



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1979

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COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

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THE LATEST GAZETTING OF THREE MORE COUNTRY PARKS ON HONG KONG ISLAND MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL DESIGNATION PHASE OF THE COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME SHOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT AUGUST -- 20 MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS, MR. MARTIN LEWIS.

LISTED IN THE GAZETTE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION WERE THE POK FU LAM, SHEK O AND QUARRY BAY (TAI TAM EXTENSION) COUNTRY PARKS, WHICH HAVE A TOTAL LAND AREA OF 1,250 HECTARES.

MR. LEWIS SAID FORMAL DESIGNATION OF THESE PARKS IN AUGUST MEANS THAT ABOUT 40 PER CENT (41,780 HECTARES) OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL LAND AREA WILL BE PROTECTED AS COUNTRY PARKS OR NATURE RESERVES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETING THE DESIGNATION PROGRAMME WAS APRIL 1981.

+NOW THAT THE GAZETTING OF COUNTRY PARKS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WE WILL BE CONCENTRATING OUR EFFORTS EVEN MORE ON PROVIDING THE NECESSARY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THESE PARKS,+ MR. LEWIS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE MEANTIME, THE DEPARTMENT WAS PREPARING TO ADD ANOTHER 19 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST TO THE PRESENT SCHEDULE OF 21, AND GAZETTE THREE MORE AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AS SPECIAL AREAS AT KAT O, POK FU LAM AND TUNG LUNG ISLAND.

THE PROPOSED POK FU LAM COUNTRY PARK OF ABOUT 270 HECTARES COVERS THE NORTHERN WOODED SLOPES OF VICTORIA PEAK, BELOW HATTON AND LUGARD ROADS= THE VALLEY WHICH CONTAINS POK FU LAM RESERVOIR, SOUTH OF HARLECH ROAD AND THE MIDDLE SLOPES BENEATH MT. KELLET ROAD, LINKING WITH THE EXISTING ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK TO THE EAST.

MR. LEWIS SAID THE LANDSCAPE OF THE PROPOSED PARK AREA MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF HONG KONG ISLAND, PROVIDING A SCENIC BACKDROP TO THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS.

THE PROPOSED SHEK O COUNTRY PARK (710 HECTARES) CONSISTS PREDOMINANTLY OF GRASSY HILLS AND A SECTION OF ROCKY COASTLINE. IT COVERS THE D'AGUILAR PENINSULA, TO THE EAST OF TAI TAM BAY AND INCLUDES OBELISK HILL= MT. COLLINSON AND POTTINGER PEAK IN THE NORTH= THE DRAGON'S BACK AND SHEK O PEAK AND D'AGUILAR PEAK IN THE SOUTH. BARBECUE FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE RECREATIONAL ZONES ON THE LOWER SLOPES AND SHELTERED AREAS OF THE PARK WHERE THE RISK OF FIRE CAN BE CONTAINED.

PICNIC FACILITIES, CHILDREN'S PLAY APPARATUS AND SHELTERS WILL BE PROVIDED WHERE APPROPRIATE AND THE SITES WILL BE DESIGNED FOR BOTH LARGE AND SMALL GROUPS OF VISITORS.

/THE PROPOSED

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THE PROPOSED EXTENSION (ABOUT 270 HECTARES) OF THE TAI TAM COUNTRY PARK WILL STRETCH ITS EXISTING BOUNDARIES BELOW THE SUMMITS OF MT. BUTLER AND MT. PARKER TO INCLUDE THE VALLEY SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD, QUARRY BAY. THE AREA ADJOINS THE DENSELY POPULATED QUARRY BAY AND CHAI WAN DISTRICTS AND THE MAIN PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IN THE NORTH WILL BE VIA MT. PARKER ROAD AND BY FOOTPATHS FROM THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TAIKOO RESERVOIR AREA.

PICNIC TABLES, BENCHES, LITTER BINS AND BARBECUE PITS WILL BE PROVIDED WHILE INFORMATION BOARDS AND VIEW COMPASSES WILL HELP VISITORS LOCATE FACILITIES WITHIN THE PARK.

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GOVERNMENT-COMMUNITY RELATIONS ON THE UPSWING IN TSUEN WAN
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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE IS EXAMINING ITS PROCEDURES IN DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS RELATING TO TOWN MANAGEMENT TO FURTHER IMPROVE CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE DISTRICT OFFICE WAS ALREADY +ON THE UPWARD SWING,+ BOTH IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ITS CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS.

+HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THE LATTER IS PUT ON THE BEST POSSIBLE FOOTING WE SHALL, OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, BE REVIEWING AND OVERHAULING THE MACHINERY FOR TAKING ACTION ON COMPLAINTS RELATING TO TOWN MANAGEMENT,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

+IT IS ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT A SOLID BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN TSUEN WAN CAN BE ESTABLISHED,+ HE ADDED.

THE TOWN MANAGER POINTED OUT THAT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE HAD IN THE PAST 20 YEARS TRIED TO FULFIL THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES --- TO STAY CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE, TO SERVE THEIR INTERESTS AND TO ASSIST THEM WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

+THE TASK HAS BECOME MUCH BIGGER YEAR BY YEAR AS TSUEN WAN'S URBAN AREA HAS GROWN AND ITS POPULATION EXPANDED,+ MR. HAYES NOTED.

+FOR REASONS OF NUMBERS ALONE, IT HAS BEEN ALL TOO EASY TO FALL BEHIND IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE NEWCOMERS, WHO WERE AT FIRST LARGELY WITHOUT ORGANISATIONS OF THEIR OWN.

+THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S PRE-OCCUPATION WITH MEETING THE LAND NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN TSUEN WAN FURTHER INCREASED THE GAP.+

TO HELP IMPROVE THE SITUATION, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS BEEN EXPANDED AND BROUGHT NEARER TO THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN FOU WAH CENTRE AND HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING, TWO TOWN OFFICES WHICH ARE EQUIVALENT TO THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREAS, WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1976 AND THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

SEVEN PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES HAVE ALSO BEEN OPENED TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC AND ANSWER ANY QUERIES FROM THEM.

THESE OFFICES KEEP DETAILED RECORDS OF ALL VISITS WHICH INCLUDE BOTH COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS.

DURING THE PAST 15 MONTHS, 462 COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG AND 275 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE ON MATTERS CONCERNING HOUSING, EDUCATION AND WELFARE SERVICES WERE RECEIVED.

BUT THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE ALL MATTERS ARISING FROM LAND RESUMPTIONS AND CLEARANCES AND THE PROVISION OF SIMPLE INFORMATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF VARIOUS FORMS.

+IN EVERY CASE, AN INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED AND ACTION TAKEN WHERE WARRANTED OR FEASIBLE EITHER BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED,+ MR. HAYES EXPLAINED.

HE SAID MANY COMPLAINANTS SENT LETTERS WHILE OTHER APPROACHED INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH LOCAL SOCIETIES, SUCH AS RURAL COMMITTEES, WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE FEDERATION OF TSUEN WAN SOCIETIES.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD IN TSUEN WAN ALSO BROUGHT UP POINTS THAT CAME TO THEIR NOTICE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

+AT PRESENT I AM AS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT FOSTERING THIS LOCAL INPUT, IN PERSON OR THROUGH LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS, AS I AM ABOUT OUR CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH COMPLAINTS,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

+WE HOPE THAT RESIDENTS' INPUT, SUGGESTIONS AS WELL AS COMPLAINTS, WILL INCREASE IN VOLUME AND VALUE, AND THAT OUR CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS BROUGHT TO US WILL INCREASE AS DEVELOPMENT NEEDS DIMINISH OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR LAYING OF WATER MAIN

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TENDERS WERE INVITED TODAY (SUNDAY) FOR THE LAYING OF SIX KILOMETRES OF WATER MAIN ALONG HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND NEAR SHAW STUDIO TO DUPLICATE THE EXISTING SUPPLY FROM SAU MAU PING TO SAI KUNG.

A SERVICE RESERVOIR WITH A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 1.2 MILLION LITRES WILL ALSO BE BUILT SOUTH OF SAI KUNG TO PROVIDE WATER TO TUI MIN HOI.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT AN EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO BLEND THE RESERVOIR INTO THE SURROUNDING AREA AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND A SPECIAL LOCATION HAD BEEN SELECTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO RETAIN MOST OF THE TREES.

HE ADDED THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SUPPLY SYSTEM WERE REQUIRED BECAUSE OF THE VARIOUS PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA, PARTICULARLY AT TUI MIN HOI.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE THIS SUMMER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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CAREER AWARENESS SCHEME FOR FORM 3 SCHOOL LEAVERS

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A PILOT SCHEME DESIGNED TO PROMOTE CAREER AWARENESS AMONG FORM THREE SCHOOL LEAVERS WILL BE LAUNCHED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

+OUR AIM IS TO FAMILIARISE THESE STUDENTS WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE MANY EMPLOYMENT, CAREER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG SO THAT THEY CAN FIND A JOB BEST SUITED TO THEIR ABILITIES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SERVICE SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE PROGRAMME -- AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 'WORLD OF WORK' -- WILL BE HELD BETWEEN TOMORROW (MONDAY) AND JUNE 16 AND WILL INCLUDE GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

MRS. ANGELA HO, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE SERVICE, SAID THE PROJECT WAS SPECIALLY GEARED FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 16 BECAUSE +THEY ARE NOT VERY CAREER CONSCIOUS AT THAT AGE.+

+IN THE PAST, OUR ATTENTION HAD BEEN FOCUSED MORE ON THE UPPER FORMERS, BUT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NINE-YEAR COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE TO MODIFY OUR PROGRAMME TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL AFTER FINISHING FORM THREE,+ SHE ADDED.

TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET A FULL PICTURE OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND TO PREVENT THEM FROM MAKING HASTY DECISIONS, THE SERVICE HAS ARRANGED GROUP TOURS, EACH LASTING ABOUT AN HOUR.

/+EACH GROUP

+EACH GROUP WILL HAVE ABOUT 20 STUDENTS. THIS IS TO ENABLE THE STAFF TO DEVOTE THEIR WHOLE ATTENTION TO THEM,+ MRS. HO SAID.

THE CENTRE, SHE POINTED OUT, HAS SOME 800 TITLES ON CAREERS AND RELATED SUBJECTS AS WELL AS AUDIO-VISUAL FACILITIES FOR FILM SHOWS, SLIDE PRESENTATIONS AND CASSETTE RECORDINGS.

+AND THEY COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS FROM APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMERCE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE,+ SHE STATED.

SHE SAID THAT INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE CENTRE WERE SENT TO 240 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KOWLOON EARLIER THIS MONTH AND THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING.

MRS. HO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT PROGRAMME WAS FOR KOWLOON STUDENTS, ANOTHER CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE WILL OPEN TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

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RABIES CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

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THE RABIES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS PROVING VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH SOME 434 DOGS BEING INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND LICENSED DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE EXERCISE.

ANOTHER 16 DOGS WERE VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S DOG CATCHING TEAMS IN EACH OF THE CENTRES.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE ON MONDAY AT SAN TIN AND WILL BE COMPLETED ON FRIDAY AT TAI PO. OTHER TOWNS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PHASE WILL BE KU TUNG, SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING.

LAST WEEK THE TEAMS VISITED TUEN MUN (WHERE 81 DOGS WERE INOCULATED), HUNG SHUI KIU (114), HA TSUEN (57), YUEN LONG (79) AND KAM TIN (103). AT YUEN LONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAP PAT HEUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. TAI KEUN, HAD TWO OF HIS DOGS INOCULATED AND LICENSED AND SURRENDERED ANOTHER THREE DOGS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FROM THE DEPARTMENT SAID INITIAL RESULTS OF THE CAMPAIGN WERE VERY ENCOURAGING AND IF THE TREND CONTINUED, SOME 800 TO 1,000 DOGS WOULD BE INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND LICENSED DURING THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD.

HE ADDED THAT FIELD OFFICERS CONDUCTING THE INOCULATIONS WERE USING DISPOSABLE SYRINGES THUS ENSURING THAT NEEDLES WERE NOT BLUNT.

THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE DOGS AND CATS (AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS WHICH MAKES IT COMPULSORY FOR ALL DOGS OVER FIVE MONTHS OLD TO BE INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND LICENSED. THE LICENCE, VALID FOR THREE YEARS, COSTS \$15 WHILE THE VACCINE IS FREE.

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SALT WATER CUT
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 A.M. ON TUESDAY TO 11 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE SALT WATER MAIN CONNECTION WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE BOUNDED BY CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, TAI KOK TSUI, MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI AND SHEK KIP MEI.

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