



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1976

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NEW RATING AREAS IN N.T. : VALUATION LISTS DECLARED

THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR. RAYMOND FRY, TODAY DECLARED THE VALUATION LISTS FOR SEVEN NEW RATING AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND HANDED THEM OVER TO MR. DOUGLAS BLYE, THE COLLECTOR OF RATES (THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL). RATES WILL BE CHARGED BY THE COLLECTOR BASED ON THESE VALUATION LISTS EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1976.

THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. DAVID JEAFFRESON, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, ATTENDED THE DECLARATION CEREMONY AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT 1 GARDEN ROAD.

IN ANNOUNCING THE DECLARATION OF THE VALUATION LISTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THIS WAS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF EXTENDING RATING TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH HAD BEEN MENTIONED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO RATE FURTHER AREAS ON A PHASED PROGRAMME OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE LISTS DECLARED BY THE COMMISSIONER TODAY ARE FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS :-

- AREA F1 THE MAJOR PART OF THE TOWN OF YUEN LONG.
- AREAS G1 - 4 THE MAJOR PART OF THE TOWN OF TAI PO MARKET (AREA G1) AND THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF TAI PO KAU (AREAS G2 - 4).
- AREAS H1 - 2 THE TOWNSHIP OF LUEN WO MARKET (AREA H1) AND THE DISTRICT KNOWN AS ON LOK TSUEN (AREA H2).
- AREA J1 THE TOWNSHIP OF SHEK WU HUI.
- AREA K1 THE MAJOR PART OF THE NEW TOWN OF TUEN MUN.
- AREAS L1 - 3 THE MAJOR PART OF THE NEW TOWN OF SHA TIN.
- AREAS M1 - 3 THE DEVELOPED AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF, AND ADJOINING, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET PROPOSALS, THE PERCENTAGE RATES CHARGE ON THE RATEABLE VALUES FOR ASSESSED PREMISES IN THESE NEW AREAS WILL BE NINE PER CENT, THAT IS HALF THE PROPOSED NEW CHARGE OF 18 PER CENT FOR THE URBAN AREAS (PROPERTIES WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY OR WITH ONLY AN UNFILTERED SUPPLY WILL PAY AT THE LESSER RATE OF SEVEN PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

HOWEVER, BECAUSE ASSESSED RATEABLE VALUES ARE GENERALLY LOWER IN THESE AREAS, RATEPAYERS WILL BE PAYING, IN RESPECT OF AN AVERAGE TENEMENT FLOOR, ONLY A QUARTER TO A THIRD OF WHAT IS PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF SIMILAR FLOORS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS RATES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS :

1977/78	60 PER CENT OF THE FULL URBAN RATE
1978/79	70 PER CENT OF THE FULL URBAN RATE
1979/80	80 PER CENT OF THE FULL URBAN RATE
1980/81	90 PER CENT OF THE FULL URBAN RATE

SO THAT NOT UNTIL APRIL 1, 1981 WILL THE FULL URBAN RATE BE CHARGED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SMALL VILLAGE HOUSES ARE NOW, FOR THE MOST PART, EXEMPT FOR ASSESSMENT TO RATES AND SO HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE VALUATION LISTS.

THE VALUATION LISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC AT THE TREASURY (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, 2ND FLOOR, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG) FOR 21 DAYS FROM SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1976. THERE WILL ALSO BE COPIES OF THE RELEVANT LISTS AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT OFFICES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LIST FOR YUEN LONG WILL BE AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

ANYONE AGGRIEVED ON ANY OF THE GROUNDS LAID DOWN IN THE RATING ORDINANCE MAY, DURING THE 21 DAYS, SERVE A PROPOSAL IN THE SPECIFIED FORM ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE CONCERNED VALUATION LIST.

THE VALUATION LISTS CONTAIN SOME 14,700 ASSESSMENTS WITH A TOTAL RATEABLE VALUE OF NEARLY \$115 MILLION.

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JORDAN COMMENTS ON QUOTA ALLEGATIONS

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THE BASIC FACT ABOUT HONG KONG'S TEXTILE QUOTA PROBLEM IS THAT IN MANY CATEGORIES, THE DEMAND FOR HONG KONG TEXTILE GARMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN WESTERN EUROPE IS GREATER THAN THE TOTAL QUOTA AVAILABLE, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, SAID IN A TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEW TONIGHT.

MR. JORDAN WAS ASKED ABOUT NEWSPAPER REPORTS WHICH SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS +LOSING MILLIONS THROUGH ITS TEXTILES QUOTA SYSTEM,+ AND ALLEGED THAT THERE WAS +CONFUSION OVER THE QUOTA SITUATION=+ AND THAT HONG KONG WAS PRICING ITSELF OUT OF THE MARKET BECAUSE OF HIGH QUOTA PRICES.

MR. JORDAN SAID THE DIFFICULTIES AROSE NOT FROM THE QUOTA SYSTEM BUT FROM THE FACT THAT DEMAND WAS MUCH GREATER.

HE ADDED: +TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, IT WOULDN'T MATTER REALLY WHAT SYSTEM WE HAVE FOR DISTRIBUTING QUOTA= IF ITS NOT ENOUGH TO ENABLE ALL THE BUYERS TO BUY WHAT THEY WANT TO BUY, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT GET WHAT THEY WANT.+

ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG PRICING ITSELF OUT OF THE MARKET, HE SAID THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN. +OF COURSE, IF DEMAND IS GREATER THAN SUPPLY, AND SUPPLY IS LIMITED, THE PRICE WILL GO UP IN A FREE ECONOMY LIKE OURS,+ HE SAID.

+BUT IF IT GOES UP TO THE POINT WHERE DEMAND FALLS OFF, THEN THE PRICE WILL COME DOWN AGAIN. THESE ARE THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT THIS BUSINESS.+

ASKED WHETHER A NEW QUOTA SYSTEM COULD HELP MATTERS, MR. JORDAN REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE SYSTEM COULD BE IMPROVED, AND THAT WAS WHY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A REVIEW OF IT. BUT HE WARNED THAT REVISING THE SYSTEM WOULDN'T PRODUCE MORE QUOTA.

HE CONTINUED: +THE AGREEMENTS THAT WE'VE MADE ARE MADE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR TEXTILES WHICH PROVIDES FOR A MINIMUM LEVEL. ABOVE THAT MINIMUM, WE HAVE NEGOTIATED THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT WE CAN GET IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT, AND WE ARE STUCK WITH THOSE LIMITS.

+BUT, AT PRESENT, DEMAND IS MUCH HIGHER= SO WHATEVER CHANGES WE MIGHT MAKE TO THAT SYSTEM WOULD NOT ALTER THE BASIC FACT THAT AT PRESENT DEMAND IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE QUANTITY WE ARE ALLOWED TO SUPPLY IN TOTAL UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS.+

ON THE QUESTION OF THE SELLING OF QUOTAS, HE SAID: +IT IS ALLEGED THAT SOME QUOTA HOLDERS DO SELL THEM. BUT WE VERY RARELY GET ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THIS. WE ARE AT PRESENT INVESTIGATING ONLY ONE ALLEGATION ABOUT THIS.+

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IN THE PAST WHENEVER WE HAVE MOUNTED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE ARE JUST SELLING QUOTA WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER IN BUSINESS AT ALL -- JUST SELLING IT -- WE'VE ALWAYS FOUND THAT THE PERCENTAGE, THE PROPORTION, OF QUOTA THAT'S BEING DEALT WITH IN THIS WAY IS ALWAYS VERY SMALL.

HE ADDED: +OVER THE YEARS MOST OF THE QUOTA HAS BEEN USED TO EXPORT BY THE MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS TO WHOM IT'S BEEN ISSUED. QUITE A LOT GETS TRANSFERRED, BUT IT GETS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO MANUFACTURE AND EXPORT.+

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- REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TODAY DREW ATTENTION TO LAST FRIDAY'S GAZETTE IN WHICH IT WAS NOTIFIED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED APRIL 1, 1976 AS THE DAY ON WHICH THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE 1976 SHALL COME INTO OPERATION. THE ORDINANCE ITSELF WAS PUBLISHED WITH THE GAZETTE OF JANUARY 9 THIS YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS ON WHICH COMPANIES MAY APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST OF THE BANKING COMMISSION AT 1604 HANG CHONG BUILDING, 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

ADVICE ON THEIR COMPLETION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MR. WINSTON KWONG AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-263261. APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE DATED NOT EARLIER THAN APRIL 1 AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ON OR AFTER THAT DATE.

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NEW PUBLIC DUMP
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR DUMPING PERMITS FOR A NEW PUBLIC DUMP WHICH WILL OPEN ON MARCH 15 THIS YEAR NEAR SIU LEK YUEN IN SHATIN.

PERMITS FOR DUMPING AT THIS SITE MAY BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE ON WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE PROJECT MANAGER (SHATIN), SHATIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL, SHATIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHATIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SAID TODAY THE PERMITS WOULD BE IN RESPECT OF APPROVED SOFT EARTH, BUILDING DEBRIS, AND STONE UP TO 225 MM IN SIZE PROVIDING IT WAS WELL MIXED WITH EARTH.

APPLICANTS, HE SAID, SHOULD SUPPLY THE REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THE VEHICLES THEY WOULD BE USING FOR TRANSPORTING APPROVED MATERIALS TO THE DUMP.

THEY SHOULD ALSO STATE THE ORIGIN, TYPE AND APPROXIMATE QUANTITY OF MATERIALS TO BE DUMPED, AND THE PERIOD FOR WHICH THE PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR A PARTICULAR JOB.

ACCESS TO THE DUMP WILL BE FROM SIU LEK YUEN ROAD WHICH IS OFF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

THE HOURS FOR DUMPING WILL BE FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. DAILY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR.

PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED THAT ALL DUMPING AT THE NEW DUMP MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DUMP SUPERVISOR, AND THE DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL DUMPING PERMITS AT ANY TIME OR TO CLOSE THE DUMP WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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RETIREMENT OF CHIEF ENGINEER OF WATERWORKS OFFICE

MR. JOHN MCDERMONT, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE WATERWORKS OFFICE, IS RETIRING SHORTLY AFTER 16 YEARS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. BILL KNIGHT, WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) PRESENT HIM WITH A RETIREMENT GIFT ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR. MCDERMONT JOINED THE WATERWORKS OFFICE AS AN ENGINEER IN APRIL 1960 WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AND IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED DUTIES ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FILTER STATION FOR ABERDEEN.

HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SANDY BAY PUMPING STATION, MT. DAVIS SERVICE RESERVOIR AND VARIOUS CATCHMENT CHANNELS, TUNNELS AND ACCESS ROAD ON LANTAU ISLAND, ALL OF WHICH ARE VITAL COMPONENTS OF THE SHEK PIK WATER SCHEME -- THE THEN LARGEST WATER SCHEME IN HONG KONG.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR ENGINEER IN FEBRUARY 1967 AND TO HIS PRESENT POST OF CHIEF ENGINEER IN NOVEMBER 1973.

AS CHIEF ENGINEER, MR. MCDERMONT WAS IN CHARGE OF WORKS FORMING PART OF THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME AND WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALL NEW WATERWORKS INSTALLATIONS FOR SHA TIN NEW TOWN, AS WELL AS THE MARKET TOWNS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO.

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S.W.D. TEAM IN 'WALK FOR A MILLION'

MORE THAN 700 SOCIAL WORKERS WILL BECOME +SOCIAL WALKERS+ THIS SUNDAY (MARCH 7) WHEN THEY TAKE PART IN THE KOWLOON +WALK FOR A MILLION+ IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST'S FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL LEAD THE S.W.D. TEAM WHICH COMPRISES ABOUT 150 STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND 500 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION.

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE WALK WILL BE A GROUP OF 36 PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY DISABLED TRAINEES FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S KAI YIN TRAINING CENTRE, SAU MAU PING DEAF CLUB AND WORLD REHABILITATION FUND DAY CENTRE. THEY WILL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SIX STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE CENTRES.

ANOTHER 63 RESIDENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG HOSTEL WILL TAKE PART IN THIS WALK.

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