

S.C.M.P.

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## \$150m to new town moving

About \$150 million will be paid out by the Government in land resumption in Taipo this year to get the new town's planned development going.

The bulk of the sum will be used to acquire land from private hands in Taipo Tau, a site earmarked for the construction of major recreational and sports facilities.

According to the district officer, Mr Thomas Chan, about 200 families in the area will be affected by the clearance operation which is to be carried out soon.

He said most of the residents were indigenous villagers and arrangements were being made to help them rebuild their village on another site.

Those non-indigenous villagers would be accommodated in the town's Kwong Fuk estate, which will begin taking in tenants next month.

Mr Chan said in a press briefing yesterday that the Government had already paid out part of the estimated \$150 million in land resumption compensation to those affected and that the whole process would be finished by the end of the year.

He said construction projects planned for the Taipo Tau site included two sports complexes, two indoor games halls and a swimming pool complex, all of which would be completed in five to six years.

But in view of the town's rapid population growth, Mr Chan said the district office was discussing with the Taipo New Town Development Office whether some projects can be built earlier.