



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1976

BETTER HOMES FOR 250,000 PWD STEAMING AHEAD WITH BUILDING PROGRAMME *****

A NEW GENERATION OF HIGH-QUALITY HOUSING ESTATES, COMPLETE WITH COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, IS BEING PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS PART OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE 10-YEAR HOUSING PLAN.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE IS CURRENTLY BUILDING EIGHT OF THESE SELF-CONTAINED ESTATES FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AT A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$400 MILLION.

THESE ARE : HING WAH, LAI KING, KWAI SHING, LEK YUEN, SHUN LEE TSUEN, CHAI WAN AREA SIX, LEI MUK SHUE AND TAI HING ESTATES. IN ADDITION THE PWD IS ALSO REDEVELOPING THE 20-YEAR-OLD SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE INTO A MODERN HOUSING COMPLEX WITH MORE SPACIOUS ROOMS AND BETTER FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS.

TOGETHER, THESE ESTATES WILL PROVIDE HOMES FOR SOME 250,000 PEOPLE BY 1980 IN A CLEAN, PLEASANT AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH CONVENIENT SHOPPING, PLAY AND WELFARE FACILITIES.

+THE ACCENT IS ON QUALITY, SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE,+ SAYS MR. THOMAS KU, SENIOR ARCHITECT OF THE PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

+IN THE EARLY DAYS, WE DID NOT HAVE MUCH CHOICE BUT TO CONCENTRATE ON QUANTITY BECAUSE OF THE GREAT URGENCY TO REHOUSE THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN NEED OF HOMES.

+SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, OUR ARCHITECTS HAVE DEVELOPED A NEW APPROACH WHICH NOT ONLY PROVIDES HIGHER STANDARD ACCOMMODATION BUT ALL BASIC COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES THAT ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A BALANCED COMMUNITY.

+THESE INCLUDE LARGE RECREATIONAL AREAS WITH REST GARDENS AND PLAYGROUNDS, WELFARE CENTRES, SHOPPING AND MARKET CENTRES, CARPARKS, RESTAURANTS, AS WELL AS SCHOOLS AND CLINICS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ESTATE,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE NEW GENERATION ESTATES BEING BUILT BY PWD, HE ADDED, WERE THE SPECIAL COVERED WALKWAYS WHICH LINK THE DOMESTIC BLOCKS WITH THE SHOPPING CENTRES SO AS TO ENABLE TENANTS TO GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY SHOPPING ACTIVITIES WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT CARS OR RAIN.

+FOR INSTANCE, A HOUSEWIFE LIVING IN THE UPPER FLOORS WOULD SIMPLY TAKE THE LIFT DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR AND WALK A SHORT DISTANCE ALONG THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY STRAIGHT INTO THE SHOPPING CENTRE TO DO HER SHOPPING WITHOUT HAVING TO STEP OUTSIDE.+

THE NEW APPROACH WAS FIRST APPLIED TO THE MASSIVE LEK YUEN ESTATE AT SHA TIN, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HOUSE 22,000 PEOPLE. TWO OF THE SEVEN BLOCKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND HANDED OVER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE FIRST TENANTS HAVE ALREADY MOVED IN.

WORK IS PROGRESSING ON THE REMAINING FIVE BLOCKS, A COMMERCIAL CENTRE, TWO SCHOOLS AND A CLINIC AND SHOULD BE FINISHED BY MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE BALANCE OF LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE AT TSUEN WAN WAS FULLY COMPLETED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND HANDED OVER TO THE AUTHORITY. THE BALANCE OF THE WORK INVOLVED SIX ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC BLOCKS FOR 17,500 PEOPLE, THREE SCHOOLS, A MODULAR MARKET, DEPARTMENT STORE, A LARGE RESTAURANT, WELFARE HALL AND COVERED CARPARK.

THREE OTHERS -- HING WAH ESTATE AT CHAI WAN, AND KWAI SHING AND LAI KING ESTATES BOTH AT KWAI CHUNG -- ARE NEARING COMPLETION AND SHOULD BE READY DURING THIS YEAR.

TOGETHER, THESE THREE ESTATES WILL PROVIDE HOMES FOR SOME 87,000 PEOPLE.

IN TERMS OF SIZE, KWAI SHING ESTATE WILL BE THE LARGEST. THERE WILL BE 10 DOMESTIC BLOCKS ACCOMMODATING SOME 37,000 PEOPLE. IT WILL BE SERVED BY A LARGE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES, INCLUDING SHOPS, RESTAURANT, MODULAR MARKET, PARKING SPACES, AND BUS AND PLB TERMINI.

THERE WILL BE NEARLY SEVEN ACRES OF RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE PLUS THREE ESTATE SCHOOLS AND THREE KINDERGARTENS WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE.

CONSTRUCTION IS ALSO PROGRESSING WELL ON TAI HING ESTATE AT TUEN MUN AND ANOTHER AT CHAI WAN (AREA 6) ON HONG KONG ISLAND, BOTH OF WHICH ARE DUE FOR COMPLETION NEXT YEAR.

IN TERMS OF POPULATION, THE TAI HING ESTATE IS THE LARGEST IN THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING PROGRAMME.

IT CONSISTS OF FIVE 30-STOREY CRUCIFORM DOMESTIC BLOCKS AND A SEVEN-STOREY DOMESTIC BLOCK ALL LINKED BY COVERED WALKWAYS TO A HUGE COMMERCIAL AND MARKET COMPLEX IN THE CENTRE OF THE ESTATE. SOME 41,000 PEOPLE WILL LIVE THERE.

THE CRUCIFORM DESIGN, DEVELOPED BY PWD ARCHITECTS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, ENABLES BUILDING WORK TO PROCEED FASTER THROUGH SEMI-MECHANISED BUILDING METHODS IN WHICH TOWERING CRANES ARE USED TO LIFT PREFABRICATED WALL AND FLOOR COMPONENTS, CAST ON SITE, INTO PLACE.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE IS THAT THE BUILDING AREA HAS BEEN VASTLY REDUCED THUS MAKING MORE LAND AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

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THE HIGH-RISE CRUCIFORM BLOCK, WHICH IS WIDE AT THE BASE AND NARROW AT THE TOP, PRODUCES A VARIETY OF FLAT SIZES RANGING FROM FLATS FOR FAMILIES OF FOUR TO FLATS FOR FAMILIES WITH NINE MEMBERS.

EACH FLOOR ON EACH OF THE FOUR WINGS WILL BE OCCUPIED BY ONLY 12 FAMILIES GIVING RESIDENTS A GREATER FEELING OF SPACE AND ELIMINATING THE OLD PROBLEM IN THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT. SHORTER CORRIDORS ALLOW FOR BETTER LIGHTING AND VENTILATION, AS WELL AS REDUCE THE LEVEL OF NOISE.

WORK ON STAGE ONE OF THE ESTATE IS NOW WELL ADVANCED AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR PHASE TWO CONSTRUCTION OF SHUEN LEE TSUEN ESTATE IN THE CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD/ANDERSON ROAD AREA AND WORK SHOULD START IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

THIS PHASE COMPRISES CONSTRUCTION OF ONE 30-STOREY DOMESTIC BLOCK OF THE CRUCIFORM TYPE AND A SMALLER SEVEN-STOREY BLOCK TOGETHER WITH SHOPS, MARKETS, RESTAURANT, MULTI-STOREY CARPARK, TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND A KINDERGARTEN.

PILING WORK FOR ANOTHER 30-STOREY CRUCIFORM BLOCK AND ANOTHER KINDERGARTEN, UNDER PHASE ONE, HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND THE BUILDING CONTRACT FOR THIS PHASE WILL BE SIGNED SHORTLY. THE TWO PHASES WILL BE COMPLETED AT MORE OR LESS THE SAME TIME.

SOME 4.6 ACRES OF RECREATIONAL GROUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED IN AND AROUND THE ESTATE WITH REST GARDENS AND PLAY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

AT SHEK KIP MEI IN KOWLOON, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY REMODELLED SIX BLOCKS OF THE 20-YEAR-OLD ESTATE AND HANDED THEM OVER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THE CONVERTED BLOCKS CONTAIN LARGER FLATS FOR THREE, SIX AND NINE PERSONS, EACH WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE BALCONY, KITCHEN AND TOILET.

TENDERS TO REDEVELOP ANOTHER SIX BLOCKS WILL BE INVITED LATER THIS YEAR.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME BY 1981.

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NEW REGISTRAR GENERAL APPOINTED

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS HAS APPROVED THE PROMOTION OF MR. P. JACOBS TO REGISTRAR GENERAL TO SUCCEED MR. W. HUME, WHO WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON MARCH 1, 1976 AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

MR. JACOBS, AGED 42, IS AT PRESENT AN ASSISTANT REGISTRAR GENERAL. HE CAME TO HONG KONG AND WAS APPOINTED AS A LEGAL ASSISTANT IN 1962. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR LEGAL ASSISTANT IN 1965 AND TO ASSISTANT REGISTRAR GENERAL IN 1968. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER.

MR. HUME, WHO IS AGED 50, WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS A LEGAL ASSISTANT IN 1958. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR LEGAL ASSISTANT IN 1963 AND TO ASSISTANT REGISTRAR GENERAL IN 1964. HE BECAME REGISTRAR GENERAL IN 1968. MR. HUME IS SINGLE.

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