



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, March 30, 1973

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MORE BUILDINGS IN WESTERN TO BE PULLED DOWN

To Pave Way For Urban Renewal

The calling for tenders today for the demolition of a number of properties in Hollywood Road and Upper Lascar Row (Cat Street) marks a minor but significant milestone in the progress of urban renewal operations in Western District.

The invitation of tenders was announced in the Gazette today.

The demolition is necessary because the buildings - Nos. 191-197 Hollywood Road and Nos. 36-38 Upper Lascar Row - have become dangerous. But these are also buildings which have reverted to the Crown for purposes of urban renewal in the District.

The properties lie within the bounds of the Urban Renewal Pilot Scheme, for which a comprehensive acquisition programme got under way in January 1971. There are four phases in this scheme, and more than half the demolitions scheduled under Phase I have now been carried out.

When the scheme is completed in about five years' time, featuring prominently in the urban "face-lift" given to the area will be two new primary schools for which large sites have been reserved. The area will be served by wider reconstructed roads, and shopping promenades will be among the improved facilities for pedestrians.

Provision has also been made for three recreational open spaces, one of which will cover a multi-storey underground car park. A hawker bazaar will be another feature, and four sites have been earmarked for potential community use.

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A sum of \$25 million has been allocated for urban renewal and improvement acquisitions in Western District during the 1973-1974 financial year. Acquisitions under the pilot scheme, among which constitutes an inner core of concentrated renewal operations within the larger framework of improvement planning in the District, are expected to take up the major part of this allocation.

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YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION

Nearly 90 Applications Received

Nearly 90 applications have been received from schools, social welfare centres and voluntary agencies to enter a youth project competition to foster awareness of the social services in Hong Kong.

The competition is being organised by the Social Welfare Department in co-operation with the Education Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Detailed plans for presenting in exhibit form a particular aspect of the social services are due to be submitted before April 6 to the S.W.D. Youth Work Unit, Kowloon Government Offices, Top Floor, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

There will be a public display of 48 selected entries at the Ocean Terminal from May 18 to 20.

Prizes of educational or recreational equipment worth a total of \$3,000 will be awarded for the best entries. Money for the prizes is being donated by Mr. Leo T.H. Lee, managing director of the Tung Tai Trading Corporation.

Each entry must be the joint effort of a group of at least five members who come within the age range of 13 to 25. Participating groups should be sponsored by an agency, a school or an institution.

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NEW GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SHA TIN

To Provide Places For 920 Pupils

A new Government secondary school is now nearing completion in Sha Tin.

A spokesman for the Education Department said that the building was expected to be completed by July this year.

It will start operation next term when 240 pupils, who are now temporarily accommodated in the Lung Cheung Road Government Secondary School, will be transferred to the new school in September.

It will be the first Government secondary school to open in Sha Tin.

Built on a site of over 50,000 square feet, the school will have three buildings. One of them, a six-storey building, will house 24 classrooms.

The second building, which is five storeys high, will accommodate administrative offices and rooms for various subjects.

An assembly hall and an open-sided covered playground will be provided in the third building. There will also be a basketball court and a car park with 24 spaces.

Costing about \$5 million, the new school will have 920 places. Built next to the Jockey Club Clinic, it is now in its final stage of construction.

It is expected to be completed at the end of July.

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HONG KONG NOW WORLD CENTRE FOR T.B. RESEARCH

Dr. Choa Says Incidence Of Disease Continues To Decline

Hong Kong has become a world centre for research into tuberculosis at a time when local action against the disease continues to produce more satisfying results year by year.

Announcing this today at the annual general meeting of the Hong Kong Anti-Tuberculosis and Thoracic Diseases Association, Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services and President of the Association, said the incidence of tuberculosis had declined from 9,792 cases in 1968 to 8,420 in 1972.

The death rate had also gone down, from 39 per 100,000 of the population in 1968 to 32 last year.

In the field of research, he referred to numerous projects now being undertaken by the Government, the Association, and other local agencies in partnership with the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom.

Early in 1971, the Government had set aside \$318,000 to support these projects for a further five years. One aim was to shorten the duration of tuberculosis treatment.

Dr. Choa was confident that this extensive co-operative effort would "undoubtedly produce significant results."

He attributed Hong Kong's success in the continuing battle against the disease as due in part to the BCG programme among the newly-born, which he described as "probably one of the most comprehensive in the world."

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On the treatment of cases, he told the meeting that emphasis on fully supervised out-patient treatment, and not hospitalisation, must remain the "corner stone" of policy.

Treatment of a new, uncomplicated and co-operative out-patient cost about \$300 a year, as against an average of \$15,000 a year for a chronic case.

With the availability of effective, but often expensive, anti-tuberculosis drugs, every effort was being made to ensure that all new cases of tuberculosis were treated efficiently, so avoiding the production of failure cases which required increasingly expensive management and hospitalisation, Dr. Choa said.

He explained that this did not mean the "overnight doing away with all tuberculosis beds in hospitals," but only that more attention would be paid to other chest diseases, such as chronic bronchitis, which often needed investigation and hospitalisation.

In his view, one further result of concentrating on out-patient treatment meant that more time could be devoted to the identification and early treatment of tuberculosis patients.

The staff of the Government Chest Service were making a greater effort at "case finding," and he said existing facilities would be supplemented by more chest clinics in the future, especially in the new towns.

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TWO MORE SECTIONS OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO BE RELOCATED

Two more sections of the Immigration Department are to be relocated in new premises this weekend.

This time the Macao Visit Section and the Naturalisation Section will be moving from the 12th floor of International Building to the 11th floor.

The move will take place tomorrow afternoon and on Sunday so as not to interrupt the flow of applications.

The sections will conduct business from their new premises from Monday morning.

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TEXTILE EXPORTS TO E.E.C.

Note to Editors: Copies of a notice to exporters on exports of restrained cotton textiles to the European Economic Community (EEC) concerning cancellation of the requirement to declare actual weight in export licence applications, are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

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Embargo Note to Editors:

The following announcement is embargoed until midnight tonight. The news may not be broadcast over local radio and TV stations until then.

On no account should the members be contacted for interviews or information relative to their careers or be approached in any way in connection with their appointment before this has been publicly announced.

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MEMBERS OF NEW HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCED

A new Housing Authority has been set up to spearhead the drive for more and better housing in Hong Kong. Its main task will be to ensure that the 10-year public housing target to house 1,500,000 people is met by 1983.

Members of the Authority, which comes into being on April 1, were named today. They include eight Urban Councillors, five other unofficial and six official members, all appointed for two years.

The Urban Councillors, appointed on a personal basis by the Governor, are: Mr. A. de O. Sales; Mr. Hilton Cheong-leen; Mr. B.A. Bernacchi; Mrs. Elsie Elliott; Mr. R.H. Lobo; Mr. H.M.G. Forsgate; Mr. Kenneth Lo and Dr. Denny M.H. Huang.

The five other unofficial members are: Mr. Raymond Y.K. Kan; Mr. R.R. Kendall; Mr. V.O. Roberts; Mr. Chan Tak-tai and Mr. Cheung Yan-lung.

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The official members are: Mr. Donald Liao; Mr. J.J. Robson, Director of Public Works; Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories; Mr. F.K. Li, Director of Social Welfare; Mr. D. Akers-Jones, Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary (Lands); and Mr. D.G. Jeaffreson, Deputy Financial Secretary.

The Chairman will be Mr. Ian Lightbody, the Secretary for Housing; and the Vice-chairman will be Mr. Donald Liao, who headed the former Housing Division of the Urban Services Department.

The new Housing Authority is charged with the responsibility for all public housing in Hong Kong. It will operate through its executive arm, the Housing Department, which also comes into being on April 1.

The Authority will be responsible for planning, building and managing estates, clearing land for development and squatter control. It will also advise the Governor on all housing policy matters.

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GOVERNOR VISITS TSUEN WAN POLICE STATION

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today spent about two hours inspecting two proposed sites at Kwai Chung for new police stations and visiting the Tsuen Wan Police Station.

At the Tsuen Wan Police Station, the Governor inspected the report room and other facilities and was briefed on the reporting system.

He was accompanied on the visit by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. C.P. Sutcliffe.

They first arrived at the Kwai Chung container helipad where they were met by the District Police Commander, New Territories, Mr. M.C. Illingworth; and the Divisional Superintendent, Tsuen Wan, Mr. W.J. Roberts.

The Governor and the party proceeded to the proposed site at Kwai Fong where a new divisional police station may be built.

They then visited a proposed site at Sheung Kwai Chung for a sub-divisional station.

Continuing the tour, Sir Murray arrived at the Tsuen Wan Police Station where he was shown around, inspecting the report room and other facilities.

He was briefed by the Sub-divisional Inspector, Mr. Lau Yan-to on the reporting system now being used.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.