



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1974

SPACIOUS HOMES FOR 1,100 MORE FAMILIES

* * * * *

OVER 6,500 PEOPLE, NOW LIVING IN LOWER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, ARE MOVING INTO MORE SPACIOUS HOMES THIS MONTH.

THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S PHASED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF RESIDENTS IN THE OLDER ESTATES.

COMING FROM 1,100 FAMILIES, THESE PEOPLE ARE PRESENTLY LIVING IN BLOCKS 1, 5 AND 6 OF THE ESTATE. THESE THREE BLOCKS WILL HAVE TO BE VACATED SHORTLY TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT.

ABOUT HALF OF THE 1,100 FAMILIES HAVE OPTED TO LIVE IN UPPER PAK TIN AND THE REST IN SIX CONVERTED BLOCKS IN THE ESTATE.

TO ASSIST 78 NEEDY FAMILIES TO MOVE TO AND DECORATE THEIR NEW HOMES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PAYING OUT ABOUT \$70,000 AS CASH ASSISTANCE.

MR. MOK YIU-KWONG, SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (REDEVELOPMENT), OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND SHOP TENANTS.

+WITHOUT THEIR CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT, OUR REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL,+ HE SAID.

IN THE EARLIER STAGE OF THE PROGRAMME, 15,000 PEOPLE VACATED FROM BLOCKS 3, 4, 23 TO 28 WERE PROVIDED WITH IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION IN UPPER PAK TIN.

AS SOON AS THE BLOCKS WERE VACATED THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STARTED WORK TO TURN THEM INTO SELF-CONTAINED FLATS, EACH WITH ITS OWN KITCHEN, TOILET WITH SHOWER AND BALCONY.

THESE FLATS, MEASURING 120 SQ.FT., 240 SQ.FT. OR 360 SQ.FT. EACH, WERE DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE FAMILIES OF THREE, SIX AND NINE RESPECTIVELY. THEIR MONTHLY RENTALS RANGE \$50 TO \$180.

OF THE THREE BLOCKS WHICH ARE SOON TO BE VACATED, THE PROJECT ARCHITECT IS CONSIDERING DEMOLISHING TWO TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR A COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE WHEN FULLY REDEVELOPED WILL HAVE ITS POPULATION DENSITY DECREASED FROM 2,200 PER ACRE TO 1,300 PER ACRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A FAMILY IN A NEWLY CONVERTED FLAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN G.I.S. PRESS ROOM.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1974.

- 2 -

WORK ON 10,000-FOOT LANTAU FOOTPATH WELL UNDERWAY
* * * * *

WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 10,000-FOOT-LONG FOOTPATH LINKING UP SEVERAL DIVERSE AND SPARSELY POPULATED VILLAGES OF TUNG CHUNG IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PART OF LANTAU ISLAND.

PROVIDING A MUCH-NEEDED MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN THE AREA, THE FOOTPATH IS EXPECTED TO ENSURE THAT VILLAGE COMMUNITIES IN THE REMOTE SECTOR OF THE ISLAND WILL NOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE MORE PROSPEROUS AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES.

THE INITIAL 2,500 FEET OF THE FOOTPATH — THE FIRST OF FOUR STAGES OF THE PROJECT — HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED. THE SECOND STAGE IS DUE TO START SHORTLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT THE PROJECT WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND VILLAGERS.

+WHILE THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED CASH ASSISTANCE TO THE VILLAGERS FOR THE CAPITAL COST OF THE PROJECT UNDER THE RURAL PUBLIC WORK CASH ASSISTANCE SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, + HE POINTED OUT, +IT IS THE VILLAGERS THEMSELVES WHO PROVIDED THE NECESSARY LABOUR TO CARRY OUT THE WORK.+

UNDER THE CASH ASSISTANCE SCHEME, AID USUALLY IN THE FORM OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL IS OFFERED TO NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS WISHING TO CARRY OUT SUCH MINOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS AS RIVER TRENCHING AND CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATHS. THE VILLAGERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, PROVIDE THE LABOUR TO DO THE WORK.

APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE TO ALL DISTRICT OFFICES WHERE THEY WOULD BE CAREFULLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESSED, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+AS THERE ARE MANY APPLICATIONS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE AND IN VIEW OF THE LIMITATION OF FUNDS AND LABOUR AVAILABLE, IT IS ONLY FEASIBLE TO ACCORD ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PROJECTS THAT WARRANT SPECIAL PRIORITY, + HE EXPLAINED.

HE REVEALED THAT \$7.8 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED AS CASH ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. OF THIS, \$3 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON SANITATION FACILITIES.

REFERRING TO THE TUNG CHUNG FOOTPATH, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT A STRIKING FEATURE OF THE PROJECT WAS THAT IT WAS BEING JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY VILLAGERS OF SAN TAU AND SHA LO WAN WHO AGREED TO SHARE THE WORK EQUALLY BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

+THIS COMBINATION OF EFFORTS WILL CERTAINLY LEAD TO AN EARLIER COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FOOTPATH WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR USE IN A YEAR'S TIME.

/AT PRESENT,

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1974

- 3 -

AT PRESENT, VILLAGERS OF BOTH SAN TAU AND SHIA LO UAN AS WELL AS HOLIDAY-MAKERS AND HIKERS HAVE TO NEGOTIATE A DIFFICULT AND SOMEWHAT HAZARDOUS TRIP BEFORE THEY CAN REACH TUNG CHUNG.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE FOUR-FOOT-WIDE PATH, THESE DIFFICULTIES WILL BE OVERCOME.

COMMENTING ON THE PROJECT, A VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE OF SAN TAU SAID: +THE FOOTPATH IS A PRODUCT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VILLAGERS. WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THIS COOPERATIVE MOOD WILL CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE.+

MEANWHILE, IMPENDING MINOR PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS IN THE REMOTER PARTS OF LANTAU ISLAND INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, THE BUILDING OF DAMS, WALKWAYS AND CATCHMENT DRAINAGE.

PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED COMPRISE THE SETTING UP OF PUBLIC LAVATORIES, REPAIRING OF DAMS, EXTENSION OF WATER PIPES AND THE BUILDING OF IRRIGATION DAMS AND A RURAL TYPE INCINERATOR.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A SECTION OF THE 10,000-FOOT FOOTPATH ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN G.I.S. PRESS ROOM.

----- 0 -----