



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1984

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TOWN PLANNER SEES CONTINUED NT GROWTH

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THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS THE CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN HALF OF THE HONG KONG POPULATION BY THE 1990'S, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, DR K.S. PUN, SAID TODAY.

DR PUN SAID THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY THOUGHT, THE ROLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG WOULD NOT ONLY CONTINUE, BUT WOULD INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY.

DR PUN, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING OF NEW TOWNS, TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING THAT SINCE THE HONG KONG TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN JULY THIS YEAR, PEOPLE HAD THOUGHT THAT GOVERNMENT WAS REVERSING ITS PAST POLICY OF CONCENTRATING MAJOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THEY THINK, WRONGLY, THAT FROM NOW ON THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY LESS ATTENTION TO THE NEW TOWNS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN FAVOUR OF THE URBAN AREA,+ HE SAID.

+SOME EVEN REGARD THIS AS A MAJOR CHANGE OF POLICY AND RELATE IT TO THE 1997 QUESTION.

+I MUST EMPHASISE HERE THAT THIS IS NOT THE REAL SITUATION OR INTENTION. CURRENTLY COMMITTED NEW TOWNS AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE UNTIL THEY ARE COMPLETED IN THE 1990'S.+

HE SAID THESE INCLUDED THE PARTLY BUILT TOWNS OF TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, TAI PO, FANLING, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN AND SEVERAL RURAL TOWNSHIPS.

WORK HAS ALSO STARTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIAL STAGE OF TIN SHUI WAI AND THE FIRST PHASE OF JUNK BAY.

HE SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WHEN COMPLETED IN THE EARLY 1990'S, WOULD HAVE A TOTAL ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY OF MORE THAN THREE MILLION PERSONS.

WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF IDENTIFIED DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THERE WERE STILL FURTHER DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS AT SOME STAGE.

+PRINCIPAL EXAMPLES ARE THE EXTENSION AREAS IN SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN, THE LAND BANK IN TIN SHUI WAI AND THE REMAINING PARTS OF JUNK BAY AFTER THE FIRST PHASE,+ HE SAID.

PREDICTING THAT MORE THAN HALF OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION WOULD LIVE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE NEXT DECADE, DR PUN SAID THESE PEOPLE WOULD LIVE IN +WELL-PROVIDED AND WELL-MANAGED HOUSING ESTATES SET IN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT, SUPPLEMENTED WITH RECREATIONAL OUTLETS LIKE THE COUNTRY PARKS, BEACHES AND CAMPING SITES.+

/DR PUN

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DR PUN ALSO SPOKE ABOUT +A LONG-STANDING MISINTERPRETATION OF A PLANNING PRINCIPLE ADOPTED IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS.+

HE SAID THE PRINCIPLE OF +BALANCED DEVELOPMENT+ AND THE +CONCEPT OF SELF-CONTAINMENT+ HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS DEBATES.

+THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTENTION IS WHETHER 'BALANCED DEVELOPMENT' IN NEW TOWNS IN HONG KONG IS EVER A PRACTICABLE PROPOSITION,+ DR PUN SAID.

+ONE ARGUMENT IS THAT GIVEN THE SMALL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF THE TERRITORY AND HENCE THE SHORT DISTANCES BETWEEN PLACES, THE CONVENIENCE IN TRAVEL BETWEEN POINTS OF ACTIVITIES WILL ENCOURAGE ITS PEOPLE TO LIVE IN ONE PLACE AND WORK IN ANOTHER.

+ANOTHER RELATED ASPECT IS THAT IT IS ARGUED THAT MOST OF THE JOBS ARE AND WILL BE FOR A LONG TIME IN FUTURE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREAS AROUND THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND THE HARBOUR.

+ADVOCATES OF THESE ARGUMENTS ASSERT THAT NO MATTER HOW THE PLANNER PLANS THESE TOWNS TOWARD THIS TARGET OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IT CAN NEVER BE ACHIEVED,+ HE SAID.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST BALANCED DEVELOPMENT HAD OVERLOOKED A POINT THAT NO PLANNING COULD EVER CATER FOR EVERY ATTITUDE OR ACTIVITY IN A LARGE COMMUNITY= AND FROM THE OUTSET, PLANNERS REALISED THAT THEY MUST PROVIDE FOR THE OVERALL DESIRES OF THE RESIDENTS.

THIS MEANT, IN PRACTICE, PLANNING FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF SELF-CONTAINMENT, BUT TOTAL SELF-CONTAINMENT COULD NOT REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED GIVEN THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SOME INDIVIDUALS AND THE OPERATIONAL PATTERN OF A TERRITORY LIKE HONG KONG.

+THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE RESIDENTS HAVE TO TRAVEL BACK TO THE OLD URBAN AREA TO WORK OR FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND VICE VERSA, DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE MERITS OF THE CONCEPT,+ HE SAID.

DR PUN SAID THE NEW TOWNS IN HONG KONG WERE STILL IN THEIR YOUTH, WITH MOST OF THEIR POPULATION STILL FIRST GENERATION RESIDENTS WHO HAD ESTABLISHED LONG AND FIRM ASSOCIATION WITH PLACES WHERE THEY HAD COME FROM.

+I AM SURE THAT GIVEN TIME AND AS THE TOWNS MATURE THE FUTURE LABOUR FORCE AND PROVIDERS OF JOBS WILL ADJUST TO MATCH EACH OTHER TO A MUCH GREATER EXTENT THAN WHAT PREDOMINATES AT PRESENT,+ HE ADDED.

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POLLUTION EFFECT ON VISIBILITY BEING STUDIED
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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IS STUDYING THE EFFECT OF AIR POLLUTANTS ON VISIBILITY IN HONG KONG.

AROUND THE WORLD REDUCED VISIBILITY IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTANTS. IT AFFECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAY EVEN INTERFERE WITH AVIATION.

+DURING RECENT YEARS IN HONG KONG, INDUSTRIALISATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HAVE MADE A CERTAIN IMPACT ON THE VISIBILITY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT,+ SAID MRS ELAINE KOO, SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE OBSERVATORY'S AIR POLLUTION METEOROLOGY RESEARCH UNIT.

+VISIBILITY IS MAINLY AFFECTED BY METEOROLOGICAL FACTORS, AND THE CHARACTERISTICS AND AMOUNT OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR. UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, VISIBILITY SHOWS STRONG GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS IN HONG KONG,+ SHE ADDED.

FOR EXAMPLE, VERY OFTEN IN VICTORIA HARBOUR, THE SAME HAZE PERSISTING FOR A FEW DAYS IN THE SUMMER MAY NOT BE OBSERVED IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAS MADE CONTINUOUS OBSERVATIONS OF VISIBILITY SINCE THE 1940'S.

TO DETERMINE THE LONG-TERM TREND, THE PRESENT STUDY IS BASED ON A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF DATA COLLECTED BY FOUR METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS FROM 1968 TO 1982.

EXPLAINING HOW THE ANALYSIS IS DONE, MRS KOO SAID, +AFTER ALLOWING FOR NATURAL FACTORS LIKE PRECIPITATION, FOG, MIST AND HIGH HUMIDITY, THE RESULTING TREND WOULD REFLECT THE IMPACT OF LOCAL AIR POLLUTION SOURCES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, ANY LONG-RANGE TRANSPORT EFFECTS.+

A REPORT ON THE STUDY WILL BE MADE WHEN THE RESEARCH IS COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

MRS KOO SAID AN ANALYSIS OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES AND GASEOUS POLLUTANTS TRANSPORTED ACROSS LONG DISTANCES WAS ALSO BEING CONDUCTED IN CO-OPERATION WITH AN OVERSEAS SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATION.

EXTENSIVE METEOROLOGICAL DATA COLLECTED IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE FROM 1979 TO 1980 ARE BEING ANALYSED TO TRACE THE ORIGINS OF AIR MASSES ARRIVING IN HONG KONG.

AN AIR POLLUTION DISPERSION STUDY FOR JUNK BAY WAS COMPLETED EARLY THIS YEAR. MRS KOO SAID THE FINAL REPORT ON THIS 12-MONTH SURVEY AND ANALYSIS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE JUNK BAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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THE REPORT GIVES BROAD CONCLUSIONS ON THE METEOROLOGICALLY FAVOURABLE SITES FOR POLLUTANT-EMITTING INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN.

+THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT BASED ON METEOROLOGICAL FACTORS ALONE, IT WOULD BE LEAST DESIRABLE TO LOCATE SUCH INDUSTRIES AT THE HEAD OF THE BAY IN THE NORTH, AS A CLOSE CIRCULATION OF WINDS DURING THE SUMMER MONSOON CAUSES A STAGNATION OF POLLUTANTS.

+BY COMPARISON, THE SOUTHEASTERN PART WAS CONSIDERED BETTER SITES FOR POLLUTION EMISSION SOURCES,+ SHE SAID.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE JUNK BAY STUDY, THE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO THE CHEUNG SHA WAN AREA.

+AGAIN, ON-SITE METEOROLOGICAL DATA WILL BE COLLECTED FOR A 12-MONTH PERIOD. THE FINDINGS WILL BE USEFUL FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STUDY ON HARBOUR RECLAMATION AND URBAN GROWTH,+ SHE SAID.

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REMINDER ABOUT GOLD MARKING ORDER
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED ALL TRADERS IN GOLD AND GOLD PRODUCTS THAT THE GRACE PERIOD ALLOWED FOR THE TRADE TO CLEAR STOCKS OF UNMARKED GOODS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKING) (GOLD AND GOLD ALLOY) ORDER WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1985.

THE MARKING ORDER CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 13, 1984, UNDER SECTION 4(1) OF THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 362, WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL MAY BY ORDER REQUIRE ANY GOODS TO BE MARKED OR ACCOMPANIED BY CERTAIN INFORMATION.

ACCORDING TO THE MARKING ORDER, ANY ARTICLE MADE OF GOLD OR GOLD ALLOY CONTAINING NOT LESS THAN 8 CARATS OR 333 PARTS PER THOUSAND OF GOLD THAT IS SUPPLIED OR OFFERED FOR SUPPLY BY ANY PERSON IN THE COURSE OF TRADE OR BUSINESS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, MUST BEAR A STANDARD OF FINENESS MARK AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN INVOICE OR RECEIPT.

THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE MARK CONSISTING OF THE CHINESE CHARACTERS +CHUK KAM+ IS DEFINED AS EQUIVALENT TO A FINENESS OF NOT LESS THAN 990. IN THE CASE OF ARTICLES COMPRISING SECTIONS WITH DIFFERENT FINENESSES OF GOLD, EITHER EACH PART MUST BE SEPARATELY MARKED OR ONE MARK SHALL BE AFFIXED WHICH SHALL BE THAT OF THE FINENESS OF THE ARTICLE AS A WHOLE.

/TRADERS ARE

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TRADERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY A NOTICE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN THEIR TRADING PREMISES GIVING SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE MARKING ORDER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT, ON THE EXPIRY OF THE GRACE PERIOD, FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE MARKING ORDER WILL RENDER A TRADER LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$100 000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND, ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT, TO A FINE OF \$500 000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR FIVE YEARS.

HE SAID THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE ORDER WAS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AGAINST FALSELY MARKED GOLD PRODUCTS AND URGED THE PUBLIC TO REGISTER COMPLAINTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE TRADERS WERE IN INFRINGEMENT OF THE ORDER.

THEY SHOULD TELEPHONE 3-7158558 OR WRITE TO THE CHIEF INDUSTRY OFFICER, INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INVESTIGATION SECTION, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11TH FLOOR, MA TAU WEI ROAD, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON.

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MORE TO BENEFIT FROM HOMES SCHEMES

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THE GREEN FORM ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME FLATS WILL BE EXTENDED TO MORE PEOPLE IN FOUR CURRENT CATEGORIES OF PROSPECTIVE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

THE FOUR CATEGORIES ARE THE WAITING LIST APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED, TEMPORARY HOUSING AND COTTAGE AREA RESIDENTS, CLEAREES AND DISASTER VICTIMS AND JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOUND ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

ANNOUNCING THE EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY TODAY, A HOUSING AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PROSPECTIVE HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE AND MUST SATISFY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

FIRSTLY, THE HOUSEHOLD MUST CONSIST OF AT LEAST TWO PERSONS WHO SHOULD COMPRISE HUSBAND AND WIFE, TWO CLOSELY RELATED PERSONS WHO ARE LIVING TOGETHER SUCH AS PARENT AND CHILD OR BROTHER AND SISTER LIVING AWAY FROM PARENTS, OR THE APPLICANT AND A RELATIVE WHO IS DEPENDENT ON AND LIVING WITH THE APPLICANT.

SECONDLY, THE APPLICANT OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD MUST NOT POSSESS DOMESTIC PROPERTY. THIS RULE WILL NOT APPLY TO THE AUTHORITY'S EXISTING DOMESTIC TENANTS, INCLUDING TEMPORARY HOUSING AND COTTAGE AREA RESIDENTS.

/THIRDLY, THE

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THIRDLY, THE APPLICANT AND ONE OTHER MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD MUST HAVE LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS.

IN THE FIRST CATEGORY, THE EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY COVERS THOSE APPLICANTS ON THE GENERAL WAITING LIST WHOSE ELIGIBILITY FOR RENTAL HOUSING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THIS CATEGORY WILL INCLUDE RENTAL HOUSING APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE WAITING LIST FOR A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO HAVE WAITED FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO BUY HOS FLATS IN THE NEXT SALE EXERCISE.

APPLICANTS WHOSE INCOME IS OVER THE WAITING LIST LIMIT, FOR EXAMPLE \$4 500 PER MONTH FOR A FIVE PERSON FAMILY, BUT BELOW THAT OF THE HOS LIMIT OF \$7 500, ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ALSO APPLY TO THOSE WHOSE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR OVER-SPACE. HOWEVER, THEY MUST APPLY FOR HOS-PSPS FLATS WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF CANCELLATION.

IN THE SECOND CATEGORY, RESIDENTS LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AND COTTAGE AREAS AS WELL AS THOSE IN PRIMARY HOUSING OF THE MARK I/II ESTATES WILL BE INCLUDED. THESE RESIDENTS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE HOS-PSPS INCOME LIMIT.

UNDER THE THIRD CATEGORY, THOSE CLEAREES AND DISASTER VICTIMS WHO OCCUPY SURVEYED STRUCTURES ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE.

THIS CATEGORY OF HOUSEHOLDS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO MEANS-TESTING BUT THEIR GREEN FORM STATUS WILL BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF CLEARANCE.

THE FOURTH CATEGORY WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE ELIGIBLE AND ARE AWAITING ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE GREEN FORM STATUS FOR THIS CATEGORY WILL BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR.

+APART FROM THE FOUR CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE, MEMBERS OF LARGE TENANT FAMILIES OCCUPYING MORE THAN ONE PUBLIC RENTAL FLAT ARE ALSO ALLOWED TO APPLY UNDER GREEN FORM ELIGIBILITY PROVIDED THEY SURRENDER AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR EXISTING FLATS. THIS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN THE CURRENT PHASE OF SALE.

+THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL TAKE EFFECT AS FROM PHASE VIIA OF THE SALE OF HOS-PSPS FLATS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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OLD CLAN HALL TO BE RESTORED

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AN EARTHBREAKING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 29) MORNING TO MARK THE START OF RESTORATION WORK ON THE MAN SHEK TONG ANCESTRAL HALL IN SHEUNG SHUI.

MAN SHEK TONG IS THE ANCESTRAL HALL - CHI TONG - OF THE LIU CLAN, ONE OF THE FIVE LARGEST CLANS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE CLAN ESTIMATES IT WAS BUILT IN 1751.

THE RESTORATION WORK, COSTING ABOUT \$500 000 IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH NEXT YEAR. MR IAN WOTHERSPOON DISTRICT OFFICER, TOGETHER WITH MR LIU KAU-LUNG, HEAD OF THE CLAN, WILL PERFORM TRADITIONAL RITES AT THE CEREMONY.

THE DATE WAS CHOSEN BY FUNG SHUI EXPERTS AS MOST SUITABLE FOR THE EVENT.

A WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED LAST YEAR BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE RESTORATION OF THE HALL, WHICH WAS LATER DECLARED AN HISTORICAL BUILDING.

IN THE WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY MR WOTHERSPOON, WERE GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTS, CURATORS, VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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150-STRONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS TO PERFORM

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MORE THAN 20 WESTERN AND CHINESE SONGS WILL BE FEATURED IN THE CONCERT TO BE HELD BY THE 150-STRONG KWUN TONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 29) EVENING, STARTING AT 8 O'CLOCK.

SET UP IN 1978, THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS HAS BEEN PERFORMING IN PUBLIC ANNUALLY SINCE THEN. AND IT HAS RECENTLY FORMED ANOTHER JUNIOR CHOIR.

THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS HAS BEEN PRACTISING HARD UNDER THE MUSIC DIRECTOR, MR Y.Y. WONG, FOR THE COMING CONCERT.

APART FROM FOSTERING MUSIC IN THE DISTRICT, THE CHORUS HAS TAKEN PART IN MANY CHARITY FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING FUND-RAISING CONCERTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND MACAU IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

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THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN SPONSORING THE CHORUS SINCE 1981, AND THIS YEAR THE BOARD ALLOCATED \$70 000 TO IT.

THE CHORUS PLAN TO HOLD A MUSIC CAMP NEXT MONTH AND A CHILDREN'S SINGING CONTEST IN THE DISTRICT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF THE KWUN TONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS TO BE HELD AT 8 PM ON THURSDAY ARE STILL ON SALE AT THE CITY HALL BOX OFFICE.

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BIG SAVINGS FROM NEW 'LAP SAP' BINS

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PLASTIC BINS WILL REPLACE THE OLD-STYLE BAMBOO BASKETS USED BY STREET SWEEPERS FOR THE DAILY CLEARING OF REFUSE, PROVIDING MORE DURABLE USE AT HALF THE COST.

FROM THIS WEEK, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BE CHANGING OVER TO THE USE OF THESE NEW TYPE BINS.

THE NTSD WILL HAVE ABOUT 4 000 OF THE POLYTHENE BINS BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE UC WILL HAVE ABOUT 10 000 OF THEM IN USE BY JULY.

WHILE THE NEW PLASTIC BINS COST MORE THAN THE BAMBOO BASKETS, THEY ARE FAR MORE DURABLE AND SERVE THE PURPOSE BETTER, AND ARE, THEREFORE MORE ECONOMICAL TO USE, SPOKESMEN FOR THE TWO DEPARTMENTS EXPLAINED TODAY.

EACH BIN CAN CONTAIN ABOUT 80 LITRES OF +LAP SAP+.

THE UC HAD BEEN SPENDING ABOUT \$1 MILLION AND THE NTSD ABOUT \$600 000 A YEAR ON THE BAMBOO BASKETS, AND EXPECT TO SAVE 50 PER CENT BY USING THE PLASTIC BINS.

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NT WORKS CONTRACTS OFFERED
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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS REFURBISHING SPORTS GROUNDS, GARDENS, PARKS, CEMETERIES, AND ROADSIDE AMENITY PLOTS UNDER ITS ADMINISTRATION.

THE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SEPARATE TENDERS FOR TWO CONTRACTS. ONE CONTRACT IS FOR RETURFING THESE FACILITIES AND THE OTHER FOR CUTTING UNDERGROWTH.

BOTH CONTRACTS ARE FOR ONE YEAR, STARTING FEBRUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

TENDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE (AUSTIN CENTRE), 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, KOWLOON.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE DECEMBER 14 (FRIDAY).

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT TELEPHONE 3-678675.

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DISABLED TRAINEES TO GET SKILLS CERTS
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TWENTY-SIX FULL-TIME AND SIX PART-TIME DISABLED TRAINEES WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SKILLS CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS.

THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY THE KWUN TONG AND ABERDEEN SKILLS CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, MR HORACE KNIGHT.

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NURSERY SITES FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS
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VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR 13 SITES BEING SET ASIDE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN NEW HOUSING ESTATES FOR THE OPERATION OF NURSERIES AND SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT A TOTAL OF 4 000 SQUARE METRES WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN EIGHT HOUSING ESTATES PLANNED FOR CHAI WAN, SAI YING PUN, AP LEI CHAU, CHUK YUEN, JUNK BAY, TSING YI, TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN.

THE EIGHT ESTATES WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE HOMES FOR MORE THAN 300 000 PEOPLE.

SEVEN OF THE PREMISES WOULD BE USED FOR NURSERIES AND THE OTHER SIX FOR THE OPERATION OF SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

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REST GARDEN ON SLOPE
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A REST GARDEN IS TO BE BUILT ON A SLOPE BETWEEN WING MING STREET AND WING HONG STREET IN CHEUNG SHA WAN.

COVERING ABOUT 2 500 SQUARE METRES, THE GARDEN WILL BE BUILT ON PAVED PLATFORMS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS LINKED BY STEPS AND RAMPS.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE CHESS-TABLES, STOOLS, BENCHES, ARBOURS, PLANTINGS AND A CONCRETE PAVILION.

TENDERS FOR THE NINE-MONTH PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WITH THE DEADLINE SET AT DECEMBER 14.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW HEALTH COUNCIL
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 3 PM TO ANNOUNCE PLANS TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH.

RESULTS OF THE LATEST SURVEY ON SMOKING HABITS WILL ALSO BE RELEASED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. A SENIOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER, DR W.M. CHAN, AND A STATISTICIAN, MISS P. M. WU, WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE SURVEY.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 77.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 456.829 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 557.683 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 95.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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KWUN TONG TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 29) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES ALONG KUNG LOK ROAD, HONG LEE ROAD, SAU YAN PATH, ON SHIN ROAD AND ON TAK ROAD WILL BE AFFECTED.

ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE UPPER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE

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THE SECTION OF LUEN WO ROAD BETWEEN LUEN FAT STREET AND LUEN HING STREET WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND, FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 28).

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