



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1980

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**SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES**

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THE NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ROSE TO 81 879 IN DECEMBER 1979, ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 1 797 WORKERS OR 2.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1979. EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY 8 163 WORKERS OR 11.1 PER CENT OVER DECEMBER 1978.

OF THE 1 197 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN OPERATION IN DECEMBER 1979, 310 WERE SITES CONTRACTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. THESE 310 SITES ACCOUNTED FOR 34 622 WORKERS REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1 337 WORKERS OR FOUR PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1979.

A TOTAL OF 5 380 WORKERS WERE EMPLOYED IN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES IN DECEMBER 1979, IT SHOWED A DECLINE OF 7.4 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SEPTEMBER 1979 FIGURES. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ENGAGED AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR INCREASED BY 2.2 PER CENT TO 41 877.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

CONTRACTING PARTY	DECEMBER 1978		SEPTEMBER 1979		DECEMBER 1979	
	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	305	20 586	244	16 742	232	16 412
HOUSING DEPARTMENT	57	10 222	75	16 543	78	18 210
MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY *	34	7 396	29	5 811	26	5 380
PRIVATE SECTOR	859	35 512	857	40 986	861	41 877
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 255</b>	<b>73 716</b>	<b>1 205</b>	<b>80 082</b>	<b>1 197</b>	<b>81 879</b>

\* \* \* CONSTRUCTION SITES UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION REFER TO MTR CONTRACTS FOR WHICH WORK WAS IN PROGRESS DURING DECEMBER 1979.

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FACILITIES TO DRAW WATER FROM HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR  
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WORK WILL START SHORTLY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WATER TUNNEL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DRAW-OFF FACILITIES FOR THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

THE WORK INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 800-METRE-LONG WATER TUNNEL OF 2.5 METRES IN DIAMETER FROM TAI SHU LAM TO PAK KONG AU AND A 500 METRES LONG ACCESS ROAD.

UPON COMPLETION, IT WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW WATER FROM THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO SAI KUNG TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND IN THE AREA.

A TEMPORARY PUMPING AND TREATMENT STATION WILL BE BUILT IN THE AREA EARLY NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE NECESSARY TREATMENT FACILITIES.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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GASHOLDERS EXAMINATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS  
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THE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTROL OF GASHOLDERS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE TRANSFER IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE GASHOLDERS EXAMINATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1980 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE NO BEARING ON THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS ALL THE GASHOLDERS COVERED BY EXISTING LEGISLATION WERE OWNED BY THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY THE FACT THAT GASHOLDERS WERE LAND-BASED EQUIPMENT AND THAT THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR THEIR CONTROL WAS AVAILABLE IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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## TSUEN WAN PARK PROJECT DROPPED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS +MOST RELUCTANTLY+ DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH PHASE I OF THE TSO KUNG TAM PARK PROJECT IN TSUEN WAN BECAUSE DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS HAVE REVEALED POOR SOIL CONDITIONS AND SERIOUS GEOTECHNIC PROBLEMS.

THE PROJECT COVERING AN AREA OF 38 HECTARES INCLUDED AN OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT ALTHOUGH INVESTIGATIONS FOR PHASE II OF THE PROJECT WOULD CONTINUE THE GEOTECHNIC PROBLEMS MIGHT HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON WHAT COULD BE DONE.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID CONSULTANTS NOW ESTIMATED THE OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE TO COST \$64 MILLION. +CLEARLY IT IS NO LONGER ECONOMICAL TO PROCEED WITH PHASE I AND THE CENTRE SHOULD BE SITED SOMEWHERE ELSE,+ HE SAID. +THIS IS BEING LOOKED INTO BY CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS.+

IN MARCH, 1977, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO DEVELOP THE TSO KUNG TAM VALLEY INTO AN URBAN PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING PROVIDED. THE VALLEY IS STEEP-SIDED AND IS INTERSECTED BY A STREAM. IT LIES ABOVE THE WESTERN END OF TSUEN WAN JUST BELOW ROUTE TWISK.

+IT IS VERY VEXING THAT THE PROJECT CANNOT PROCEED AS ENVISAGED DUE TO A COMBINATION OF COST AND GEOTECHNIC CONSIDERATION,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

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## NOTE TO EDITORS:

## DSW TO OPEN SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE ON TSING YI

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR THOMAS LEE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN A SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE RUN BY THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AT CHEUNG CHING ESTATE ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE CENTRE PROVIDES THE COMMUNITY THERE A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCLUDING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK AND GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW AT THE CENTRE AT CHING YUNG HOUSE, CHEUNG CHING ESTATE ON TSING YI ISLAND. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO USE A COACH TO TAKE GUESTS TO TSING YI. THE COACH WILL BE PARKED IN HANKOW ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, OUTSIDE THE YMCA BUILDING AND LEAVE AT 1.30 PM.

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## NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR FARMERS

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FARMERS IN THE SHEK KONG AREA WILL SOON HAVE A NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO HELP IMPROVE THEIR CROP PRODUCTION.

TENDERS WERE CALLED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GAZETTE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM, A HEADER TANK AND THE LAYING OF SOME 3 400 METRES OF PIPELINE TO DRAW WATER FROM A STREAM NEAR KAP LUNG VILLAGE AND DIVERT IT TO FARMS LOCATED AROUND SHEK TAU WAI AND SHEUNG TSUEN.

THE DAM WILL BE ABOUT 110 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES SOUTH OF THE FARMS TO BE SERVED BY THE WATER SCHEME.

THE HEADER TANK WILL BE USED TO SETTLE THE WATER AND MAINTAIN THE PRESSURE.

ABOUT 60 HECTARES OF FARM LAND WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT AT PRESENT THE FARMERS WERE USING WATER DIRECTLY FROM STREAMS TO WATER THEIR CROPS.

HOWEVER, THE METHOD WAS UNDESIRABLE DUE TO POLLUTION CAUSED BY PIG WASTE WASHED INTO THE STREAMS FROM NEARBY PIG FARMS.

THE PIPELINE WILL BE ABLE TO DIVERT A FRESH WATER SUPPLY AWAY FROM THE PIG FARMS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE A SYSTEM SUITABLE FOR SPRINKLER IRRIGATION.

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## NEEDY MATRICULATION STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR GRANT

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NEEDY STUDENTS NOW STUDYING IN FORM/MIDDLE 5 OR FORM 6 CAN SOON APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS IF THEY WISH TO PURSUE FULL-TIME MATRICULATION STUDIES IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE GRANT AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$500 PER ANNUM FOR EACH STUDENT. APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE GRANTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM JUNE 1 AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 15TH FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, MORE THAN 1 600 FORM/MIDDLE 6 AND FORM 7 STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS AMOUNTING TO OVER \$900 000, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

FOR STUDENTS NOW STUDYING IN FORM/MIDDLE 5, THE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SECRETARY, MAINTENANCE GRANTS COMMITTEE, NOT LATER THAN 10 DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS.

STUDENTS IN FORM 6 AND PROMOTING TO FORM 7 MUST RETURN THE APPLICATION FORMS THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN JULY 26.

+GRANTS ARE AWARDED ON A YEARLY BASIS AND RENEWAL IS NOT AUTOMATIC. IF A RECIPIENT IN FORM 6 WISHES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT ON PROMOTION TO FORM 7, HE MUST APPLY AGAIN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

STUDENTS IN FORM 6 WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING GRANTS IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR GRANTS TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLETE THE ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION COURSE IN 1980/81, HE SAID.

GRANTS WILL BE PAID THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS AT THE END OF EACH MONTH IN ARREARS FOR 10 MONTHS IN THE YEAR, AND THERE WILL BE NO PAYMENTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

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#### SHA TIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO MAKE DEBUT \* \* \* \*

THE 60-MEMBER SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL MAKE ITS DEBUT TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

MORE THAN 500 SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN COMMUNITY ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE ONE-HOUR CONCERT AT THE KIANG SU-CHE KIANG COLLEGE IN WO CHE ESTATE, SHA TIN.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE CHINESE, ENGLISH, GERMAN AND POLISH FOLK SONGS.

STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS SHA TIN SCHOOLS WILL JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO PERFORM CLASSICAL AND POPULAR MUSIC, INCLUDING THE THEME SONG FROM THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG TELEVISION SERIES, +SUNNY SHA TIN+. CHINESE FOLK DANCES WILL ALSO BE PERFORMED.

THE CHOIR, TOGETHER WITH THE AUDIENCE, WILL SING A TRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, WHO LEAVES SHA TIN LATER THIS MONTH AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS IN THE POST.

MR WONG PO-MING, PRINCIPAL OF THE KIANG SU-CHE KIANG COLLEGE, SAID MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR HAD BEEN SELECTED FROM A TOTAL OF 170 LOCAL APPLICANTS AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 10 YEARS. MR WONG IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CHOIR ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND A DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER.

HE SAID THE CHOIR HAD BEEN HOLDING TWO-HOUR TRAINING SESSIONS EACH SATURDAY SINCE LAST OCTOBER.

THREE INSTRUCTORS, MRS CHU WONG YUK-KAM, MR CHEUNG WAI AND MRS SHIRLEY KAYE CHOW, TRAIN THE CHILDREN.

/THE CHOIR .....

THE CHOIR HAS BEEN FORMED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MUSIC OFFICE, AS PART OF A PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SHA TIN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE DEBUT OF THE SHA TIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT THE KIANG SU-CHE KIANG COLLEGE, WO CHE ESTATE, SHA TIN, STARTING AT 3 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY). A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 3214) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI. AT 2.15 PM SHARP.

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MONG KOK MUSIC FORTNIGHT  
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THE NEWLY-FORMED MONG KOK CHOIR OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL GIVE AN INAUGURAL CONCERT IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON SUNDAY (MARCH 16) TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE MONG KOK MUSIC FORTNIGHT.

THE FORTNIGHT TO BE HELD FROM MARCH 16 TO 29, IS ALSO ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

PROGRAMMES OF THE MUSIC FORTNIGHT WILL INCLUDE A SERIES OF 10 CONCERTS AND SEMINARS IN CHORAL MUSIC AS WELL AS LECTURES BY GUEST SPEAKERS.

DURING THE INAUGURAL CONCERT ON SUNDAY, THE MONG KOK CHOIR, CONDUCTED BY MR ROY CHENG, WILL SING CHINESE AND WESTERN FOLK SONGS. THE MONG KOK CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND SOME FAMOUS SINGERS WILL ALSO APPEAR IN THE CONCERT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE INAUGURAL CONCERT OF THE MONG KOK CHOIR OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL AT 8 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 16).

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MA TAU KOK

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN MA TAU KOK FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 17) FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS IN THE AREA.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, A SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KOWLOON CITY ROAD BETWEEN SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD AND MA HANG CHUNG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AND A SECTION OF MA HANG CHUNG ROAD BETWEEN PAU CHUNG STREET AND KOWLOON CITY WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON KOWLOON CITY ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD, PAU CHUNG STREET TO MA HANG CHUNG ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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