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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1980

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GOVERNMENT CLINICS TREATED 12M CASES LAST YEAR
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PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES AND SPECIALIST SERVICES CONTINUES TO INCREASE WITH OVER 12 MILLION ATTENDANCES AT THE CLINICS LAST YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE NUMBER OF GENERAL OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES WAS 4.46 MILLION, A SLIGHT INCREASE COMPARED WITH 4.27 MILLION IN 1978, WHILE SPECIALIST ATTENDANCES TOTALLED 8.19 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 4.5 PER CENT.

AS DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES INCREASED STEADILY OVER THE PAST DECADE, EXTRA CLINIC SESSIONS IN THE EVENINGS AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC WHENEVER REQUIRED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT THE END OF 1979, A TOTAL OF 20 606 HOSPITAL BEDS WERE AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 9 445 WERE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, 8 630 IN GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS AND 2 531 IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

COMMENTING ON HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONALISATION OF SERVICES HAS ACHIEVED A BETTER UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED MEDICAL FACILITIES, PROVIDING PATIENTS WITH TREATMENT MOST APPROPRIATE TO THEIR CLINICAL CONDITIONS.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE UTILIZATION OF HOSPITAL BEDS, HE SAID, WAS EVIDENT IN THE BED OCCUPANCY RATES OF DISTRICT HOSPITALS WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF OVER 80 PER CENT.

+HOWEVER, THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS LIKE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, KWONG WAH HOSPITAL AND PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL REMAINS HIGH,+ HE ADDED.

DEMAND ON CASUALTY SERVICES ALSO INCREASED CONSIDERABLY DURING THE YEAR, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

ACCORDING TO RECORDS, CASUALTY ATTENDANCES AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TOTALLED 578 877, AN INCREASE OF 5.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WHILE THE NUMBER OF IN-PATIENTS TREATED WAS 330 026, AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT.

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\$349M IN PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS
AWARDED IN SEPTEMBER
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AWARDED A TOTAL OF 36 CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$349 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER.

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRACTS LET WAS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATED ROAD FROM TAI KOK TSUI TO SHAM SHUI PO AND ITS GROUND LEVEL ROADS.

VALUED AT \$78 MILLION, THE CONTRACT WAS FOR A FLYOVER RUNNING ALONG TUNG CHAU STREET FROM YEN CHOW STREET TO TAI KOK TSUI ROAD WHERE IT WILL LINK UP WITH ANOTHER FLYOVER NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

THE WORK FORMS PART OF THE SECOND STAGE OF A HIGH-CAPACITY ELEVATED ROAD SYSTEM LINKING YAU MA TEI WITH LAI CHI KOK.

OF THE 36 CONTRACTS AWARDED, 26 WERE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AND THE OTHERS ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PWD TENDER BOARD.

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MUI WO HAS NEW SITTING-OUT AREA
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A SITTING-OUT AREA WAS OPENED TODAY AT MUI WO ON A 330-SQUARE-METRE SITE WHICH WAS FORMERLY BARREN LAND OFTEN USED FOR DUMPING LITTER.

A PROMINENT RESIDENT OF MUI WO, MR YEUNG WING-YAU, SAW THAT THE AREA, NEAR THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN, COULD BE BEAUTIFIED TO PROVIDE VILLAGERS WITH SOMEWHERE TO REST AFTER WORK, AND WHERE VISITORS COULD TAKE A BREAK ON THEIR WAY TO PICNIC SPOTS SUCH AS THE BEACH AND THE NEARBY WATERFALL.

A SUGGESTION WAS MADE TO ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE PROJECT WAS APPROVED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

THE GROUND HAS SINCE BEEN LEVELLED AND PAVED, TREES AND FLOWERS PLANTED, AND SIX BENCHES INSTALLED.

THE PROJECT COST \$30 000 OF WHICH MR YEUNG DONATED \$10 000. THE BALANCE WAS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE. THE SITTING-OUT AREA, WHICH IS NEAR THE CHUNG MEI FOOTBALL PITCH, WILL BE MANAGED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE MR YEUNG= THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER ISLANDS, MR MICHAEL ROWSE= AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JAMES WILSON.

MR ROWSE SAID THE SITTING-OUT AREA PROJECT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS COULD WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NEW TERRITORIES PEOPLE. HE SAID MR YEUNG'S CONTRIBUTION WAS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FINAL CONTRACT FOR TUEN MUN ROAD STAGE II

A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FINAL SECTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD STAGE II WILL BE SIGNED ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 10).

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD BETWEEN SHAM TSENG AND TUEN MUN.

THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OCCASION.

PWD OFFICERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRE PREVENTION PUBLICITY DRIVE

THE GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH A PUBLICITY DRIVE NEXT WEEK TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION.

DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 11) IN THE GIS THEATRE, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

IT WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU, MR LAM LOK-BUN. ALSO AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU, AND THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR HERMAN HO.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON TING KOK ROAD

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON TING KOK ROAD IN TAI PO WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 11) FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ROAD BETWEEN TAI YUEN ESTATE AND YUE KOK WILL BE CLOSED AND THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE REROUTED FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

AT THE SAME TIME, TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM PINEHILL VILLAGE ROAD AND TAI YUEN ESTATE ACCESS ROAD INTO TING KOK ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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FIRING PRACTICE REMINDER

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE NEXT WEEK FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY BETWEEN 8 AM AND 5 PM DAILY AND ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY BETWEEN 8 AM AND 5.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING TIMES OF PRACTICE.

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