



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT DETERMINED TO RESOLVE EDUCATION PROBLEMS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HE AND THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE RECOGNISE THE PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND ARE DETERMINED TO RESOLVE THEM.

SPEAKING AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE HONG KONG SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOLS COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOW FACE UP TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH INEVITABLY ACCOMPANIED EXPANSION AT THE SORT OF SPEED EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, TASKED TO RECOMMEND HOW BEST TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS, HAD NEARLY COMPLETED ITS FOURTH REPORT.

"THIS WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO SAY ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE CURRICULUM AND ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE.

"IT WILL LOOK CLOSELY INTO THE PROVISION OF SUPPORTING SERVICES SUCH AS COUNSELLING, GUIDANCE AND REMEDIAL TEACHING.

"IT WILL ASK WHETHER THE TIME HAS NOT COME FOR SOME SORT OF ASSESSMENT AND TESTING MECHANISM TO BE INTRODUCED INTO OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM," SIR DAVID SAID.

"AND, FINALLY, IT WILL DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULT, LONG-STANDING AND MUCH ARGUED PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WOULD BE TIME FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON, THE COMMISSION WOULD BE TACKLING ITS FIFTH REPORT WHICH WOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

"WHEN THE FIFTH REPORT IS OUT, BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, WE WILL HAVE DRAWN UP A BLUEPRINT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR THE DECADE AHEAD," HE SAID.

THE SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOLS COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE A PASSIVE OBSERVER IN THIS IMPORTANT PROCESS, SIR DAVID SAID.

THE COUNCIL HAD A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, HE SAID.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, ONCE WE HAVE AGREED OUR AIMS AND SET THE FUTURE COURSE OF SCHOOL-LEVEL EDUCATION, WE SHALL RELY ON THE SCHOOLS THAT MAKE UP THIS COUNCIL TO PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG HAD OVER ONE MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN; NEARLY ONE-FIFTH OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, SIR DAVID SAID: "IN THEM LIES HONG KONG'S FUTURE."

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG'S CHILDREN WERE GROWING UP IN A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WHICH COMBINED BOTH STRONG CHINESE CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND HONG KONG'S COSMOPOLITAN NATURE.

"THEY ARE LEARNING TO SEE LIFE FROM HONG KONG'S SPECIAL PERSPECTIVE. IN THE YEARS AHEAD, THESE CHILDREN WILL BE GRADUATING FROM OUR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES IN LARGE NUMBERS.

"THEY WILL REPRESENT A RESERVOIR OF TALENT ON WHICH HONG KONG WILL DRAW FAR INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," HE SAID.

LOOKING BACK, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS ONLY 20 YEARS AGO THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ALL HONG KONG'S CHILDREN WERE GUARANTEED A FULL PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.

"TODAY ALL COMPLETE SECONDARY 3; AND MOST GO ON TO SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL. THIS HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT, PARTICULARLY WHEN ONE THINKS ABOUT THE WAY OUR POPULATION HAS GROWN IN THIS PERIOD AND OUR MANY OTHER PRIORITIES.

"IT HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A DRAMATIC EXPANSION IN THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN THE PAST 20 YEARS. MUCH OF THIS EXPANSION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN SUBSIDISED SCHOOLS; AND MOST OF THESE SCHOOLS ARE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOLS COUNCIL," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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TENDERS TO BE INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LANTAU FIXED CROSSING
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INVITE BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, MARKING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO CHEK LAP KOK.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS AFTERNOON (FRIDAY).

THE DECISION IS A FIRM DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"IN COMING TO A DECISION ON HOW THE PROJECT SHOULD BE HANDLED WE HAVE REVIEWED ALL THE OPTIONS OPEN TO US AND HAVE DECIDED ON A STRAIGHTFORWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT APPROACH," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR THIS APPROACH RATHER THAN ADOPTING A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER OPTION.

"FIRST OF ALL THERE IS CERTAINTY. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FIXED CROSSING IS THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE PROJECT.

/"THE CONSTRUCTION

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"THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT APPROACH PROVIDES CERTAINTY IN TERMS OF PLANNING, COMPLETION AND OPERATION, AND FURTHERMORE ALLOWS US TO START CONSTRUCTION SIX TO NINE MONTHS AHEAD OF A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER OPTION."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIA HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE BOT OPTION. DESPITE THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO OPT FOR A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT APPROACH BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY AND, BY AVOIDING THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY OVER A BOT TENDER, WOULD ENABLE AN EARLIER START.

"HAVING STUDIED ALL ASPECTS VERY CAREFULLY OVER A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS A GREATER ADVANTAGE IN FUNDING THE PROJECT OURSELVES. BUT CLEARLY WE WOULD ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL PACKAGES PUT FORWARD IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSTRUCTION TENDER EXERCISE.

"WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE TENDER WILL ATTRACT A LARGER NUMBER OF WELL-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS, AND THAT THE ADDED COMPETITION WILL RESULT IN A VERY KEEN PRICE FOR THE BRIDGE."

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT APPROACH ALSO OPENS UP ANOTHER ATTRACTIVE OPTION FOR FINANCING THE PROJECT AT A LATER STAGE, THAT IS TO CALL FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE FRANCHISE TO OPERATE THE BRIDGE AFTER IT IS COMPLETED.

"OUR VIEW IS THAT SUCH A FRANCHISE WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE AND THE PROCEEDS FROM THE TENDER EXERCISE COULD AT LEAST MATCH THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

"WE HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN THE PROJECT'S LONG-TERM VIABILITY."

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT IF THE PROJECT WERE TO BE TENDERED ON A BOT BASIS, THE BIDDERS WOULD BASE THEIR JUDGEMENT OF ITS VIABILITY ON THREE MAIN FACTORS: THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION, THE REVENUE WHICH IN TURN DEPENDS ON TRAFFIC FORECASTS AND THE LEVEL OF TOLLS, AND THE PERCEIVED RISKS INVOLVED.

"WE ARE ADVISED THAT THERE CAN BE A HIGH DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OVER THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION, BUT THAT PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MIGHT NOT HAVE THE SAME DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER TWO FACTORS.

"THE CONTINUING CRISIS IN THE GULF AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION HAVE NOT HELPED THE COMMERCIAL CLIMATE.

"DESPITE THESE PERCEIVED UNCERTAINTIES, AND I STRESS THE WORD 'PERCEIVED' BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THEM ARE UNFOUNDED, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSE TO OUR CALL FOR BOT BIDS.

"BUT THE COMMERCIAL WORLD WORKS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF 'THE HIGHER THE RISK THE GREATER THE REWARD' WITH THE LIKELY RESULT THAT THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE BECOME MORE COSTLY IN TERMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THAN WE BELIEVE TO BE JUSTIFIED.

/"IT WOULD

"IT WOULD THUS HAVE BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE FOR THE HONG KONG TAX-PAYERS."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY STRESSED THAT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IS THE OPPORTUNITY IT PROVIDES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING.

"THE COST OF THE LANTAU BRIDGE REPRESENTS LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE WHOLE PROJECT AND SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH MAJOR PROJECTS AS THE AIRPORT ITSELF, THE PORT, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND THE THIRD CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE CERTAINTY INJECTED INTO THE WHOLE PROJECT BY OUR DECISION TODAY WILL DO MUCH TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN THESE OTHER PROJECTS, AND WE WILL OF COURSE DO ALL WE CAN TO FACILITATE THIS," HE SAID.

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LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM
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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THAT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) ORDINANCE BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM.

THIS WILL MEAN THAT DRIVERS DISQUALIFIED UNDER THE SYSTEM MUST SURRENDER ALL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENCES AND PERMITS.

THE AMENDMENTS WILL PROVIDE FOR SUMMONSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION TO BE SERVED BY POST AND SEEK TO AUTHORISE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT THE USE OF THE SAME METHOD OF A MAGISTRATE IN CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS INCURRED BY A PERSON.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT WHEN 15 OR MORE POINTS HAD BEEN INCURRED WITHIN TWO YEARS UNDER THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS (DOP) SYSTEM, AN OFFENDER WAS LIABLE TO BE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING OR OBTAINING A DRIVING LICENCE FOR THREE MONTHS ON FIRST CONVICTION, AND SIX MONTHS ON SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

WHEN A DISQUALIFICATION ORDER WAS ISSUED BY THE COURT, ALL DRIVING LICENCES OR PERMITS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENCES OR FOREIGN DRIVING LICENCES/PERMITS MUST BE SURRENDERED TO THE COURT DURING THE DISQUALIFICATION PERIOD.

"THE MOVE IS AIMED AT PREVENTING A DRIVER DISQUALIFIED UNDER THE DOP SYSTEM FROM DRIVING ON EITHER AN INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENCE, OR A FOREIGN DRIVING LICENCE/PERMIT DURING THE DISQUALIFICATION PERIOD," HE SAID.

ON THE SERVING OF SUMMONSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION BY POST, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AIM WAS TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

/AT PRESENT

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AT PRESENT, THE SUMMONSES MUST BE EITHER DELIVERED PERSONALLY OR LEFT WITH ANOTHER PERSON AT THE OFFENDER'S LAST OR MOST USUAL PLACE OF ABODE.

HE ADDED THAT UNNECESSARY ADMINISTRATION WORK WOULD ALSO BE SAVED BY AUTHORISING THE COMMISSIONER TO USE THE SAME METHOD USED BY A MAGISTRATE IN CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS INCURRED BY A PERSON.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT CLARIFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN LIABILITY TO A FIXED PENALTY ARISES, CEASES OR REVIVES.

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PREQUALIFICATION FOR WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION PROJECT INVITED
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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSIONS FROM SUITABLE CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION - NORTHERN AREA PHASE 1.

TENDERS FOR THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORKS ARE LIKELY TO BE INVITED FROM THE APPROVED CONSTRUCTORS IN JANUARY 1991.

THE WORKS COMPRISE ABOUT 65 HECTARES OF RECLAMATION BETWEEN TAI KOK TSUI AND LAI CHI KOK WITH ASSOCIATED SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION, TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF PIERS, A FERRY TERMINUS, A BUS TERMINUS, COOLING WATER INTAKE AND PUMPHOUSE, AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROADS.

THE DESIGN OF THE WORKS IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LIMITED FOR THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE ON THE PREQUALIFICATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

COMPLETED PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD BEFORE NOON ON NOVEMBER 2.

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CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS SIGNED

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THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH A GROUP OF CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION, DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD -- A KEY URBAN ROUTE TO SERVE THE NEW AIRPORT ON LANTAU ISLAND.

WITH THE RELOCATION OF THE AIRPORT TO CHEK LAP KOK, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD WILL BECOME AN ESSENTIAL EAST-WEST ROUTE ACROSS NORTHERN KOWLOON TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE GROUP OF CONSULTANTS AWARDED THE AGREEMENT, PHH/ARUP CONSULTANTS, COMPRISES PYPUN-HOWARD HUMPHREYS, OVE ARUP AND PARTNERS HONG KONG, MVA ASIA, ERL (ASIA) AND CLOUSTON.

THE GROUP WILL COMMENCE THIS MONTH A \$6.9 MILLION ENGINEERING STUDY ON THE PROJECT.

"THE EXTENT OF ROAD COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT IS A SECTION OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD FROM PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD INTERCHANGE TO CHING CHEUNG ROAD, AND THE ENTIRE CHING CHEUNG ROAD," MR KWEI SAID.

"THESE ROADS ARE PART OF ROUTE 4 WHICH PROVIDES THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG.

"IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE FORECAST TRAFFIC DEMAND, AND TO RELIEVE CURRENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG THE SECTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD FROM LION ROCK TUNNEL INTERCHANGE TO CHING CHEUNG ROAD, AND THE ENTIRE CHING CHEUNG ROAD, THIS SECTION OF ROUTE 4 WILL BE UPGRADED TO URBAN TRUNK ROAD STANDARDS WITH DUAL THREE CARRIAGEWAYS.

"SLOPES ADJACENT TO THE ROADS TO BE UPGRADED WILL BE IMPROVED.

"THE CONSULTANTS WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF THE SECTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD FROM PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD INTERCHANGE TO LION ROCK TUNNEL INTERCHANGE."

MR KWEI SAID THE COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS WORKS WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE ENGINEERING STUDY.

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PUBLICATION OF SEVEN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA PLANS

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THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE GAZETTING OF SEVEN MORE INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (IDPA) PLANS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE PLANS ARE IN KAM TIN NORTH, KAM TIN SOUTH, SHEK KONG, TAI TONG, PAT HEUNG, KWUN YUM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG, AND PING KONG. THE TOTAL AREA COVERED BY THESE PLANS IS ABOUT 3,740 HECTARES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SAID SINCE THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS GAZETTED ON JULY 27 THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 24 IDPA PLANS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED INCLUDING THOSE PUBLISHED TODAY.

SO FAR, A MAJORITY OF THOSE AREAS FACING SERIOUS THREAT OF PROLIFERATION OF OPEN STORAGE AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE USES TO THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS IDPA'S.

AMONG THE SEVEN IDPA PLANS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, FIVE OF THEM, NAMELY, KAM TIN NORTH AND SOUTH, SHEK KONG, TAI TONG AND PAT HEUNG ARE LOCATED IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THERE ARE AREAS DESIGNATED FOR "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" ON THESE FIVE PLANS TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY EXPANSION OF ESTABLISHED VILLAGES.

BESIDES, IN ORDER TO CATER FOR THE CONTINUING DEMAND FOR OPEN STORAGE SITES, A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 65 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE USES ON THE KAM TIN NORTH, TAI TONG, AND PAT HEUNG IDPA PLANS.

KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG ARE LOCATED TO THE EAST OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LIMITED SUPPLY OF DEVELOPMENT LAND IN SHA TIN HAD POSED GREAT PRESSURE TO THESE AREAS.

IN VIEW OF THE INFILTRATION OF UNDESIRABLE USES SUCH AS OPEN STORAGE, CAR REPAIRING AND TEMPORARY WORKSHOP IN THE AREA, WHICH WAS ALREADY IMMINENT, THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

AS FOR PING KONG, WHICH IS LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AREA WAS COMPARATIVELY FREE FROM INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES SUCH AS OPEN STORAGE AND WORKSHOPS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA, DEVELOPMENT CONTROL WAS NEEDED.

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, DEVELOPMENT IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PLANS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS UPON COMMENCEMENT OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

/ON ENACTMENT

ON ENACTMENT, THE IDPA'S WOULD BE INCLUDED IN STATUTORY DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS (DPA'S). THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING COULD THEN SERVE NOTICE REQUIRING REINSTATEMENT OF THE LAND TO THE CONDITION IT WAS IN IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE GAZETTING OF THE IDPA PLANS OR THE RESTORATION OF THE LAND TO HIS SATISFACTION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXISTING USES WOULD BE TOLERATED WITHIN THE IDPA'S. PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE DIRECTOR WOULD BE HONOURED WHEN THE IDPA'S WERE INCLUDED INTO STATUTORY DPA'S.

IF PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT IS REQUIRED, AN APPLICATION FOR SUCH PERMISSION SHOULD BE SENT TO THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE APPROPRIATE APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE GENERAL REGISTRY, PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

INDIGENOUS NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS WISHING TO APPLY FOR SMALL HOUSE SITES IN AREAS COVERED BY THE NEW IDPA'S SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY DIRECT TO THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER.

THE SEVEN IDPA PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED UNTIL DECEMBER 5 AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * RELEVANT DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICES.

COPIES OF THE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON AT \$10 EACH UNCOLOURED AND \$60 EACH COLOURED.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

/THE GRADING

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT BIWEEKLY INTERVALS DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME. AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.

GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS. SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

/AT PRESENT

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES. IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 20.9.90)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 5.10.90)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	3
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	2
TURTLE COVE	1	2
STANLEY MAIN	1	1
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	2

HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	1	2
TRIO (HEBE. HAVEN)	1	1
ISLANDS DISTRICT		

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	1	1
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	2	2
TONG FUK	2	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	2
TUNG O*	1	1
TSUEN WAN DISTRICT		

ANGLERS'	4	3
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	2	2
GEMINI	2	3
HOI MEI WAN	2	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	4	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	1	2

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	4
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	4
BUTTERFLY	2	3

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

TONG FUK, FROM "2" TO "1"; ST STEPHEN'S, TURTLE COVE, SILVERSTRAND, TUNG WAN ON CHEUNG CHAU AND TUNG WAN ON MA WAN, FROM "1" TO "2"; SHEK O, GEMINI, HOI MEI WAN AND BUTTERFLY, FROM "2" TO "3"; ANGLERS', FROM "4" TO "3".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NEW CAFETERIA AND KADOORIE, FROM "3" TO "4".

THE DOWNGRADING OF NEW CAFETERIA AND KADOORIE IS DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH HAS FLUSHED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE BEACH HINTERLAND INTO THE BEACH WATER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL R. HOLMES, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, ON TEL. 835 1234.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1990

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CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM
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THE 23RD CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM WILL BE HELD IN TAI PO ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7).

OF THE 1,276 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, 1,053 WERE FROM MEN AND 223 FROM WOMEN. THE YOUNGEST ENTRANT IS 12 YEARS OLD AND THE OLDEST 70.

THE RACE IS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND A BREWERY.

IT WILL START AT 10.30 AM AT SHA LAN BEACH IN SHUEN WAN AND FINISH AT THE TAI MEI TUK WATER SPORTS CENTRE, COVERING A DISTANCE OF 2,400 METRES.

TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE KICK-OFF CEREMONY.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE WATER SPORTS CENTRE AT 12.10 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 23RD CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM IN TAI PO ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7).

A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE FOR THE STARTING POINT AT SHA LAN FROM THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRES, 2 ON CHEUNG ROAD, TAI PO, AT 9.15 AM.

THOSE TRAVELLING ON THEIR OWN SHOULD GATHER AT THE PIER NEAR THE ROUNDABOUT OF SAM MUN TSAI ROAD (I.E. NEAR THE LUEN YICK SEAFOOD HOUSE) IN THE LUEN YICK FISHERMEN VILLAGE BY 9.45 AM.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1990

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TWO PROJECTS TO IMPROVE MARINE ACCESS TO ISLANDS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO PROCEED WITH TWO PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED (RECLAMATION) ORDINANCE TO IMPROVE MARINE ACCESS TO TSING YI AND PO TOI ISLANDS.

FOR TSING YI, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PERMIT DREDGING WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 8.62 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED OFF THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

THE DREDGING WORK, WHICH WILL START THIS DECEMBER, IS TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPROACH TO THE PROPOSED PIER AT TSING YI TOWN.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE DECEMBER 4.

FOR PO TOI, A PIER IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,360 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

WORK WILL START NEXT JANUARY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT MAY SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE OCTOBER 4 NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE TWO AREAS AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICES TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PLANS CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN SHAM SHUI PO TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOFTOP AND THE COMMON STAIRCASE LANDING AT GROUND FLOOR OF 202-220 (EVEN NUMBERS) NAM CHEONG STREET.

/NOTICES OF

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON FEBRUARY 6 NEXT YEAR WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE THE DEMOLITION CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN SPORTS FESTIVAL BEGINS ON SUNDAY
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A TWO-HOUR CARNIVAL TO KICK OFF THE 1990 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7) AFTERNOON.

THE CARNIVAL, FEATURING A LION DANCE, PIPE AND DRUM BAND PARADE, TA CHI DEMONSTRATION, AEROBIC DANCE SHOW AND CYCLING DISPLAY, WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

APART FROM THESE PERFORMANCES, THERE WILL ALSO BE GAME STALLS AND TELEMATCHES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU, THE DISTRICT'S RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN, MR LAWRENCE LAM.

DURING THE TWO-MONTH SPORTS FESTIVAL, A NUMBER OF EVENTS CATERING FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS WILL BE ORGANISED. THESE WILL INCLUDE SWIMMING, ATHLETIC MEET, VOLLEY BALL, SQUASH AND SOCCER TOURNAMENTS, DANCING COMPETITION AND A RECREATIONAL CAMP FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE SPORTS FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES. ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS IS FREE BUT THIS WILL BE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

ENTRY FORMS AND A LEAFLET ON DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, AND ITS SUB-OFFICE IN KENNEDY TOWN OR THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1001, UC SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 853 2566.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1990 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SPORTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7) AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT.

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SOUTHERN DB TO COMMEND VOLUNTEERS

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FIFTEEN VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND A 75-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, AND THREE VOLUNTARY GROUPS WILL BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICES TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AT A CEREMONY ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7) AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK AND HOLIDAY VILLAGE.

SELECTED AS WINNERS IN THE 1990-91 SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICE AWARD SCHEME, THEY WILL BE AWARDED COMMENDATION CERTIFICATES AND GIFT COUPONS DURING THE CEREMONY.

NOW IN ITS SIXTH YEAR, THE SOCIAL SERVICE SCHEME HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING AND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.

THE PRESENTATION WILL FORM PART OF A DAY CAMP ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NOMINEES TO THE AWARD SCHEME TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON VOLUNTARY WORK.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR PAUL CHEUNG; THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR WONG KONG-CHEUNG; AND THE DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS, MR CHAN KAM-CHEUNG.

MR CHAN WILL GIVE A TALK ON "SOCIAL SERVICE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 90'S".

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1990-91 SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICE AWARD SCHEME ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 7) IN THE HALL OF THE LEI YUE MUN PARK AND HOLIDAY VILLAGE. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

A GOVERNMENT VAN, AM 2801, WILL DEPART FROM THE CHAI WAN MTR STATION AT 2 PM TO TAKE REPORTERS TO THE VENUE. THOSE WISHING TO USE THE FACILITY SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE'S CHAI WAN SUB-OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF NEW JADE GARDENS, KUT SHING STREET. INFORMATION OFFICER, MR ALEX LI, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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