



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, July 25, 1973

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NEW HOMES FOR VILLAGERS

Two of the six housing blocks being built at a prime location on the reclamation in Sai Kung Town to rehouse the villagers who will have to move to make way for the construction of the High Island Reservoir, have been completed.

They were handed over to the government by the building contractor today.

Work on the construction of the other four blocks is expected to be completed in October and it is intended that the villagers should have finished moving to their new homes by the end of this year.

To assist villagers to adjust themselves to a new life, the government has offered ex-gratia grants of property and cash allowances, apart from giving cash compensation to villagers for resuming their land and property.

The basis of the ex-gratia grants for villagers is as follows:-

For the families of traditional villages (Man Yi Wan)

- one shop at Sai Kung per family
- one flat at Sai Kung per male family member
- one half flat at Sai Kung per female family member

For the families of recently established villages (Sha Tsui)

- one flat in Sai Kung per male family member

In addition, the following payments will be made:-

/- a decoration

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- a decoration allowance of \$10,000 per shop or flat
- a maintenance allowance of \$3,500 per person to enable families to meet immediate requirements in their new environment
- a water allowance of \$1,200 per family to meet the cost of metered water (the present village supply is free as it depends on stream water)
- a removal allowance of \$500 per family together with free transportation provided by the government if required.

New facilities to replace existing amenities are also being provided for the villagers. A new village school, seven ancestral halls, a burial ground and flats for clan offices will all be available in this way.

The traditionally-owned houses of the villagers living in Sha Tsui will not be required for the water scheme as they are situated at Long Ke Village in an adjacent valley.

These villagers will, therefore, receive the same compensation but rather less in the way of ex-gratia grants. However, the opening up of new roads associated with the construction works will undoubtedly improve access to the area and it is likely that land and property values will appreciate.

In the past, access to Long Ke was only possible by boat to Sha Tsui, followed by a difficult cross-country hike. The new road will go within a few hundred yards of the village.

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Staff of the District Office, Sai Kung have been operating continuously in the water scheme area since 1971 and a considerable number of both informal and official meetings have been held with all individual families and representatives of particular interests.

A spokesman for the District Office said today that discussions on the removal terms with villagers affected by the High Island reservoir had not yet produced full agreement on all points.

Many of the villagers' requests had been agreed to by the government, while others could not be met and the villagers had been advised not to expect complete satisfaction on every one of their many points.

He expressed the hope that the villagers would appreciate the generosity of the package deal which had been arranged for them.

The government accepted that there was a need to provide adequately for the future of villagers required to give up their land and houses for the benefit of the community as a whole, but it is also believed that a reasonable limit to the terms should be set.

The District Officer, Sai Kung is at present conducting a series of household interviews to ensure that everyone fully understands the terms of compensation and ex-gratia grants offered and to listen to their individual family problems.

He has also expressed his willingness to hold further general meetings with their representatives to explain and discuss the removal terms if required.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of the new housing blocks are boxed this evening.

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SHEK KIP MEI CONVERSION BEGINS

Conversion and renovation work has begun on six blocks of the lower Shek Kip Mei Estate which were vacated under the first phase of the Shek Kip Mei rehousing scheme.

On completion, in about eight months, these blocks will provide much larger self-contained living units with their own water supply, kitchen, lavatory and private balcony which are lacking in all present Shek Kip Mei blocks.

Another 15 blocks in the estate will be progressively converted as the rehousing project continues.

Eight other blocks will be demolished to make way for a large commercial centre and a link road.

In the mean time, the second phase of the rehousing scheme, which began in May, is progressing smoothly. Of the 800 families of blocks 3 and 4 affected, more than three quarters have taken up flats in the upper Pak Tin Estate.

All 25 shopkeepers involved have applied for shop premises in the new estate and the letting of these is now under way.

The current phase of the rehousing operation is expected to be completed by the end of next month by which time about one quarter of the 62,000 Shek Kip Mei tenants will have moved to better housing in upper Pak Tin Estate.

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TRAINING CAMPS FOR CONSERVATION LEADERS

More young people are being trained in practical conservation work in an effort to foster a greater understanding of local environmental problems and of positive measures to protect Hong Kong's natural assets.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department says many people have an earnest desire to help protect Hong Kong's flora and fauna.

"Unfortunately, they are handicapped by a lack of understanding of the complexity of the problems involved and of the practical measures which they can take to be helpful."

To assist in meeting this need, the department, in conjunction with the Education Department, is conducting two one-week residential training camps at the Shing Mun Forest Office for 40 members of conservancy clubs from 14 secondary schools.

The first camp started last Monday. The second will be held from July 30 to August 4.

The training programme includes conservation principles, basic understanding of the countryside and its uses, practical conservation work, an introduction to legislation pertaining to conservation, and leadership training.

Mornings are devoted to lectures and visits. In the afternoons, the campers are given an opportunity to learn practical skills in conservation work, such as the repairing of soil erosion, path maintenance and the prevention and suppression of hill fires. Film shows and group discussions are arranged in the evenings.

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During their training, the campers are supervised by volunteers, mostly serving teachers, from the Youth Environmental Action Groups.

Note to Editors: Press representatives are welcome to visit the camp. Arrangements for press visits may be made by contacting either of the following three officers of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department: Mr. K.C. Iu and Mr. K.K. Yeung on telephone No. 3-688111 Ext. 44 and 42, respectively; or Mr. John Young telephone No. 12-200529.

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CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION OPENS THIS WEEK

The works of some of Hong Kong's most talented young artists will be on display later this week when the Seventh Children's Art Exhibition is officially launched by Lady MacLehose.

The exhibition, presented by the Urban Council at the City Museum and Art Gallery, will consist of 265 pictures and craftwork selected from 6,500 entries from 300 local schools.

It is held every two years and is intended as a regular survey of art education in Hong Kong.

The theme for this exhibition is "discovering nature", which places emphasis on the exploration of natural forms and natural materials.

About 50 per cent of the exhibits are in connection with the expression of the theme, portraying natural scenery, plant forms, or wild life.

Tomorrow (Thursday) evening, Lady MacLehose will officially open the exhibition and present 10 prizes which have been awarded to individual children for their outstanding work. She will also present prizes to schools which have the best results in the exhibition.

The Seventh Children's Art Exhibition will be open to the public from Friday (July 27) until September 2.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and photographer to cover the official opening and presentation of prizes by Lady MacLehose at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) in the City Museum and Art Gallery.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING COURSE

The Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre is running a five-day course on basic industrial accident prevention this week, as part of its continued efforts to promote safety in industry.

The course is being attended by 33 foremen and apprentice-engineers from the Public Works Department and from public utility companies.

Mr. Chan Wing-kai, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, said today the course dealt with the basic concept of industrial safety, with particular reference to electrical, chemical, mechanical and dust hazards.

It also touched on fire prevention, manual lifting and handling, and the use of protective clothing and devices.

The Director of Water Supplies, Mr. W.T. Knight, will give the closing address and present certificates to the participants on Friday (July 27).

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send photographer/
reporters to cover the closing ceremony. It
will be held at 4.30 p.m. in the Industrial
Safety Training Centre, 3rd floor, Canton Road
Government Offices.

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MORE CROWN LAND TO BE AUCTIONED

Additional Crown land on two outlying islands will be put up for sale at a public auction next month.

The two lots are for private residential development. One is located on Peng Chau at Wai Tsai Peak and measures 4,000 square feet.

The other is at Nam Tam on Cheung Chau and covers an area of 7,000 square feet.

The auction will be held on August 13 at 2.30 p.m. in the District Office, Islands, 4th floor, International Building, 141 Des Voeux Road, Central.

Four days later, August 17, two industrial lots at Chaiwan will be put up for auction in the City Hall at 2.30 p.m.

Both lots are located south of Chaiwan Road. The first has an area of 11,170 square feet, and the second measures 21,510 square feet.

Full particulars of the private residential lots can be obtained from the New Territories Administration and the District Offices of Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po, Sai Kung and Islands.

Conditions of sale and particulars of the industrial lots are available at the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing) and the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices.

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GOVERNOR VISITS FOUR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, spent this afternoon (Wednesday) visiting Mutual Aid Committees in Central, Wanchai and Chai Wan.

The Committees were formed recently to promote the Fight Violent Crime Campaign, as well as improve building cleanliness and management.

The Governor was accompanied by the City District Commissioner (Hong Kong), Mr. David Wong. He first visited the Morning Light Apartment in Macdonnell Road where he was introduced to members of the Mutual Aid Committee by the City District Officer (Central), Mr. Stephen Ho.

Together they toured the five-storey building in which the women residents have taken the initiative and formed a Mutual Aid Committee. They feel that with their husbands at work it is up to them to attend to building security and cleanliness.

Sir Murray then went to Top View Mansion, 10 Canal Road West, where security measures undertaken include the installation of a burglar alarm system.

At Chai Wan the Governor visited Mun Wah Building - the first private tenement housing block built in the district and completed in 1971. A Mutual Aid Committee has been formed in the building and a security system installed. Mr. T.H. Barma, City District Officer (Eastern), was on hand to escort the Governor.

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It was on this visit that some residents staged a "realistic robbery" to demonstrate the effectiveness of their alarm system.

Sir Murray's last call was to Block 19 of the Chai Wan Estate, where residents have extended temporary lighting to the corridors in the building.

This measure has been adopted as a result of recommendations by the Area Committee, which felt that the common parts of the building were inadequately lit.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.