

## **South China Morning Post**

### *A3: Call to build more subsidized flats*

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Increasing the land supply will not be enough to solve Hong Kong's housing crisis if more subsidized flats are not built, property experts said yesterday as work began on a major reclamation project to create space for nearly 50,000 homes.

The call for more affordable housing came as the finance minister attended a ceremony to break ground on the HK\$20.5 billion project to reclaim 130 hectares off the northern coast of Lantau Island.

The first residents are scheduled to move in by 2023 or 2024.

It is the first major reclamation project since 2003 and part of a plan to extend Tung Chung new town to provide 49,000 flats for 144,000 people along with about 870,000 square metres of commercial floor space. Construction is expected to be completed by 2030.

### *A3: Lucky or unlucky? Mobile firms look to prefixes 4 and 8*

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Hong Kong's mobile phone operators will soon begin issuing numbers starting with the "unlucky" digit 4 and the "lucky" digit 8, although they are so far keeping mum about how they will market these numbers to consumers who are both superstitious and hungry for mobile devices.

The telecommunications regulatory body confirmed on Monday that to meet demand for mobile numbers, it would make available to operators 10.6 million new numbers with prefixes 4, 7, and 8.

It expected operators to start assigning the numbers this month, with the bulk of new numbers starting with 4.

Hong Kong has one of the world's highest mobile phone penetration rates, with 18.2 million mobile subscribers in a population of about 7.3 million as of last September, or over two mobile devices per person.