



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1981

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DECISION ON WATER RESTRICTIONS DEFERRED

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WILLIAM TUCKER, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER THERE WOULD BE WATER RESTRICTIONS ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAD BEEN DEFERRED FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AFTER A REVIEW OF THE WATER SITUATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

SO FAR THIS MONTH, THE YIELD IN THE ISLAND RESERVOIRS HAS BEEN 1.24 MILLION CUBIC METRES AND THE RAINFALL RECORDED HAS BEEN MORE THAN 65 MM.

MR TUCKER SAID: +THE YIELD FROM THE RAINFALL WE HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR THIS MONTH, THOUGH NOT ENCOURAGING, HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP IN MAINTAINING THE STORAGE POSITION THAT EXISTED ABOUT 10 DAYS BACK.

+IN VIEW OF THIS SLIGHT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO WAIT FOR SOME MORE TIME BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER ANY RESTRICTIONS NEED TO BE IMPOSED.+

MR TUCKER SAID THAT THE WATER SUPPLY POSITION WOULD BE KEPT CONTINUOUSLY UNDER OBSERVATION FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

IF THE STORAGE SITUATION BECAME MORE FAVOURABLE, HE ADDED, THE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE POSTPONED FURTHER.

THIS DECISION WILL VERY MUCH DEPEND ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE YIELD FROM THE RAINFALL AS WELL AS DRAW-OFF FROM RESERVOIRS DURING THE PERIOD.

MR TUCKER AGAIN URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ONCE AGAIN TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM ECONOMY IN THE USE OF WATER.

+THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TOWARDS OUR EFFORTS IN MAINTAINING A FULL SUPPLY OF WATER,+ HE ADDED.

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CONSULTANTS APPOINTED TO REVIEW GAS SAFETY STANDARDS

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE OF THE BRITISH GAS CORPORATION HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF GAS SAFETY IN HONG KONG AND TO ADVISE ON IMPROVEMENTS.

THE CORPORATION, THE LARGEST SINGLE INTERNATIONAL GAS UNDERTAKING IN THE WORLD, AND WHICH HAS 160 YEARS EXPERIENCE, WAS SELECTED FROM A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FIRMS WHICH BID FOR THE CONSULTANCY.

/COMMENTING ON

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COMMENTING ON THE APPOINTMENT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:
+BECAUSE OF THE WIDE-RANGING AND COMPLEX NATURE OF THE TASK INVOLVED, REQUIRING EXPERTISE THAT IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT INVITED PROPOSALS FROM RECOGNISED CONSULTANTS WITH THE RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

+THE SUCCESSFUL CONSULTANTS WERE CHOSEN AFTER A THOROUGH EVALUATION EXERCISE AIMED AT ENSURING THAT HONG KONG OBTAINED THE BEST AVAILABLE SERVICES IN THIS FIELD.+

THE REVIEW OF SAFETY STANDARDS WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE GAS INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTANCY ARE :

- TO REVIEW THE EXISTING SITUATION ON THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS OF TOWN GAS AND LPG=
- TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING LEGISLATION IN AREAS ALREADY SUBJECT TO CONTROL=
- TO ASSESS THE DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL TO AREAS NOT CURRENTLY, OR ADEQUATELY, COVERED, HAVING REGARD TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS AND PRACTICES=
- TO ADVISE HOW PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC IS TO BE SAFEGUARDED BY THE NEW OR AMENDING LEGISLATION=
- TO ASSESS THE LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCING NEW CONTROLS=
- TO ADVISE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW OR AMENDING LEGISLATION WITH REGARD TO THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED=
- TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE BEST METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OF ENFORCING LEGISLATION TO BE ENACTED= AND
- AS NECESSARY, TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OF A CONSULTANT TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE BRITISH GAS CORPORATION WILL SEND A TEAM TO HONG KONG NEXT WEEK. AN INTERIM REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN ABOUT 12 WEEKS AND THE FULL STUDY IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 20 WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

AS A HIGH PRIORITY THE CONSULTANTS WILL ASSESS AND ADVISE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO GAS WATER HEATERS.

/THE TEAM

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THE TEAM WILL COMPRISE A SENIOR ENGINEERING MANAGER, A LEGAL ADVISER WITH DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF ALL LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE GAS INDUSTRY AND A SENIOR DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER EXPERIENCED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY CODES AND PRACTICES, EACH WITH MORE THAN 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

THE TEAM WILL BE AUGMENTED AS NECESSARY FROM THE CONSIDERABLE BACK-UP EXPERTISE AND SPECIALIST SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE CORPORATION.

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NEW BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL OPENS ON MONDAY

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THE OLD SINGLE-TRACK BEACON HILL TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED PERMANENTLY TO RAIL TRAFFIC FROM SATURDAY (APRIL 25), MARKING THE END OF A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY.

THE LAST TRAIN WILL PASS THROUGH THE 71-YEAR-OLD TUNNEL, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1910, ON FRIDAY (APRIL 24).

THE OLD TUNNEL WILL BE REPLACED BY A NEW DOUBLE-TRACK BEACON HILL TUNNEL WHICH WILL BE OPENED TO RAIL TRAFFIC NEXT MONDAY (APRIL 27).

THE 2.3-KILOMETRE NEW TUNNEL HAD BEEN BUILT AT A LOWER LEVEL TO REDUCE THE GRADIENTS ON THE APPROACHES, MR LEUNG MIN-SUN, GOVERNMENT ENGINEER (RAILWAY) OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

PRIOR TO THE CHANGEOVER, HE SAID, THE CONTRACTORS WOULD HAVE TO REMOVE THE TRACK ON BOTH SIDES OF THE EXISTING TUNNEL, FLATTEN THE EMBANKMENT AND RE-ROUTE THE TRACK TO THE NEW BEACON HILL TUNNEL.

TO FACILITATE THE WORK, TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM FRIDAY EVENING TO SUNDAY EVENING AND THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY WILL ARRANGE WITH BUS COMPANY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN.

MR LEUNG SAID ONLY A SINGLE TRACK WOULD BE OPERATIONAL AT THE APPROACHES TO THE TUNNEL AFTER THE OPENING. A SECOND TRACK WILL BE LAID IN A FEW WEEKS.

THE WHOLE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL AND THE APPROACHES, COSTS \$125 MILLION.

THE MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR THE TUNNEL IS AOKI CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. AND THE CONSTRUCTOR FOR THE APPROACHES IS CHIU HING CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION CO. LTD.

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SUSPENSION OF TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN
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THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED COMMUTERS THAT TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (APRIL 25 AND 26).

THE TWO EXPRESS THROUGH TRAINS WILL ALSO NOT RUN ON THESE TWO DAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR KCR SAID THE RAILWAY LINE SOUTH OF SHA TIN STATION MUST BE COMPLETELY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC TO ENABLE THE VERY HEAVY CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW DOUBLE-TRACK BEACON HILL TUNNEL.

ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (APRIL 27 AND 28), SIGNALLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW ROUTE WILL BE INTRODUCED AND A REDUCED SERVICE WILL BE OPERATED.

DETAILS OF THE AMENDED TIME-TABLE ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

DURING THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE WITH KMB TO RUN A SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE RACECOURSE STATION IN SHA TIN.

+THE INCONVENIENCE TO COMMUTERS IS VERY MUCH REGRETTEED, BUT IT IS ENTIRELY UNAVOIDABLE. THE WORK CONSTITUTES A VITAL PART IN COMPLETING THE REBUILD OF THE RAILWAY IN TIME TO OPEN THE FIRST STAGE OF ELECTRIFIED SERVICE BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN BY THE SPRING OF 1982,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

+CLEARLY ON APRIL 25 AND 26, AND TO A MUCH LESSER DEGREE ON APRIL 27 AND 28, WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY THE NORMAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND COMMUTERS ARE ADVISED TO USE OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT,+ HE ADDED.

NORMAL TRAIN SERVICES WILL RESUME ON APRIL 29.

THE KCR SPOKESMAN SAID DUE TO A RACE MEETING IN SHA TIN ON APRIL 25, THERE WILL BE NO SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES ON THAT DAY BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN FROM 11.30 AM TO 6.30 PM.

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VACCINATION FOR FISHERMEN CHILDREN

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE FISHING FOLKS TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES.

AN INOCULATION TEAM WILL STATION ON A MARINE LAUNCH AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 23) AND AT THE LEI YUE MUN TYPHOON SHELTER ON FRIDAY (APRIL 24).

THE TEAM WILL GIVE FREE VACCINATION TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND 10 YEARS AGAINST MEASLES, DIPHTHERIA-TETANUS AND POLIO.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT URGED ALL FISHERMEN TO MAKE USE OF THIS SPECIAL SERVICE FOR THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS PERIOD BECAUSE MOST OF THE FISHERMEN WOULD BE IN PORT TO PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL.+

HE SAID THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN OF THE MARINE POPULATION RESPONDING TO IMMUNISATION IS RELATIVELY LOWER THAN THAT OF THOSE LIVING ON LAND.

+THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE AS THE BOAT PEOPLE MAY NOT FIND IT CONVENIENT TO VISIT THE MANY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES ON SHORE,+ HE SAID.

FOR THIS REASON, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE OF BRINGING TO THEM A SERIES OF ESSENTIAL VACCINATION PROGRAMMES.

VACCINATION AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE ALL YEAR ROUND AT ANY OF THE 38 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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BUILDING INDUSTRY MANPOWER SURVEY STARTS

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THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) STARTED A MANPOWER SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY.

THE FOUR-DAY SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. IT ALSO COVERS ALL ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES:

/(I) THE NUMBER

- (I) THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED=
- (II) THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT UNDER TRAINING= AND
- (III) THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES.

DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, SURVEY INTERVIEWERS WILL VISIT EACH OF THE PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION SITES TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL, ON BEHALF OF THE TRAINING BOARD, LIAISE WITH THE SITE FOREMEN OF ALL GOVERNMENT SITES TO COLLECT THE SAME INFORMATION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MR HO SAI-CHU, STRESSED THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL SITE OR FIRM.

MR HO URGED EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THAT PLANS CAN BE FORMULATED TO MEET THE INDUSTRY'S MANPOWER NEEDS.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR SEES
SERVICES FOR RETARDED CHILDREN
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SPENT A HALF DAY TODAY (TUESDAY) IN TWO INSTITUTIONAL HOMES INSPECTING THEIR SERVICES PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION AND FOR SEVERELY RETARDED CHILDREN.

DURING HIS AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE CHAK YAN CENTRE RUN BY THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES IN SHAM SHUI PO, HE TOURED SCHOOL CLASSES AND SAW PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS ON AIR-CONDITIONING, METAL AND ELECTRICAL WORK, CARPENTRY AND SEWING.

THE GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED CENTRE PROVIDES RESIDENTIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO 160 BOYS AGED EIGHT TO 16 YEARS WITH BEHAVIOURAL OR FAMILY PROBLEMS.

IT RUNS A SPECIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME COMPRISING NORMAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND VARIOUS PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING, IN ADDITION TO RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOCIETY'S SECRETARY, MR WILSON CHEUNG, THE DIRECTOR INSPECTED THE FACILITIES AT ITS DORMITORIES, GYMNASIUM AND ASSEMBLY HALL, PLAYGROUND AND KITCHEN.

MR ALLEYNE LATER CALLED AT THE PAK TIN CHILDREN'S CENTRE RUN BY THE HONG KONG MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR 80 SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AGED SIX TO 16 YEARS.

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HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE SUPERVISOR, MR PETER MOK, ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES WHICH AIMED AT DEVELOPING THE CHILDREN'S ABILITIES WITH A VIEW TO REINTEGRATING THEM INTO THE COMMUNITY.

THE CHILDREN ARE TRAINED IN BASIC SELF-CARE, MOTOR SKILLS, AND ARE HELPED IN THEIR INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ORGANISED INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. THE CENTRE ALSO PROVIDES MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE FOR THE CHILDREN.

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ENTRIES OPEN FOR TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES
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THE NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERING THE TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES, PEGGED TO 36 FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, IS TO BE INCREASED THIS YEAR TO 50.

THE RACES WILL BE HELD AT SHUEN WAN HOI ON JUNE 6, THE FIFTH DAY OF THE 5TH MONTH ON THE LUNAR CALENDAR.

THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES IS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF KEEN DEMAND.

THE TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES ARE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL FESTIVAL EVENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TRADITIONALLY THEY TOOK PLACE AT YUEN CHAU TSAI, BUT HAD TO BE MOVED TO THE NEW COURSE LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF RECLAMATION WORK FOR TAI PO NEW TOWN.

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, FACTORIES, COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS, SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS ARE BEING INVITED TO ENTER TEAMS.

EACH TEAM WILL CONSIST OF 30 MEMBERS, INCLUDING 27 OARSMEN, A DRUMMER, A GONG-BEATER AND A COX. THREE RESERVES WILL ALSO BE PERMITTED.

THERE WILL BE FIVE HEATS IN THE MORNING. THE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP IN EACH HEAT WILL COMPETE IN THE FINAL RACE IN THE AFTERNOON.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AND TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE. THEY SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY APRIL 30.

THE RACES ARE BEING ORGANISED BY A COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, RURAL COMMITTEES, SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR STEPHEN WONG, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, WHILE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WILLIAM TUCKER, ARE HONORARY PRESIDENTS.

FUNDS FOR THE EVENTS ARE BEING PROVIDED BY TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL DONATIONS.

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WATER CUT IN WONG TAI SIN
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THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (APRIL 23) TO 6 AM ON THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, SHA TIN PASS ROAD, WONG TAI SIN ROAD AND MA CHAI HANG ROAD, INCLUDING BLOCK 8 OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, BLOCKS 1 - 15, UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, LUNG CHEUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND WONG TAI SIN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL.

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