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\$50m plan to bring classrooms to estates

The next six months will see work begin on six new secondary schools, as part of a \$50 million building programme for primary and secondary schools in various housing estates.

Work has already begun on nine estate primary schools - three at Tai Hing, two at Pak Tin, two at Yu Wan and two at Shuen Lee Tsuen.

The Architectural Office of the Public Works Department has also begun work on two new secondary schools at Kwai Shing Estate.

The estate schools are part of the Architectural Office's commitment to the Government's education expansion programme.

The Chief PWD Architect, Mr Joseph Lei, said the first two secondary schools in the programme should be completed at Kwai Shing Estate in time for the 1978 school year.

"Each of these schools will have 24 classrooms, two workshops for metal and woodwork and four laboratories for science subjects," he said.

"There will also be three special rooms for music, art, geography, and general purposes and a home economics complex for teaching needle work, cooking and home management."

Other facilities include assembly halls, a medical inspection room, a library, a covered playground, headmaster and career master

rooms, a general office and a staff room.

The two schools will serve residents of Kwai Shing Estate which was completed by the Architectural Office last month at a cost of about \$82 million.

In terms of size, Kwai Shing Estate is the largest in the PWD programme. It has 10 domestic blocks with accommodation for 37,000 people. It is served by a large commercial complex with various facilities, including shops, restaurants, a market, parking spaces, bus and mini-bus terminals and open space for recreation.

Of the other six estate secondary schools to be built, Mr Lei said two will be at Tai Hing Estate in Tuen Mun New Town, two at Lai King Estate in Kwai Chung, and two at Lek Yuen Estate in Shatin New Town.

He said these schools will be similar in design to the two being built at Kwai Shing Estate, except that they will be of the interlock type which features assembly halls sharing the same structure for the two schools.

Mr Lei said work on the Lai King Estate secondary schools will begin next month and take about 20 months to complete.

Work on the schools at Lek Yuen and Tai Hing will start in March and April respectively and should be completed by the end of 1978.

Lai King and Lek Yuen estates, which house 43,000 people, were completed by the PWD earlier this year.

Work on Tai Hing Estate at Tuen Mun is now well advanced. It will accommodate about 47,000 people.

The estate will have five 30-storey domestic blocks and a seven-storey domestic block, all linked by covered walkways to a huge commercial and market complex in the centre.

All basic community and commercial facilities will be provided, including large recreational areas with rest gardens and playgrounds, welfare centres, car parks, restaurants and clinics.

The first stage of the estate will be completed in the first half of next year and will house about 29,000 people.

Meanwhile, work is progressing well on the nine primary schools being built at Tai Hing, Pak Tin, Yu Wan, and Shuen Lee Tsuen estates - the last four housing complexes in the PWD's estate building programme.

Each of these primary schools will have 24 classrooms. The first eight should be ready by the end of next year. The last is scheduled for completion by mid-1978.

Mr Lei said part of the domestic blocks at Yu Wan Estate in Chaiwan will be completed in the middle of next year and the entire estate should be ready by mid-1978. The estate will house 15,000 people.

The final phase of Pak Tin Estate will also be completed by mid-1978 and will house about 15,000 people.