



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 2, 1973

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TUEN MUN DEVELOPMENT ENTERS NEW PHASE

More Than 300 Acres To Be Reclaimed For New Town

Another phase in the mammoth Tuen Mun New Town Development Scheme which is planned to house half a million people by 1983 will begin soon with the reclamation of a further 305 acres in Castle Peak Bay.

Engineering works for this phase of development are estimated to amount to more than \$200 million.

The proposed reclamation is located on the western side of Castle Peak Road at the section between Castle Peak Beach and Wong Ka Wai.

Some 120 acres of the reclaimed land will be for public housing and private residential/commercial developments. Land will also be provided for industry, waterfront and community facilities, utility services and open spaces.

The portion of the reclamation fronting Wong Ka Wai will provide a location for the establishment of a town centre comprising facilities to serve the new town's eventual population of 500,000.

A typhoon shelter will be constructed in the bay to provide anchorage for the local fishermen, and the two arms of the shelter will provide additional land for development.

The eastern arm of the shelter will be developed to accommodate fish and vegetable markets and for possible government and industrial use.

/The reclamation

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The reclamation project includes the construction of the outer seawall of the western arm. Provision will be made for its widening at a later date to provide sites for industries.

A 100-foot wide motorway will be built on the reclamation to replace a section of Castle Peak Road adjacent to the reclamation site. The new dual carriageway road will provide improved vehicular access to the New Town.

A primary distributor road will also be formed across the bay to provide a southern access to the industrial area west of the San Hui River channel and to facilitate the laying of a trunk sewer.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

The Governor, after taking into consideration the advice of the Executive Council, has decided that the death sentence passed on Mohabbat Hussain on April 9, 1973, should be commuted to a term of 15 years' imprisonment.

Hussain was found guilty of the murder of Mohammed Afzal.

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PUBLIC URGED TO HELP REDUCE CONGESTION DURING HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS

Dr. K.F. Chan, acting Deputy Director of Medical and Health Services (Medical), today urged members of the press, radio and television to help the department persuade the public to observe regulations during visiting hours at government hospitals.

He told a press conference at departmental headquarters that congestion at the Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary hospitals between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. had reached a point he could only describe as "chaotic."

Every patient on admission was given a leaflet making clear that only two visitors at a time were allowed each patient in the general wards. This was for the convenience of all, since certain wards had as many as 40 beds each.

"This rule seems nowadays to be entirely disregarded," Dr. Chan said, "and when our staff tries to enforce it, they are accused of being rude."

He said the department objected to the presence of children amongst visitors. This was contrary to the rules, because children were more susceptible to the dangers of cross-infection than adults.

Dr. Chan referred to the problem of congestion at the two main government hospitals as "overwhelming." At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital more than 6,000 visitors blocked corridors and stairways everyday. At Queen Mary, more than 3,000 daily visitors did the same thing.

He hoped the media would help spread the message that the visiting hour had been deliberately chosen as the most convenient time -- both for the patient and the caller -- and that adherence to the rules would do much to relieve pressure.

/In reply

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In reply to a question, he said in the case of direct family members, special permission could be sought for urgent visits outside the set hour. This was usually given.

He said the lift service in both hospitals was unnecessarily taxed by people who could easily walk up or down a floor or two. Consideration for others was vital. While there was no "ideal" duration for a hospital visit, he felt no person who was sick should be exposed to a friendly call of concern lasting more than a few minutes.

"We can only do so much with our rules and regulations", Dr. Chan said. "In the final analysis, this state of affairs can only be overcome with the cooperation of the public. I hope the media will help us to secure this cooperation."

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NEW OFFICES FOR ABERDEEN SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT

The Aberdeen Social Security Field Unit has moved to new premises in the centre of the town within easier access of its clients.

Since it was established in June, the Unit has had to share offices with another unit in Western District while its new offices on the 4th floor of 200 Aberdeen Main Street, were being outfitted. The telephone numbers are 5-520723, 5-520727, 5-520710 and 5-520715.

Its operational areas cover Aberdeen, Aplichau, Wong Chuk Hang, Shek Pai Wan, Wah Fu Estate and Po Toi Island.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN NEW TERRITORIES

Plans are in hand to improve Luk Keng Road in Sha Tau Kok which will form a crucial link in a road development programme in the area.

The road, which leads from Wu Shek Kok to Luk Keng, will be realigned while the carriageway will be widened from 10 feet to 22 feet and developed into a two-way through road with a five-foot footpath on one side of it.

At present the road has an uneven surface and many sharp bends, and accommodates only one-way traffic.

The widened road will eventually form a part of a circular route running through Tai Po, Tai Mei Tuk, Luk Keng and Fanling.

A government spokesman said it was considered advisable to improve the Luk Keng section at this early stage because once the circular route was completed the volume of traffic in the area was expected to increase rapidly.

Reclamation work will be carried out in the Starling Inlet in connection with the widening project, and a bridge structure will be constructed along 1,000 feet of the foreshore to accommodate the widened road.

After the realignment, Luk Keng Road will be over one mile long.

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HOW TO USE SIMPLER TRADE DOCUMENTS

A brochure entitled "How to Use Simpler Trade Documents" has been released by the Hong Kong Working Party on Simpler Trade Documents. This brochure is being published by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council for the Working Party.

The brochure attempts to bring all concerned as up to date as possible on the forms which are now available to Hong Kong exporters and others to enable them to mechanise their paper work.

It includes specimens of various documents which have been aligned to the Hong Kong Standard Master Document. The work of the ad hoc Working Party on Simpler Trade Documents has now been taken over by the Hong Kong Trade Facilitation Committee.

Copies of the brochure, at \$2.00 each, can be obtained from the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong or through the Chinese Manufacturers' Association; the Federation of Hong Kong Industries; the Hong Kong Exporters' Association; the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce; the Indian Chamber of Commerce, and the Marine Insurance Association of Hong Kong.

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FOUR PRE-WAR BUILDINGS IN SHAUKIWAN CONDEMNED

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 2A, 91, and 93 Shaukiwan Main Street East to be in a dangerous condition and No. 95 liable to become dangerous.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that No. 2A had been inspected after a collapse at the rear of an adjoining building.

The badly fractured front wall and extensive decay in the roof timbers revealed a possibility of collapse, he added.

Referring to Nos. 91 and 93, he said these two pre-war buildings were inspected as part of an extensive investigation in the area following a collapse which resulted in the closure of four buildings.

The timberwork in Nos. 91 and 93, was extensively decayed and parts of it were at the point of failure. This, coupled with poor and fractured brickwork, led to the conclusion that there was danger of collapse.

Although No. 95 was not in such a deteriorated condition, it was liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of No. 93 and No. 97, for which an application for closure was already proposed.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders for these four buildings were posted today. Hearing is scheduled to be held in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on October 30.

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SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

The Tai Po District Office will open its first Public Enquiry Centre in Sheung Shui tomorrow (Wednesday).

Officiating the opening ceremony will be the District Commissioner, N.T., Mr. D.C. Bray, and four prominent local residents, Messrs. Liu Yun-sum, Chan Yau-choi, Lau Yam-man and Pang Hang-yin.

The Centre is located at 24, San Fung Avenue, in the township of Shek Wu Hui, and will serve the people in Sheung Shui, Ta Kwu Ling and Fanling areas.

It will handle normal enquiries about government functions and assist in promoting government publicity campaigns.

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Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the opening ceremony. It will start at 11.30 a.m. Transport will be provided. A van (AM 2132) will be leaving from the Tsim Sha Tsui Sub-pool at 9.30 a.m.

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STUDENT CONSERVATION LEADERS IN FIRE WATCH

During the celebration of the Chung Yeung festival on Thursday (October 4) large numbers of secondary school students will be assisting the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in the prevention of countryside hill fires.

Every year during the festival an enormous amount of ~~damage~~ is done to the countryside by fires, caused through negligence during rites at ancestral graves. At such times all the available regular forestry staff are deployed over as wide an area as possible, and the assistance of these volunteers will be a great help.

The young volunteers will be stationed in the hills, each with a predetermined area to cover. When a family group arrives to worship at a grave, the volunteer will join that group and advise them of the precautions to be taken, and he will seek their co-operation to prevent the accidental starting of grass fires.

The volunteers will also act as fire lookouts, with the responsibility of reporting any outbreaks to the forestry fire-fighting staff.

Thirty-nine members of Conservancy Clubs from 14 secondary schools last summer attended two-week long residential Conservation Leadership Training Camps, organised jointly by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the Education Department.

Besides gaining a better understanding of environmental problems, they also acquired basic skills in practical conservation work, such as the detection and suppression of hill fires, and the planting and care of trees.

Since the completion of those training courses, these leaders have been working to promote a feeling of conservation awareness among the other pupils in their respective schools.

Release Time: 7.00 p.m.