



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1977

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\$60M CONTRACT SIGNED FOR RIVER TRAINING  
AND LAND FORMATION IN TUEN MUN

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The Public Works Department today awarded a \$60 million contract for the training of the main river channel and the formation of 40 hectares of land in the northern part of Tuen Mun New Town to Hip Hing Construction Company Limited.

The contract, one of the biggest of its kind under the new town's massive \$3,500 million development programme, was formally signed in the P.W.D.'s Conference Room this morning.

It covers the construction of about three kilometres of river channel walls and the paving of 13 hectares of river bed.

Associated works will include the construction of 500 metres of culvert, 1.6 kilometres of road and a 1.5 kilometre-long trunk sewer.

Mr. Nicky Chan, P.W.D.'s Project Manager (Tuen Mun), said that the works, which formed part of the new town stage IIA development, would facilitate flood drainage and enable land to be reclaimed for development.

He said that over 1.5 million cubic metres of material would be excavated from the hills in the northern part of the town to fill the nearby low-lying land.

"Of the 40 hectares of land to be formed, 20.5 hectares will be used for private housing development for about 15,000 people, and the rest will be for open space and government facilities," Mr. Chan said.

Work will begin later this month and will take about 24 months to complete.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department is inviting tenders for the formation of another 28 hectares of land in the northern part of Tuen Mun.

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The work, which forms part of the Tuen Mun New Town stage II development, is scheduled to begin in December for completion in about 18 months.

On completion, eight hectares of land will be for a public housing estate capable of housing 20,000 people, 12 hectares for the construction of a new hospital while the remaining nine hectares will be for government institutional and community facilities and private residential development.

Tuen Mun, Mr. Chan said, was being developed mainly by reclamation, obtaining the filling material from the hillsides.

Work is going ahead on a series of building and civil engineering projects in the new town.

"Since the start of the massive development programme in the area, more than 100 hectares of land have been formed and serviced for various developments," he said.

"Work is progressing well on reclaiming another 72 hectares in the central part of Castle Peak Bay, which is now about half filled."

Mr. Chan said that an important feature of the reclamation would be a large town centre providing a focus for the new town's business, social and cultural activities.

It would consist of commercial and residential buildings with shops, banks, restaurants and offices fronting a central pedestrian podium, and a series of public buildings housing an auditorium, concert hall, theatre, art gallery and studio, an exhibition hall and magistracy.

An important supporting facility of the development of the new town would be the new motorway connecting Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan.

"When opened to traffic early next year, this \$300 million highway will reduce the travelling time between the two towns to about 15 minutes," Mr. Chan said.

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LABOUR MPS TO VISIT HK

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Two Labour Members of the Parliament, Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teeside, Thornaby) and Mr. Kenneth Weetch (Ipswich), are due to arrive in Hong Kong on Saturday (October 8) for a ten-day official visit.

During their stay, the MPs will meet the Governor, senior Government officials, Unofficial Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Urban Councillors as well as the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Their itinerary also includes visits to factories, a city district office and a new town. They will have plenty of free time to meet people and go to places they wish to see on their own.

Mr. Weetch will leave Hong Kong for London in the evening of October 17 while Mr. Wrigglesworth will depart for Tokyo the following day.

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Note To Editors :

Mr. Wrigglesworth and Mr. Weetch are expected to arrive at Hong Kong Airport on October 8 by flight BA 850 (E.T.A. 3.30 p.m.)

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#### YUEN LONG TO GET 1500-SEAT AUDITORIUM

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A 1500-seat, air-conditioned auditorium is to be incorporated into a \$6.3-million secondary school building project in Yuen Long next year.

Announcing this today, the Acting Secretary for the New Territories, Mr. John Todd, said that the auditorium would be available to both the school and cultural groups in the Yuen Long district.

Mr. Todd was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Executive Committee of the Yuen Long District Arts Committee at the Hcung Yee Kuk Secondary School in Yuen Long.

Mr. Todd said the committee had been unable to realise its full potential because of the lack of a proper auditorium in Yuen Long.

This problem will be overcome by the incorporation of the proposed 1500-seat auditorium in the Chiu Lut-sau Secondary School. Work is scheduled to start on the project early next year.

Mr. Todd said the proposed auditorium would be adequate for local needs for the foreseeable future.

"When completed, the auditorium will provide the much-needed facilities for the staging of concerts and plays in Yuen Long and should no doubt help to realise the full potential of the committee," Mr. Todd said.

He praised the committee - now in its 11th year - for its promotion of the arts and cultural activities in the district.

"Besides satisfying the needs of the local community in the fields of cultural and artistic pursuits, the Yuen Long District Arts Committee, being the first of its kind in the New Territories, set an example for other districts of what can be done in these fields by concerted efforts of the local community," he said.

"The result has been the formation of similar organisations in other New Territories districts."

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INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS AT TWO LANTAU VILLAGES

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Tenders for the installation of street lights at Tai Tei Tong and Luk Tei Tong on Lantau Island will be invited later this week.

The Lantau project is the first in a series to be undertaken by the New Territories Administration to provide adequate street lighting in N.T. villages -- many of them remote -- where there is no street lighting at present.

The scheme is to be financed from the N.T. Administration's \$5 million local public works vote.

A spokesman for the New Territories Administration said today islanders in the two Lantau villages will feel safer when returning home at night upon completion of the installation work around Christmas.

"The scheme is to provide adequate lighting from the main road leading to the villages," he added.

The spokesman pointed out that the lighting will not only ease the fear of villagers being victimised by criminals but also help ensure pedestrian safety as the path leading to the two villages passes over a number of streams.

Similar schemes will eventually be implemented at Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan and Sai Kung. About 100 street lights will be installed in villages in the four districts.

A P.W.D. Electrical Inspector, Mr. Ho To-ping, has been seconded to the New Territories Administration Headquarters to supervise the project.

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DISABLED NEED OPEN AND COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT

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The commercial and industrial sector of the community was urged to provide more jobs for the disabled persons as they need, in addition to food and shelter, an equal opportunity to education, all forms of community services, and most important of all, gainful employment.

Speaking at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong today (Tuesday), Miss Florence Ho, Job Placement Officer of the Social Welfare Department, stressed that open and competitive employment, apart from serving as the means of restoring the economic usefulness of the disabled, could also rid them off the unpleasant notion of being a financial burden on their families, relatives and even the society.

Miss Ho noted that many employers had expressed doubts about the disabled's productivity and concern over their greater liability to industrial accidents.

"These worries, many of which have simply been overstressed, have done immeasurable harm to the employment prospect of the disabled who have never been given the opportunity to prove themselves."

In fact, she continued, the disabled were stable, adaptable and unusually tolerant at work, and could be mainstreamed with their able-bodied counterparts in an ordinary work setting.

On the proposal to introduce a quota system obliging employers to engage a percentage ratio of disabled persons in their labour force, Miss Ho listed the pros and cons of such a scheme.

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"Such scheme merits consideration, especially in the time of general recession as experienced in previous years when the number of jobs available was drastically reduced. On the other hand, a quota scheme is sometimes difficult to administer and enact especially when it involves costly registration and compliance procedures."

Turning to the Job Placement Unit, Miss Ho pointed out that it was set up by the Social Welfare Department in 1967 in response to the need of a systematic and organised employment service for the disabled.

"Since its establishment, the unit has a record of more than 2,895 placements in work related to clerical, servicing and production fields. This September is a very important date for the unit, not only are we celebrating our 10th anniversary, but we have also made an outstanding record of 80 placements during the month," she said.

These people included 16 blind, 19 deaf, 28 cripples, two ex-TB patients, five ex-mental patients and 11 mental retardates. Most of them were placed in electronics and metal work factories as assembling workers, while others became machine-sewing workers, telephone operators and clerical assistants.

Quoting the above figures as an encouraging sign, Miss Ho stressed that the unit would continue to promote the appreciative attitude of the capability of the disabled as well as to step up efforts to match them to specific jobs commensurate to their ability, aptitude, skill and past experience.

The unit would also undertake steps like pre-employment orientation, on-the-job training and installation of special equipment in order to help foster the disabled persons' employment opportunity, she added.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL

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The westbound section of Queensway between Cotton Tree Drive and Garden Road will be closed to traffic between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (October 6, 7 and 8) to facilitate the construction of the Queensway Flyover, the Transport Department announced today.

Motorists proceeding from Wanchai to Central should turn left up Cotton Tree Drive and turn back into Garden Road at the Peak Tram Terminus and then to Queen's Road Central.

Cross harbour bus route No. 121 will be diverted to operate via Hennessy Road, Fenwick Street, Gloucester Road, Harcourt Road and Connaught Road Central on its Hong Kong bound journey during the e periods of road closure.

Also with effect from 10 a.m. on Thursday (October 6), vehicles will not be permitted to turn right from Des Voeux Road West eastbound into Western Street southbound in order to facilitate tram track repairs.

This arrangement will last for about two weeks.

Appropriate traffic signs will be set up to guide motorists.

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