



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

GENERAL INCREASE IN RATES INDICATED

Over 300,000 individual assessments will be included in the new valuation list which will come into effect on April 1, 1973. It will replace the current one which has been in use since April 1, 1969.

The Commissioner of Rating and Valuation, Mr. R.A. Fry, said this today when confirming that work on the valuation side of the new list was up to schedule and that notices of valuation would be sent out to ratepayers by post in early December.

Rateable values are based on letting values and certain trends are already apparent from an analysis of a cross section of assessments on the new list.

Rentals have increased considerably over the past four years, whilst rateable values have remained unaltered. A re-adjustment of the rateable values is therefore long overdue.

A general increase of about 40 per cent in rateable values is indicated, but it is emphasised that increases vary greatly.

Some premises in areas, like the Central and Peak Districts on Hong Kong Island, and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon, will come in for increases which are considerably higher than the average.

/Mr. Fry

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 2 -

Mr. Fry said that ratepayers have, over the past four years, benefitted from a lower level of rateable values than would otherwise have prevailed and they have therefore saved on their quarterly rates bill.

Last March, the Government anticipated the higher revenue which will result from the revaluation and said that rates charges are likely to be reduced from 17 per cent per annum to 15 per cent per annum in the urban areas. Thus, for the majority of ratepayers, the effect of higher rateable values will be cushioned to some extent.

The existing charges in the New Territories are already lower, and will remain at 11 per cent.

There is, of course, provision for lower percentage charges where a mains water supply is not available or where the supply of water is unfiltered.

The Commissioner added: "Ratepayers will naturally be anxious to know how these increases will affect them, but figures have yet to be completed and the final list prepared. Full details cannot be disclosed until December when the Notices of Valuation are sent out."

Regular review of the Valuation List is necessary in order to relate rateable values to current rental levels and to ensure that the changing pattern of rentals is reflected in the Valuation List. This ensures general uniformity and is fairer to ratepayers, he said.

Mr. Fry said it had not been possible to revise the Valuation List earlier than the current year because of his department's extra responsibility in administering the Rent Increases (Domestic Premises) Control Ordinance.

/Commenting

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 3 -

Commenting on the announcement, a government spokesman gave figures to illustrate the average increase in rates that would be paid by the ratepayer each month once the new charges are adopted in April next year.

For tenement floors, the average monthly increase will be between \$5 and \$6; small flats about \$15; medium flats about \$40; and large flats about \$90 per month.

These figures are based on the reassessment and the anticipated reduction of two per cent in the rates charges.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATERWORKS QUARTERS FOR CHEUNG CHAU

Waterworks Office staff permanently stationed on Cheung Chau will soon have new living quarters for themselves and their families.

The resident staff are responsible for operating and maintaining the mains water distribution system, and to deal with house service matters and faults.

To improve their services, a new depot will be built in the central area of Praya Street. This three-storey depot will consist of quarters for both single and married staff, an office and a store.

The store will provide adequate space for the storage of pipes and other fittings required for maintenance and house services.

Construction work has just begun and the project will take about six months to complete.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 4 -

\$22 MILLION SUPERMARKET SITE TO BE AUCTIONED

A site earmarked for use as a supermarket and shopping centre in Kowloon Tong will be put on sale at the upset price of \$22.5 million.

The site, with an area of 55,000 square feet, is located at Junction Road, near Broadcast Drive.

It is one of six pieces of land totalling about 160,000 square feet to be offered for sale at the next Crown Land auction at the City Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, November 3. All sites, apart from that reserved for the supermarket, are for private residential purposes.

The upset prices range from \$1 million to \$22.5 million.

Three sites are situated in Watford Road on the Peak, and the other two are in Fessenden Road and Marconi Road in the Broadcast Drive area.

Meanwhile, a piece of industrial land in the New Territories will be up for sale by auction at the Princess Alexandra Community Centre, Tsuen Wan, at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 30.

The land, occupying about 90,000 square feet, is situated between Kwok Shui Road and Yau Ma Hom Road in Kwai Chung. Its upset price is \$3.6 million.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 5 -

EXTRA TRAIN SERVICES FOR FESTIVAL

Special train services between Tsim Sha Tsui and Wo Hop Shek Cemetery in Fanling, will be provided on Sunday (October 15) and Monday during the Chung Yeung Festival.

There will be 11 additional up trains and a similar number of down trains on each of these days.

A spokesman for the Kowloon Canton Railway said today that all the special trains and the normal trains operating between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. would not pick up passengers at the Mong Kok station.

All passengers for these trains are requested to go to the Tsim Sha Tsui station.

The spokesman said that special train services would be arranged for late in the evenings if the traffic demands.

He added that all up trains from Kowloon to the New Territories would probably be full from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and similarly with the down trains from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

--- 0 ---

/6

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 6 -

SEMINAR TO DISCUSS FUTURE ROLE OF YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Youth Representative Council of the Social Welfare Department has organised a weekend seminar to discuss the organisation and role of the council in an effort to facilitate better functioning in the future.

The seminar programmes will include talks by social welfare officers and group discussions.

The council is a joint organisation of youth members of the eight community, social and youth centres of the Social Welfare Department.

Its aims and functions are to co-ordinate and facilitate communication among members of the various centres to promote co-operation and to foster mutual understanding.

Among other things, the council explores the real needs of the young people so that projects and activities can be designed to meet these needs.

The seminar will be held this weekend at the Church of Christ in China near the University of Hong Kong.

Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the seminar. The Church of Christ in China is in Morrison House, No. 5, Hatton Road (near the University of Hong Kong). The seminar will be held on October 14 between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., and on October 15 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 7 -

SHEK KIP MEI REHOUSING PROJECT

Note to Editors:

A press conference will be held at 3 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) at the Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Operation Office at the Shek Kip Mei/Pak Tin Administration Building, Nam Cheong Street, Kowloon, when the Deputy Commissioner for Resettlement, Mr. John Walden, will announce the launching of the Resettlement Department's major project to rehouse the tenants of the Shek Kip Mei estate.

Representatives of the press and broadcasting stations are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the conference.

Three vans (AM2094, AM2096 and AM2305) will be available to take representatives to the Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Operation Office. The vans will leave the Kowloon sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 2.15 p.m. A Resettlement Department representative, Mr. H.L. Ko will be present.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/s
.....

Wednesday, October 11, 1972

- 8 -

EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO NORWAY

The Director of Commerce and Industry announced today he has issued a Notice to Exporters regarding Phase II of the swing arrangements for export of restrained textiles to Norway in the extended restraint period from July 1, 1972 to December 31, 1972.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for the Notice to Exporters, Series 6 (Europe, other than Britain and the European Economic Community) No. 23/72, will receive copies of the Notice shortly.

However, people who wish to seek advance notice of its content are invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:

Mr. A.R. Swinton - Industry Assistant
Tel. No.: H-247315

Mrs. L.M. Yam - Licensing Assistant
(Swing & Transfer)
Tel. No. H-223219

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 7.00 p.m.