

## \$51m housing plan for Lantau

More than \$51 million will be spent on a housing site development project, and a new ferry pier at Lantau, the District Officer, Islands, Mr David Tsui, said yesterday.

Speaking to the Lions Club of Hongkong Harbour, Mr Tsui said the land scheme stems from recommendations of a 1973 Government study. The main development areas on the island are Mui Wo (Silvermine Bay) and Tai O.

"The ferry concourse (at Mui Wo) would incorporate a bus terminal, tax and private car passenger points, a car park and a new ferry pier capable of berthing two triple-deckers. It would cost about \$9 million," said Mr Tsui.

Site formation for new

roads and rural public housing for 1,200 people would cost about \$20 million at Mui Wo, he added.

"At Tai O, the emphasis will be placed on the need to provide rural public housing for the squatters now living in unhygienic and unsatisfactory conditions," Mr Tsui pointed out.

Housing for 3,000 people is to be built there, he said. The engineering work is expected to cost more than \$22 million.

In addition to the public housing sites, Mr Tsui noted additional sites would be formed for private village-type development. Markets, community centres, playgrounds and schools are also to be constructed.

"The first Government subsidised secondary school in Tai O will come into operation next month," he said.

Mr Tsui said a number of people are interested in the development of Lantau, which with 55 square miles is Hongkong's largest island but only has a population of 25,000.

The 1973 plan called for an urban reserve on the island's northern end, Mr Tsui said. Land along the improved South Lantau Road is to be reserved for private development.

The Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Co has already made plans to build 100 semi-detached two-storey

bungalows above the Cheung Sha beach. The new development, in conjunction with the Hang Lung Development Co, is to start this year.

A \$35 million road project to improve South Lantau Road is well under way. The 12-kilometre section will link Cheung Sha with Keung Sha.

"Three minor residential plans for South Lantau are being prepared and some land for low-density residential development will be available later this year," Mr Tsui said.

Mr Tsui said the Government intends turning the major part of Lantau into a country park, while establishing a coastal protection area along South Lantau Road.