



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, February 20, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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STUDY ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

The government will spend \$3.7 million to commission consulting engineers to carry out detailed engineering studies and site investigations of 12 areas in the New Territories.

The studies are to determine the problems and costs of preparing integrated development programmes for these geographical areas.

The consulting engineers will be working under the supervision of the newly-formed New Territories Development Department within the Public Works Department.

"Such programmes are necessary if development is to proceed in a properly balanced manner with the provision of land for private residential, industrial use, and for community facilities," a Public Works Department spokesman said.

"Whilst the individual development programme will take into account a balanced development for a particular area," he continued, "it is equally important that development must be integrated into an overall planned programme of development of the whole of the New Territories."

Areas identified for development programme study include Shek Wu Hui, Tai Po, Lau Fau Shan, Tan Kwai Tsuen, Yuen Long, Peng Chau, Mui Wo, Fanling, Cheung Chau, Sai Kung (Tui Min Hoi), Tai O and Sham Tseng.

The engineering investigations are an essential component of the planning of these development areas and will take into account such matters as the ten-year housing programme and the provision of land for community facilities and for private residential, commercial and industrial use.

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"In towns like Yuen Long with a planned population of 100,000," the spokesman said, "it is necessary to ensure that an adequate range of community facilities is provided to satisfy the various social requirements of the population and that land is also provided for industrial use so that a balanced development is achieved."

For new development on the outlying islands, the problem is to devise an overall programme that would achieve a balanced development, community facilities with associated supporting services and marine facilities.

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TEMPORARY WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Central District will be interrupted for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Friday (February 22) to facilitate a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Queen's Road Central from Garden Road to Pottinger Street, and the south side of Des Voeux Road, Central up to Ice House Street.

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SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN JANUARY FOOD INDEX

The General Consumer Price Index for last month went up by nine points to 179, according to figures released today by the Census and Statistics Department.

The increase was due mainly to a substantial increase of 16 points in the index for foodstuffs.

The index for fuel and light rose by eight points while increases of four points each were recorded in the index for miscellaneous goods and that for services. Increases of one point each were recorded in the index for clothing and footwear, and that for durable goods.

Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Compared with December 1973, there were increases in the average retail prices of rice, bread and cakes, salt water fish, fresh water fish, poultry, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and eggs.

A spokesman explained that the supplies of many food items suffered from the customary interruption during the Chinese New Year festival period, and consumer demand is usually strong at this time when preparations are made for the festival.

As to non-food items, the rise in the index for services was mainly attributable to higher charges for hairdressing before the Lunar New Year Festival.

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UNFAIR COMPETITION BY MOBILE HAWKERS

A spokesman for the Housing Department said today that to allow mobile hawkers to trade freely at Yau Tong Estate would be "most unfair" to those operating in the estate modular market and the temporary bazaar.

He was commenting on criticism from about 40-50 mobile hawkers of the Yau Tong area that the Housing Department has been taking continuous action against them.

"There are 98 stalls in the modular market and 80 stalls in the temporary bazaar and we feel that tenants are already adequately served.

"These hawkers would surely not be able to compete with the mobile hawkers who can move to the most advantageous sites," a spokesman said.

He added that the mobile hawkers often caused obstruction and inconvenience to tenants in addition to creating a health hazard.

"It is our intention to continue with our routine action against illegal hawkers to ensure that the estate is tidy and clean," he said.

The spokesman also appealed to estate tenants to boycott the mobile hawkers.

"Tenants can help greatly in improving the cleanliness and general appearance of the estate and make it a better place to live in," he said.

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MORE JOIN APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

There was a 25 per cent increase in the number of young people taking up approved apprenticeship schemes in Hong Kong last year, the Labour Department's Senior Training Officer, Mr. Horace Knight, said today.

Most of the apprentices were placed with their employers by the Industrial Training Division of the department.

"We have made very encouraging progress, particularly in terms of increased co-operation from major industrial organisations, as well as individual employers," Mr. Knight said.

"Last year, 923 school-leavers took up apprenticeships in industry and government departments - 194 as technician apprentices and 729 as craft apprentices. Of these 923, we ourselves placed 783.

"This compares with 425 out of 750 in 1972, so we're making considerable headway."

Mr. Knight said that last year, the Industrial Training Division had also helped 43 firms either to start apprentice training or to improve their existing programmes along the lines of his division's formal training scheme.

There are now 165 employers running training schemes for some 2,500 apprentices. The majority of them work in automobile repairs and servicing, electronics, ship-building and repairs, and the building and textile industries.

"Our basic objectives where apprentice training is concerned are two-fold : to assist in building up an adequate supply of skilled manpower to sustain industrial growth and increasing industrial sophistication; and to create for our young people the training opportunities which lead to a career in industry.

"We are

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"We are some way off from achieving our objectives, but with better co-operation from employers and a greater willingness on their part to accept our advice, I believe we will," Mr. Knight said.

"The Industrial Training Division, for its part, is always ready to offer assistance to any employer who wishes to start an apprenticeship scheme or any school-leaver who wishes to become an apprentice," he added.

Employers and school-leavers who are interested in apprentice training may contact officers of the Industrial Training Division of the Labour Department at 5-282523, extensions 71 and 82.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Wednesday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		-
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	-
A1 Super	Good	-
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	3.20	2.50	2.80
Big-Eyes	Good	2.50	0.70	1.60
Squid	Normal	6.00	2.50	4.50
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.00	0.90	1.50
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.40	1.00	1.80
Croakers	Normal	2.40	0.70	1.80
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	2.80	2.00	2.20
Melon Coat	Limited	1.80	1.00	1.20
Breams	Normal	4.20	3.30	4.00
Yellow Belly	Good	1.70	0.70	1.30
Mackerels	Good	2.90	2.60	2.80
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.70	0.70	1.30
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.60	1.00	1.10
Horse-Head	Normal	4.60	2.50	3.50
Melon Seed	Normal	2.80	1.50	2.00
Pomfrets	Scarce	9.00	8.00	8.50
Garoupas	Good	5.80	4.50	5.00
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.2	0.3	0.8
White cabbage	Normal	0.8	0.15	0.5
Chinese Lettuce	Good	0.5	0.1	0.35
Chinese Kale	Good	0.8	0.15	0.45
Spring onion	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.6
Spinach	Good	0.6	0.15	0.4
Water cress	Good	0.8	0.15	0.5
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.6	0.2	0.4
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300