



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 24, 1973

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GOVERNOR OPENS YAN CHAI HOSPITAL

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today described the new Yan Chai Hospital in Tsuen Wan as "a splendid example of what can be achieved when the government and the community join forces in a common cause."

He was speaking at the official opening of the hospital which is the first of its kind to be built in an expanding industrial area by the district's own community leaders, in conjunction with the government and the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Sir Murray said the hospital marked a step forward in the medical field. Its role, he added, would be doubly valuable because it would be possible to transfer patients from government medical institutions to the new hospital which would charge prices in line with government hospital fees.

"This means that no one need pay more than \$1 as an out-patient or \$2 as an in-patient," the Governor said. "This is a most noteworthy step towards providing standardised low cost medical care for the growing population of Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung."

For the future, the Governor said that if the recommendations of the Rodrigues Report are implemented, general clinics would be provided at Kwai Chung and Lei Muk Shue during the next 10 years to supplement the South Kwai Chung Polyclinic and the Princess Margaret Hospital.

He added that more social facilities would be provided in the new towns now being planned as well as in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung to catch up with the expanding population in the area which is expected to increase by 400,000 over the next decade.

/In his

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In his address, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hospital, Mr. Deacon Chiu, said the opening of Yan Chai Hospital added a new page in the history of Tsuen Wan's development.

"A hospital erected in the midst of this densely populated area not only lessens the financial burden of its inhabitants, but also helps to alleviate the sufferings which they experience physically and psychologically," he said.

Mr. Chiu thanked all those who had contributed to making the hospital a reality but stressed that continuous assistance would be needed to make Yan Chai "a real and lasting success."

After the opening ceremony, Sir Murray, accompanied by Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services; Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories; and Mr. Chiu, toured the hospital building to see its modern installations.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Governor's speech are distributed in the G.I.S. Press boxes together with copies of Mr. Deacon Chiu's address.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to Choi Hung Estate in Kowloon will be interrupted for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Friday (October 26).

The temporary stoppage is to enable a test for leakage to be made.

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1,000TH SMALL HOUSE LICENCE ISSUED

The 1,000th licence to build a small house in accordance with the New Territories Administration's revised Small House Policy will be formally issued at a ceremony in the Yuen Long Town Hall on Friday (October 26).

The N.T.A. Small House Policy, introduced in December 1972, has already considerably improved village housing in the New Territories. Approximately 1.5 million square feet of residential accommodation - equivalent to that in a small estate housing 20,000 people in the urban area - has become available under the scheme.

The policy permits villagers to build, within the limits of two storeys and 700 square feet covered ground area, houses which are exempt from the Buildings Ordinance and do not therefore require expensive architectural plans.

To mark the occasion, the District Commissioner, N.T., Mr. D.C. Bray, will present the 1,000th applicant, Mr. Cheung Cho-fat, a villager of Sun Fung Wai, Tuen Mun, with a free building licence and household furniture worth \$2,000.

Mr. Cheung, who is married with four school-aged children, first applied to the District Office, Yuen Long, just six weeks ago for permission to build a ~~small~~ house for his family. Approval came through late last week.

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At present, the family lives in a mud brick single-storey structure in Sun Fung Wai. Mr. Cheung will use the furniture grant to buy desks for his children's study and other items to make his new house a more pleasant place to live in.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the ceremony which will be held in the Yuen Long Town Hall at 3.00 p.m. on Friday (October 26). Official transport will be provided. Media representatives should meet Mr. Hanny Lee of N.T.A. at the sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 1.15 p.m.

Copies of a photograph of a typical "small house" built under the Small House Policy are boxed for collection this evening.

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TRAFFIC RE-ARRANGEMENTS

The closed section of Honiton Road between its junction with Babington Path and house No. 8 Babington Path will re-open to traffic as from 10 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

This follows the completion of remedial work for stabilising the embankment to make the road safe for vehicular traffic.

Meanwhile, new traffic arrangements will be introduced in two districts in Kowloon as from Friday to improve traffic flow in the areas.

In Mongkok, public light buses will no longer be allowed to pick up or set down passengers in the section of Bute Street between Nathan Road and Portland Street between 7 a.m. and midnight daily starting from Friday.

The restrictive measure aims at reducing obstruction caused by public light buses to through traffic at the junction of Nathan Road with Bute Street.

At the same time, the section of Gillies Avenue between Winslow Street and the exit from Hung Hom Concourse will be re-routed to one-way northbound traffic, as a result of the completion of the access ramp to the Hung Hom Railway Terminus.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SWIMMING POOLS

Three swimming pools will be closed to the public for several hours for the rest of the week.

The Victoria Park Swimming Pool will be closed tomorrow between 11.45 a.m. and 6.15 p.m. and again on Friday between 12.45 p.m. and 6.15 p.m. for the Hong Kong School Sports Association swimming gala. It will also be closed on Friday morning between 8.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. to enable the Morrison Hill Technical Institute to carry out its swimming competition.

The Kwun Tong Swimming Pool will also be closed on Friday from 7.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and the Morrison Hill Swimming Pool between 5.45 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. for the swimming galas of the St. Paul's School (Lam Tin) and the Hong Kong University Student's Union respectively.

On Saturday the Morrison Hill Swimming Pool will be closed from 8.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and from 12.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. for the Hong Kong Federation of Students swimming gala.

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CRIME PROBLEM BEING TACKLED IN RIGHT WAY -- GOVERNOR

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today said he was convinced that the problem of crime was being tackled along the right lines.

Speaking at an informal meeting with members of the Tsuen Wan Fight Violent Crime Campaign Co-ordination Committee during a visit to the district, Sir Murray said that while the groundwork in the fight against crime had been laid, the problem had not yet been solved.

Since the start of the campaign, he said, there had been an overall drop in crime in most areas and in general people were less frightened of crime. There was also better co-operation between the police and the public.

He thanked the committee and the people of Tsuen Wan for their strong community spirit during the campaign and assured them that the government, with the support of the public, would carry on the drive until the problem was solved.

During his visit, the Governor was briefed on the past activities and future plans of the committee by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. So Cheuk-ming. He was also given details of police action in the area during the "action phase" of the campaign by Sub-Divisional Inspector Lau Yan-to.

The Governor spent three hours touring various areas in the district to gain first hand information of its development and to meet rural leaders directly involved in its welfare.

/Accompanying

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Accompanying him were Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories, and Mr. J.S. Warren, District Officer, Tsuen Wan.

After the meeting, the Governor proceeded to the Tsuen Wan District Office where Mr. F.E. Short, Project Manager of Tsuen Wan, explained to him general development proposals for the area.

Sir Murray showed particular interest in future housing plans for two main areas in the district -- the building of village resites in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Chung North and the building of public housing estates on Tsing Yi Island.

Later, Sir Murray boarded a helicopter for Tsing Yi Island where he was met by the Tsing Yi Rural Committee chairman, Mr. Tang Lap-tai, and given an on-the-spot briefing of proposed housing and roadworks development for the island.

He then went on to the tiny rural island of Ma Wan and held discussions with its Rural Committee members on plans to develop the island into a major holiday resort. The question of improved water supply facilities to the island was also raised.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the Governor's visit to the Tsuen Wan Fight Violent Crime Campaign Co-ordination Committee are boxed for collection.

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.