, THERE .....

HISTORICALLY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT THE FORT OR ITS ORIGIN, BUT ITS CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO THE TUNG LUNG FORT SUGGESTS THAT THEY MAY BE CONTEMPORARY (POSSIBLY EARLY 17TH CENTURY) AND PROBABLY FORMED PART OF THE SAME DEFENCE SYSTEM.

IT IS NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN WHEN IT WAS ABANDONED BUT AN OLD GAZETTEER MAP OF LANTAU DATED 1836 SHOWS THE FORT WITH ITS FLAG FLYING. BRITISH SOURCES OF 1841/42 DESCRIBED IT AS THE REMAINS OF AN OLD WALLED FORT. THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS ABANDONED SOMETIME BETWEEN 1830 AND 1840.

SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE IS A SMALL, COMPACT AND VERY PICTURESQUE VILLAGE SITUATED ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF PAK TAM CHUNG ESTUARY NEAR THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAI KUNG EAST COUNTRY PARK. IT WAS ORIGINALLY SETTLED ABOUT 150 YEARS AGO BY HAKKAS BY THE NAME OF WONG, WHO STARTED A KILN INDUSTRY PRODUCING BRICKS, TILES AND LIME. AFTER AN INITIAL PERIOD OF PROSPERITY, THE VILLAGE BEGAN TO DECLINE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF CEMENT AND COMPETITION FROM OTHER BRICK-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES. IT WAS ABANDONED SOME 15 YEARS AGO AND COMPLETELY DESERTED.

THE VILLAGE IS BUILT ON A RAISED PLATFORM, ABOUT FIVE METRES ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE ACCESS FOOTPATH, AND IS WELL PROTECTED WITH A HIGH RETAINING WALL IN FRONT. THE MAIN ORIENTATION OF THE VILLAGE, EAST-WEST (AND NOT THE USUAL NORTH-SOUTH), WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO HAVE THE HILLS AT THE BACK AND THE SEA IN FRONT, AS REQUIRED BY GOOD +FUNG SHUI+ OBSERVANCE.

WITHIN THE VILLAGE ITSELF, THERE ARE EIGHT RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN ONE ROW, MOST OF THEM CONNECTED INTERNALLY BY DOORS IN THE DIVIDING WALLS. THE BUILDINGS ARE NEATLY CONSTRUCTED WITH THE OUTER WALLS MADE OF CHINESE GREEN BRICKS, WHILE THE INNER WALLS ARE BUILT OF RUBBLE. THE ENTRANCE DOORS ARE FRAMED BY GRANITE SLABS. ALL THE HOUSES HAVE MEZZANINE FLOORS.

THE VILLAGE DEMONSTRATES INTERESTING FEATURES OF CHINESE DWELLINGS, SUCH AS THE TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY STYLE OF THE VILLAGE-FAMILY LIFE, THE NEED FOR PROTECTION, AND THE FUNG SHUI ORIENTATION LAYOUT. IT IS ALREADY A POPULAR PLACE FOR VISITORS.

THE BUILDING AT PRESENT OCCUPIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE (NORTH) IN TAI PO MARKET DATES FROM ABOUT 1907. THE GROUNDS SURROUNDING IT WILL ALSO BE PRESERVED TO RETAIN ITS FINE SETTING.

IT IS A TWO-STOREY STRUCTURE OF A STYLE POPULAR AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND IS FINISHED IN FINE RED BRICK, WITH OPEN VERANDAHS AND HORIZONTAL BRICK LINTELS.

IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE EARLIEST SEAT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

/THE BUILDING .....

THE BUILDING HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE IT WAS PUT UP EXCEPT FOR INTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE THE DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF.

NO IMMEDIATE RESTORATION WORK IS REQUIRED AND THE INTENTION IS TO CONTINUE TO USE IT AS GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

FOR THE THREE OTHER BUILDINGS TO BE DECLARED AS MONUMENTS, RESTORATION WORK WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO PRESERVE INTERESTING ARTEFACTS AND IN THE CASE OF FAN LAU FORT, TO FENCE OFF THE AREA UNTIL FURTHER RESTORATION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE LONGER TERM. THIS WORK IS EXPECTED TO COST SOME $1.5 MILLION.

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300 000 VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS DISTRIBUTED

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A TOTAL OF 300 000 FORMS WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICE CENTRES YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), THE FIRST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, DESCRIBED THE RESPONSE AS +ENCOURAGING+.

HE SAID IT INDICATED THAT THE PUBLIC WAS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, RURAL COMMITTEES AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS COLLECTED THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF THE FORMS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS AND NEIGHBOURS.

SOME INDIVIDUALS CALLED AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND COMPLETED THE FORMS ON THE SPOT.

MEANWHILE, MORE THAN 300 TUEN MUN RESIDENTS REGISTERED AT A GATHERING HELD AT THE HOH FUK TONG COLLEGE LAST NIGHT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT, WHO IS ALSO THE HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN, AND OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD TOOK THE LEAD IN PUTTING THEIR NAMES DOWN.

ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 4 NEXT YEAR.

REGISTRATION CONTINUES UNTIL OCTOBER 12 AND FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AND THE MAIN AND BRANCH OFFICES OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND THE CHARTERED AND HANG SENG BANKS. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE BETWEEN JANUARY 15 AND FEBRUARY 9.

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SAFETY RULES FOR SCHOOLS ON COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

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SCIENCE TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROPER USE AND STORAGE OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS IN SCHOOLS.

+THIS IS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING USE OF SUCH GAS CYLINDERS AS SOURCES OF GAS SUPPLY IN SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN SCHOOLS,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE USE OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORIES AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SCIENCE TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS WHO KNOW THE NATURE OF THE GASES AND THE PROPER HANDLING OF THESE CYLINDERS, HE SAID.

EACH SCHOOL IS ALLOWED TO STORE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS AND BE EXEMPTED FROM LICENSING, AND THE MAXIMUM QUANTITY IS TWO CYLINDERS OF OXYGEN, AND ONE EACH OF NITROGEN, CARBON DIOXIDE AND HYDROGEN.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS REGARDING STORAGE SHOULD ALSO BE OBSERVED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS SHOULD BE STORED IN A COOL PLACE AND PROTECTED FROM DIRECT SOURCES OF HEAT, AND SHOULD NOT BE STORED ABOVE OR NEARER THAN TWO FEET FROM ANY BURNER.

THEY SHOULD BE STORED RESTING ON THE FLOOR OR ON SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED STANDS ON THE GROUND. THEY SHOULD NOT BE STORED IN ANY COMMON PASSAGEWAY, AND SHOULD NOT BE STORED BELOW GROUND LEVEL OR IN ANY PLACE WITHOUT ADEQUATE VENTILATION.

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77 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AWARDED IN JULY

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AWARDED 77 CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN $163 MILLION IN JULY.

THE LARGEST CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT $68 MILLION, WAS FOR SITE FORMATION, ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS NEAR TIN SAM IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, ABOUT 10 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE PRODUCED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE AS WELL AS OPEN SPACE.

A 1.3-KILOMETRE-LONG ROAD WILL ALSO BE BUILT TO LINK THE SOUTH-WESTERN PART OF THE TOWN WITH THE NEARBY LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

OF THE CONTRACTS AWARDED DURING THE MONTH, 35 WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AND OTHERS BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TENDER BOARD.

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NEW OFFICE FOR TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD

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A NEW OFFICE FOR TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS CAME INTO USE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF FOU WAH CENTRE IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THE 470-SQUARE-METRE OFFICE HAS A CONFERENCE ROOM, PRESS FACILITY, A SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION BOOTH AND ROOMS FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO MEET RESIDENTS.

THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT, COMPOSED OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, THREE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND A LIAISON OFFICER, WILL BE HOUSED IN THE NEW OFFICE.

SPEAKING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY, ACTING TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER AND BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, SAID THE NEW OFFICE WOULD ENABLE MEMBERS TO MEET RESIDENTS AND HEAR THEIR VIEWS.

+THIS WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE WORK OF OUR DISTRICT BOARD,+ HE SAID.

+BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD NOT ONLY ATTEND MEETINGS AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS, BUT ALSO MAINTAIN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH RESIDENTS AND GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A TIMETABLE FOR MEMBERS TO MEET RESIDENTS ON A DUTY ROSTER BASIS WAS BEING WORKED OUT AND DETAILS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S SEVEN SUB-COMMITTEES AND FOUR EX OFFICIO MEMBERS ALSO OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING.

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SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN KOWLOON WILL BE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF FOR 12 HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) FOR PIPE RENEWAL WORK.

THE DISTRICTS TO BE AFFECTED ARE HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, MA TAU KOK, KAI TAK, MA TAU WAI, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON TONG, TSZ WAN SHAN, INCLUDING KOWLOON HOSPITAL.

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HOLIDAY REMINDER TO EMPLOYERS

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1981 - THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL - IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THAT SUNDAY, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, IS PROBABLY ALSO A REST DAY FOR MANY EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE, AND IF THIS IS THE CASE AN EMPLOYER MUST APPOINT AN ALTERNATIVE REST DAY BECAUSE A REST DAY CANNOT BE COUNTED AS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IN THE CASE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY, IF THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY FALLS ON THEIR REST DAY, THE HOLIDAY SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE REST DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN $6 000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEES' EARNINGS, OTHER THAN OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE WAS REQUIRED TO WORK ON THE HOLIDAY, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY WAS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY WAS TO BE GIVEN AFTER STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY COULD BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY, HE SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS COULD BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638= KOWLOON WEST 3-201652= KWUN TONG 3-898520= TSUEN WAN 0-422096= TUEN MUN 0-818443 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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