



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1974

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DAI LY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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**TRANSPORT DEPT. KEPT BUSY BY LEARNER DRIVERS

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS CONDUCTED MORE THAN 95,500 WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL DRIVING TESTS DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

OF THESE, 28,000 WERE WRITTEN TESTS AND 35,500 WERE COMBINED ROAD TESTS, BOTH FOR PRIVATE CAR DRIVING LICENCES. THE OTHERS WERE FOR LICENCES TO DRIVE MOTOR CYCLES, ALL GOODS VEHICLES, TAXIS AND PUBLIC CARS, OMNIBUSES AND LIGHT BUSES.

FOR THE EIGHT-MONTH PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT HAS IN FACT MADE APPOINTMENTS FOR ALTOGETHER 138,500 DRIVING TESTS. ABOUT 30 PER CENT WERE NOT TAKEN UP AS SCHEDULED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY: +WE WOULD IMAGINE THAT SOME CANDIDATES MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED THEMSELVES NOT HAVING ENOUGH DRIVING LESSONS BY THE TIME THEIR APPOINTMENT WAS DUE. THEREFORE THEY MIGHT HAVE DECIDED TO DEFER TAKING THEIR TEST BY GETTING ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.+

AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, ABOUT 100,000 CANDIDATES WERE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR A DRIVING TEST. THESE INCLUDED, IN THE CASE OF PRIVATE CARS, ABOUT 30,000 FOR WRITTEN TESTS AND 47,000 FOR COMBINED ROAD TESTS.

THE WAITING PERIOD FOR A DRIVING TEST VARIES WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF VEHICLE. AT THE END OF AUGUST, IT WAS ONE MONTH ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND FIVE MONTHS IN KOWLOON FOR A PRIVATE CAR WRITTEN TEST= SIX MONTHS IN HONG KONG ISLAND AND ABOUT NINE MONTHS IN KOWLOON FOR A PRIVATE CAR ROAD TEST= AND THREE AND A HALF MONTHS IN HONG KONG AND THREE MONTHS IN KOWLOON IN THE CASE OF MOTOR CYCLE.

AS FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLE, THE WAITING TIME WAS NINE MONTHS IN KOWLOON= FOR TAXI AND PUBLIC CAR, ONE AND A HALF MONTHS IN KOWLOON= FOR OMNIBUS, SEVEN AND A HALF MONTHS IN KOWLOON= AND FOR LIGHT BUS, NEARLY FIVE MONTHS IN HONG KONG AND 10 MONTHS IN KOWLOON.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +AT PRESENT, THE DRIVING TEST SECTION DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXAMINERS AND IS LOOKING FOR MORE. IT IS HOPED THAT WITH ADDITIONAL EXAMINERS AVAILABLE, THE WAITING TIME FOR DRIVING TESTS WOULD BE REDUCED.+

IN FACT, THE WAITING TIME FOR PRIVATE CAR WRITTEN TESTS IS ALREADY MUCH LESS. EIGHT MONTHS AGO, IT WAS NEARLY SEVEN MONTHS IN HONG KONG AND 11 MONTHS IN KOWLOON.

PASS RATES IN AUGUST WERE 94 PER CENT FOR PRIVATE CAR WRITTEN TESTS= 31 PER CENT FOR PRIVATE CAR ROAD TESTS= 44 PER CENT FOR MOTOR CYCLE= 48 PER CENT FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLE= 60 PER CENT FOR TAXI AND PUBLIC CAR= 46 PER CENT FOR OMNIBUS= AND 39 PER CENT FOR LIGHT BUS.

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NIGERIAN LEADER IMPRESSED WITH HONG KONG'S HOUSING EFFORT
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THE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, TODAY PRAISED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR PROVIDING HOMES FOR NEARLY HALF OF HONG KONG'S FOUR MILLION PEOPLE.

AFTER A VISIT TO OI MAN ESTATE IN HO MAN TIN THIS AFTERNOON, THE GENERAL WROTE THE FOLLOWING ON THE VISITORS BOOK: +MOST DELIGHTED AND IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK YOU ARE DOING ON HOUSING THE GREAT POPULATION OF HONG KONG. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS.+

DURING THE TOUR, THE GENERAL JOKINGLY ASKED MR. DONALD LIAO, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, IF HE WOULD SEND HIS STAFF TO NIGERIA TO HELP PLAN HIS COUNTRY'S HOUSING PROGRAMME.

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, HE ASKED MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR NIGERIA'S TOWN PLANNERS AND ARCHITECTS TO COME AND LEARN FROM HONG KONG.

DURING THE OI MAN VISIT, THE VISITORS WERE SHOWN THE ESTATE'S MODULAR MARKET AND THE TWO-ROOM FLATS WHICH FORM ONE OF THE NEW CONCEPTS OF THE AUTHORITY'S ARCHITECTS. THEY ALSO STOPPED AT WAI MAN HOUSE TO SEE A MODEL FLAT.

ON HIS WAY OUT OF OI MAN ESTATE, THE GENERAL MET SOME TENANTS WHO INVITED HIM AND HIS PARTY TO VISIT THEIR HOME. THE GENERAL ACCEPTED AND SPENT SOME TIME CHATTING WITH THE TENANTS.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE GENERAL WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY FOR A BRIEF STOPOVER VISIT FOLLOWING AN OFFICIAL TOUR TO CHINA, WAS BRIEFED BY MR. LIGHTBODY AND MR. LIAO ON HONG KONG'S HOUSING PROGRAMME.

THE GENERAL SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S FUTURE HOUSING PROGRAMME AND EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN ESTATE MANAGEMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING GENERAL GOWON BEING SHOWN A MODEL OF A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE DURING HIS TALKS WITH MR. LIGHTBODY WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION THIS EVENING.

THE GENERAL LEAVES LATER TONIGHT.

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HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 1, IS ONE OF THE SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT EARN MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

AN EMPLOYEE IS QUALIFIED FOR PAY ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY IF HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED CONTINUOUSLY BY HIS EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR MORE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY. AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS NOT WORKED FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STILL ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY, AND HIS EMPLOYER MAY AGREE VOLUNTARILY TO PAY HIM.

+IF THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY,+ MR. PRICE SAID.

ANY EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE WHO IS IN DOUBT ABOUT HIS RIGHTS OR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING STATUTORY HOLIDAYS OR HOLIDAY PAY MAY CONSULT OFFICERS OF THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST, 3-205638= KOWLOON WEST, 3-201652= KWUN TONG, 3-898520= TSUEN WAN, 12-422096= AND HONG KONG ISLAND, 5-282523, EXT. 60.

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ARGYLE STREET SECTION TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT ARGYLE STREET BETWEEN KADOORIE AVENUE AND SOAR AVENUE, KOWLOON, WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EARLY THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 19) MORNING FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE DISMANTLING OF A TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE ON ARGYLE STREET NEAR VICTORY AVENUE.

DURING THE CLOSURE HOURS, TRAFFIC RUNNING ALONG ARGYLE STREET IN BOTH DIRECTIONS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA YIM PO FONG STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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STATEMENT ON M.T.R. NEGOTIATIONS
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A DELEGATION FROM THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY, LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, WENT TO TOKYO ON SUNDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE CONSORTIUM ON ENGINEERING, FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE MATTERS. THE DELEGATION CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES AND FINANCE BRANCHES OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT, AND THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL ADVISERS AND CONSULTING ENGINEERS. THE DELEGATION WAS JOINED LATER BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND ONE OTHER MEMBER OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

THE DELEGATION RETURNED TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, AFTER A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONSORTIUM THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

THE DISCUSSIONS ON ENGINEERING MATTERS WERE THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL GROUP MEETINGS SINCE THE JAPANESE CONSORTIUM VISITED HONG KONG IN JUNE. THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WERE CENTRED MAINLY ON A SET OF PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA DEVELOPED BY THE CONSORTIUM'S ENGINEERS, INCLUDED A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE ENGINEERS FROM BOTH SIDES. THESE INFORMAL EXCHANGES SHOULD HELP THE CONSORTIUM'S ENGINEERS TO FINALISE THEIR DETAILED DESIGN PROPOSALS AND SOLUTIONS. THE DISCUSSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE MEETINGS ON FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE MATTERS FORMED PART OF A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SINCE JUNE AND THESE ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESUMED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

DURING THE WEEK, THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY DELEGATION HELD A ONE-DAY PLENARY SESSION WITH THE CONSORTIUM, MAINLY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING, EXAMINING AND NEGOTIATING THE CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSALS FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE DIFFICULT WORLD ECONOMIC CLIMATE PREVAILING AT THIS TIME, BOTH PARTIES CONFIRMED THEIR CONTINUED DESIRE SUCCESSFULLY TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A CONTRACT.

IT HAS PROVISIONALLY BEEN AGREED WITH THE CONSORTIUM THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF FORMAL TALKS AND INFORMAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD AROUND THE END OF OCTOBER.

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CROWN LAND AUCTION

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THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND WITH A COMBINED AREA OF NEARLY 70,000 SQUARE FEET WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION NEXT WEEK.

TWO OF THEM ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ARE RESERVED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FIRST IS LOCATED ON CLOUDVIEW ROAD IN NORTH POINT AND HAS AN AREA OF 42,000 SQ. FT., WHILE THE OTHER WITH AN AREA OF OVER 15,000 SQ. FT. IS SITED OFF CHAI WAN ROAD.

THE THIRD LOT IS LOCATED IN KOWLOON BETWEEN TAI YIP STREET AND THE PROPOSED WAI YIP STREET EXTENSION. IT HAS AN AREA OF 11,600 SQ. FT. AND IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL LECTURE ROOM.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, AND AT THE CROWN LAND AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR. SALE PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (MONDAY) AT SALE 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 OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.80
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 : SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 : SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
U.S. RICE	GOOD	-
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.74
PAKISTAN RICE	GOOD	-
TAIWAN RICE	GOOD	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	2.70	1.30	2.10
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.70	1.40	1.80
SQUID	GOOD	2.70	0.50	1.40
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.30	0.40	0.80
LIZARD FISHES	GOOD	2.20	0.40	1.50
CROAKERS	NORMAL	2.00	0.80	1.30
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.10	1.20	1.70
MELON COAT	---		NO SALE	
BREAMS	SCARCE	4.80	2.80	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.50	0.50	0.80
MACKERELS	SCARCE	4.50	1.80	3.50
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	1.20	0.80	1.00
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.70
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	4.50	1.70	3.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.20	0.80	1.40
POMFRETS	SCARCE	7.50	6.00	7.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	8.50	5.50	6.80
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	6.00	3.20	4.50

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.70
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.50	0.50	1.20
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.15	0.40
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.00	0.50	1.40
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.60	0.40	1.00
SPINACH			NO SALE	
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	4.50	2.50	4.00
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.70
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
TOMATO	SCARCE	5.00	2.00	3.50