



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1977

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

FEWER BIRTHS AND MORE DEATHS REGISTERED LAST YEAR	1
KEY SHA TIN SITE OPENS TO TENDER	2
WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO	2
SOUTH LANTAU ROAD TO BE MADE SAFER	3
AIRMAIL SERVICE TO LEBANON TO BE PARTIALLY RESUMED	3
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS VISITED TECHNICAL INSTITUTE .	4

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1977

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN 1976

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FEWER BIRTHS AND MORE DEATHS WERE REGISTERED LAST YEAR THAN IN 1975, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR. P. JACOBS.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 1976 WAS 76,342, WHICH WAS 1,858 LESS THAN THE 1975 FIGURE OF 78,200, WHILE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED INCREASED BY 2,004 TO 23,195.

ALTHOUGH THE DECREASE IN REGISTERED BIRTHS WAS ONLY ABOUT 2.4 PER CENT, MR. JACOBS SAID IT WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT 1976 WAS THE SECOND YEAR SINCE 1974 IN WHICH THE TOTAL OF REGISTERED BIRTHS SHOWED A DECREASE AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING YEAR.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN ANY ONE YEAR WAS IN 1963, WHEN 115,263 WERE REGISTERED. THEREAFTER THE NUMBER DECLINED EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE DOWNWARD TREND WAS REVERSED IN 1972. AFTER SLIGHT INCREASES IN THREE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER FELL AGAIN IN 1975 AND 1976.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED LAST YEAR, 74,355 WERE CHINESE (38,591 MALE AND 35,764 FEMALE) AND 1,987 NON-CHINESE (1,041 MALE AND 946 FEMALE).

A TOTAL OF 19,942 WERE REGISTERED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 47,682 IN KOWLOON AND 8,718 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THESE REPRESENTED DECREASES OF 0.37 PER CENT, 2.58 PER CENT AND 5.64 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY AS COMPARED WITH THE 1975 FIGURES.

IN ISSUING THESE FIGURES, MR. JACOBS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE IN RESPECT OF REGISTERED BIRTHS ONLY.

+THERE ARE ALWAYS A NUMBER OF BIRTHS EVERY YEAR WHICH ARE NOT REGISTERED BY THE PARENTS AT THE TIME, WITH THE RESULT THAT WHILE THE FIGURES FOR THE REGISTERED BIRTHS SHOW TRENDS, THEY DO NOT GIVE A COMPLETELY ACCURATE PICTURE,+ HE SAID.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS COMPRISED 22,894 CHINESE (12,693 MALE AND 10,195 FEMALE AND 6 UNKNOWN SEX) AND 301 NON-CHINESE (188 MALE AND 113 FEMALE).

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE WAS 1,092 AS AGAINST 1,173 IN 1975, WHILE THAT OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OLD WAS 564 COMPARED WITH 671 THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1977

- 2 -
TENDERS FOR KEY SITE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN CENTRE
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TENDERS FOR A KEY SITE WITHIN THE PROPOSED SHA TIN NEW TOWN CENTRE WILL OPEN ON JANUARY 28 AND CLOSE THREE WEEKS LATER ON FEBRUARY 17, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY.

TENDERING FOR THE 12,200 SQUARE METRE SITE, WHICH IS TO BE DEVELOPED AS A RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, IS RESTRICTED TO HOLDERS OF GOVERNMENT LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AN ADJOINING +TWIN+ DEVELOPMENT SITE OF ABOUT 11,500 SQUARE METRES WILL BE PUT OUT TO TENDER TO LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENT HOLDERS LATER IN FEBRUARY.

+THE TWO SITES, WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, WILL FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW TOWN CENTRE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+EACH WILL HAVE A FOUR-LEVEL PODIUM, PROVIDING CAR PARKING AND COMMERCIAL AREAS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE OCEAN TERMINAL.

+ON EACH PODIUM WILL BE FOUR RESIDENTIAL TOWER BLOCKS.

+THE CONDITIONS OF SALE STIPULATE THAT THE SITES ARE TO BE DEVELOPED TO A DETAILED CONTROL PLAN LAID DOWN BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+ON THE SECOND SITE, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FOR A GOVERNMENT-STANDARD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

+THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HAD SUCH A DETAILED CONTROL PLAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL SO THAT THE SITES CAN BE DEVELOPED IN LINE WITH THE HIGH STANDARDS OF THE TOWN CENTRE LAYOUT AS A WHOLE.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE TENDERS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 15) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI PO ROAD, PAK TIN STREET, WOH CHAI STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING BERWICK STREET, PEI HO STREET, BLOCK NO. 7 - 22 OF LOWER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE AND THE NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1977

- 3 -

SOUTH LANTAU ROAD TO BE SAFER FOR PICNICKERS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE SOUTH LANTAU ROAD AT PUI O TO MAKE IT SAFER FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND THE THOUSANDS OF WEEKEND PICNICKERS WHO FLOCK TO THE AREA IN THE SUMMER SEASON.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO START WORK IN APRIL ON A SERIES OF BUS BAYS AND LAY-BYS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD AND HOPES TO HAVE THE \$100,000 PROJECT COMPLETED BEFORE SUMMER.

THE STRETCH OF ROAD TO BE IMPROVED PASSES THROUGH LO WAI, PUI O NEW VILLAGE AND LO UK TSUEN, ALL POPULAR WEEKEND PICNIC SPOTS.

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. DAVID TSUI, SAID TODAY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WEEKEND TRIPPERS TO THE AREA HAD MADE THE EXISTING NARROW ROAD HAZARDOUS.

+THE ROAD HAS A SHARP BEND AND THE LINE OF SIGHT FOR BOTH MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS IS POOR,+ HE SAID.

+BECAUSE THERE ARE NO FOOTPATHS, PICNICKERS WHO ALIGHT FROM THE BUS AT LO WAI ARE AT RISK AND IN FACT THERE WERE TWO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS ON THIS STRETCH OF ROAD IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

+THIS PROJECT WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW BUT SHOULD SIGNIFICANTLY CUT DOWN THE RISK OF SUCH ACCIDENTS+.

MR. TSUI SAID THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WOULD CLEAR ABOUT 4,000 SQUARE FEET OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND TO ALLOW WORK TO START ON THE PROJECT.

+NO BUILDING LAND OR STRUCTURES OF ANY KIND ARE INVOLVED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PAYING COMPENSATION TO THE OWNERS INVOLVED FOR CROPS AND FRUIT TREES, AN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE TO CULTIVATORS AS WELL AS REPROVISIONING AFFECTED PIPELINES, CULVERTS AND OPEN CHANNELS,+ HE ADDED.

AIRMAIL SERVICE TO LEBANON PARTIALLY RESUMED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES THAT WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 17) AIRMAIL SERVICE FROM HONG KONG TO LEBANON WHICH HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, WILL BE PARTLY RESUMED.

ORDINARY AND REGISTERED AIRMAIL LETTER-POST ITEMS WEIGHING NOT MORE THAN HALF AN OUNCE MAY BE ACCEPTED FOR POSTING.

ALL OTHER POSTAL SERVICES TO LEBANON ARE STILL SUSPENDED.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1977

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBERS VISIT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

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HONG KONG'S FIRST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT MORRISON HILL AND THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST WERE VISITED TODAY BY FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THEY WERE MISS KO SIU-WAH, MR. T.C. CHENG, PROFESSOR M.A. BRIMER, MR. KAN MING-YA AND MR. S.F. BAILEY.

THE GROUP SAW STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S FIVE DEPARTMENTS - COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND GENERAL STUDIES.

DURING THE TOUR, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CHATTED WITH STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS.

THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE INSTITUTE IS TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS.

THE INSTITUTE HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 800 FULL-TIME, 1,200 PART-TIME DAY RELEASE AND MORE THAN 10,000 EVENING STUDENTS.

THE BOARD MEMBERS ALSO VISITED THE WORKSHOPS AND FACILITIES IN THE INSTITUTE USED BY THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

AFTER SPENDING SOME TWO HOURS AT THE INSTITUTE THEY WENT TO THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST WHERE THEY SAW TEACHERS OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS UNDERGOING TRAINING.

TODAY'S TOUR BY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS IS THE TWELFTH IN THE CURRENT SERIES WHICH STARTED IN EARLY NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE VISITS WERE ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION.

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