

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Tuesday, July 11, 1972

ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSMEN IN BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Government has extended the scope of its scheme to make advances of compensation to tenants in buildings declared dangerous under the provisions of the Demolished Buildings (Redevelopment of Sites) Ordinance.

Proprietors of shops and factories, who are affected by the ordinance and who were previously excluded from the scheme, are now eligible to apply for advances of compensation from the Secretary for Home Affairs.

Each of these non-domestic tenants will be advanced a sum of money not exceeding \$10,000 or 50% of the expected compensation to be awarded by the Tenancy Tribunal, whichever is the less, to help tide them over immediate difficulties.

If because of fire, house collapse or any other reason, the floor space occupied by such shops and factories cannot be ascertained, they will be given advances according to the following flat rates:

- 1) Whole ground floor for non-domestic purposes occupied by one tenant - \$4,000.
- 2) Whole ground floor for domestic and non-domestic purposes occupied by one tenant:
Advance for non-domestic portion - \$500.
Advance for domestic portion - according to the established flat rates for domestic purposes.

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- 3) If the ground floor is sub-let, advance to each non-domestic tenant - \$500.
- 4) Whole upper floor for non-domestic purposes occupied by one tenant - \$3,000.
- 5) Whole upper floor for domestic and non-domestic purposes occupied by one tenant:
Advance for domestic portion - according to the established flat rates for domestic premises.
Advance for non-domestic portion - \$500.
- 6) If the upper floor for non-domestic purposes is sub-let, advance to each tenant - \$500.

Interest at 8 per cent per year will be charged on the advances until they are repaid either by the tenants or the landlords on their behalf.

Announcing this new measure to help small businessmen, a spokesman for the Secretariat for Home Affairs, explained that since October 1964, when the advance of compensation scheme was introduced, only domestic tenants of buildings declared dangerous who were eligible for compensation from their landlords have been able to apply for these advances from the department.

Owners of shops and factories in dangerous buildings had not been eligible because it was considered the loss of their premises was more of a commercial hazard than a personal domestic tragedy, as in the case of most domestic tenants.

However, in view of the recent rise in rents of shop premises and the increased costs in fitting out and decorating new shops, it has been decided that small businessmen should also be given an opportunity to apply for advances.

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The spokesman said that all non-domestic tenants of dangerous buildings would be entitled to advances except those whom the Secretary for Home Affairs considers not to be in need of an advance ; those who are involved in rental disputes; those who have been or will shortly be awarded compensation under Exclusion Orders; those who have entered into agreements in favour of the landlords; those whose status as protected tenants is in doubt; and those who intend to settle their claims to compensation privately with the landlords.

Owners of shops and factories in dangerous buildings who have queries on how they can benefit from the new measure should contact the Tenancy Inquiry Bureau of The Secretariat for Home Affairs, in International Building, 10th floor, 141 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, Tel. H-452837 or H-452845 or 6th floor, Canton Road Government Offices, Kowloon, Tel. K-685036 or K-685928.

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NEW AIRPORT FIRE STATION

Hong Kong Airport is to have a new permanent fire station and additional equipment to deal with the risks arising from the increased number and size of aircraft using the airport.

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has just approved funds for the project.

The new station will replace the existing one which came into operation 14 years ago.

A government spokesman said today that the present station to the west of the runway would be cut off from the rest of the airport by construction works on the airport tunnel road. It was therefore necessary to resite the station permanently.

At the same time the number and type of appliances will be increased to deal with the situation that now exists at the airport.

He pointed out that in 1959, the first year after the existing station was completed, there were some 22,000 aircraft movements and about 1,800 helicopter movements on the runway.

This relatively low level of utilisation meant that there was no significant delay to fire appliances wishing to cross the runway.

However, by 1971 the number of aircraft movements had risen to 73,000, added to which there were 29,000 helicopter movements.

He said the resulting frequency of aircraft movements could lead to critical delays in reaching a fire on the apron, as a response must be made within two minutes of the outbreak of a fire to have any chance of success.

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The spokesman said it would be necessary to provide access from the new fire station to both ends of the runway, to the parking apron and maintenance area and to the new aircargo complex.

Fire appliances will be able to make use of existing and planned taxiways for these movements, as well as the parking aprons and the runway itself.

The new station should be operational by the end of October next year. This is the date by which the existing fire station must be resited to permit work on the airport tunnel road to proceed unimpeded.

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NEW SESSION FOR COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The Commission of Inquiry into the recent rainstorm disasters will begin hearing evidence on Friday (July 14) on the less serious landslides which resulted in loss of life.

This follows the virtual completion of its hearing on the Sau Mau Ping landslides yesterday (Monday).

The landslides to be dealt with in the next session will exclude the Po Shan Road disaster but cover landslides at Bullock Lane, Wanchai; No. 12, Belcher's Street; Yue Tai construction site, Shiu Fai Terrace, Stubbs Road; and Kau Man Village, Shek Kip Mei.

Any person who can provide information on these disaster sites is invited to immediately contact the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Mo Yiu-chor, on H-95312.

The next session will start at 10 a.m. on Friday in Court No. 5, Victoria District Court, Battery Path, Hong Kong, and is expected to last for about a week.

The hearing on the Po Shan Road disaster will be held towards the end of this month at the Victoria District Court at a date to be notified. Any person who wishes to give evidence or who can supply information concerning this landslide is also asked to contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

Any person, or his legal representative, who considers that he is implicated or concerned in any way in the subject matter of the inquiry and who wishes to appear before the Commission, other than as a witness, should notify the Counsel Assisting the Commission, Mr. Ross Penlington, Tel. H-95601, before July 17, indicating what the nature of his interest is and what, if any, evidence he wishes to call.

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TRADE UNION STATISTICS

There were 336 registered trade unions in Hong Kong at the end of last month, according to figures released by the Registrar of Trade Unions today (Tuesday).

Of these, 277 were workers unions, 47 employers unions and 12 mixed organisations of employees and employers.

During the second quarter of this year, one new union - the House Service Inspectors' Association, Waterworks Office - was added to the register.

Another, the Hong Kong Boarding House Trade Masters Association (Kwong-Luen), was removed from the list.

In the same period, 32 applications for registration of alterations of rules were approved and registered.

These concerned, among other things, management, welfare benefits, fees, membership qualifications and the provision for safe custody of the common seal of a trade union.

Nineteen applications were pending at the end of the quarter.

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NEW TERRITORIES TOUR FOR 200 ELDERLY

The Wong Tai Sin District Committee on Welfare Services for the Aged is organising a tour around the New Territories for 200 elderly people on Saturday (July 15).

The day-long tour is aimed at promoting a sense of community care and to stimulate interest in voluntary services for the elderly, as well as providing an entertainment outlet for the aged.

The 200 elderly people will be given a vegetarian lunch at the Ching Chung Koon temple in Castle Peak before visiting Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Plover Cove and the Chinese University. A group of 50 volunteers and helpers will look after the party.

The elderly people will come from the 25 member agencies of the Wong Tai Sin District Committee on Welfare Services for the Aged, the Ho Man Tin Kaifong Welfare Association and the Wong Tai Sin Resettlement Estate.

Most of the volunteers and helpers are members of the Women's Club and Old People Service Team of Wong Tai Sin Community Centre, Social Service Society and the Wong Tai Sin Resettlement Estate.

The group will arrive at Ching Chung Koon at about 11 a.m. and will be taken on the tour at 2.30 p.m.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.