

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Saturday, June 24, 1972

LOW-COST HOUSING FOR RETIRING JUNIOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

The Governor-in-Council has approved a plan for the housing of retiring junior Government servants who have been required, for operational reasons, to live in Government quarters throughout most of their careers.

This new scheme applies to all junior Government officers now living in departmental quarters because of the nature of their work.

The majority of those benefitting from the new arrangements are retiring rank and file members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and members of the other disciplined services.

This will include those policemen and pensioners who have been unable to find suitable alternative accommodation and are therefore still occupying Government quarters.

Such officers, provided their pensions do not exceed \$950 a month, are now eligible for accommodation in Government low-cost housing estates.

For the future, they will be able to apply for such housing two years in advance of their retirement date.

If they are allocated Government low-cost flats before they actually retire, they will be permitted to give up their departmental quarters in order to enable them to move into any Government low-cost flats allocated to them.

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A Government spokesman said today the extension of eligibility for Government low-cost housing now makes it possible to offer low-cost housing to each eligible officer as he retires.

"However, I must make it clear that it will not always be possible to offer accommodation in low-cost estates of choice. "

Legal Action

"If the officer does not accept an offer and he fails to vacate his quarters as directed, legal action will be taken to ensure that such quarters are made available to house serving officers for whom they are intended."

The Government spokesman explained that junior officers now living in departmental quarters, because of the nature of their jobs, face certain difficulties when they retire.

"Unlike other Government servants on similar salaries, they are not eligible, whilst in service, for Government low-cost housing under the 15 per cent quota, introduced in 1961.

"Nor are they eligible for co-operative schemes or the Government-built local officers' housing schemes.

"On retirement, they are also not eligible for the 15 per cent quota of Government low-cost housing which is at present confined to serving officers.

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"If they apply for housing as members of the public, it is very unlikely, because of the long waiting list, that they will be given a flat on or near the date of their retirement, even assuming that they are in every other respect eligible."

Since the start of the scheme to reserve 15 per cent of the domestic accommodation under the Government low-cost housing building programme for Government staff in 1961, some 4,116 flats have been allocated to Government servants under this scheme.

More Flats

By the middle of next year, with the completion of more low-cost estates, a total of 4,000 flats is expected to be available within the 15 per cent quota.

The spokesman said: "At present, priority for the 15 per cent quota depends entirely on length of service. In order that serving officers are not put at a distinct disadvantage, they will continue to be given priority over pensioners.

"As the 15 per cent quota has not been fully taken up, there should be no difficulty in the foreseeable future in offering accommodation to all pensioners in this category who apply, although their choice will be strictly limited to what is available."

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WEATHER FOR MAY

May 1972 was much wetter than normal. During the month there were only four days on which no rainfall was recorded at the Royal Observatory.

The month's total rainfall of 654.5 mm was more than twice the normal value for May.

On May 1, a trough of low pressure lay from west to east across the south China coast and unsettled weather with occasional showers and scattered thunderstorms affected the Colony during the first 3 days of the month.

The trough weakened late on May 3 and the weather improved with sunny intervals during the next two days.

From May 6 onwards, several troughs formed and affected south China and the northern part of the South China Sea; and conditions were often unsettled with occasional heavy showers and widespread thunderstorms.

On May 10 and 11, a trough near the south China coast became very active. Enhanced by the passage of an upper-air disturbance, it gave rise to heavy squally showers and violent thunderstorms over the Colony.

During these two days a total of 325 mm of rainfall was recorded at the Royal Observatory, and this accounted for about half the total rainfall for the month.

The heavy downpour on May 10 and 11 caused landslides, widespread flooding and disruption to traffic on a number of roads.

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Early on the morning of May 11, the maximum gusts recorded during the squally showers were 81 knots at the King's Park Meteorological Station, 75 knots at Tate's Cairn, 57 knots at the Airport Meteorological Office and 48 knots at the Royal Observatory.

Although showers fell on almost every day from May 6 until May 31, sunny intervals occurred during May 13-16, 26-27 and 29-31.

During the month 6 aircraft were diverted due to adverse weather conditions.

Thunderstorm or heavy rain warnings were issued on 20 occasions.

The month's figures and departures from normal were:

Sunshine	116.3 hours;	39.8 hours below normal
Rainfall	654.5 mm;	361.8 mm above normal
Cloudiness	82 %;	6% above normal
Relative Humidity	89 %;	4% above normal
Mean Maximum Temperature	27.8 °C;	normal
Mean Temperature	25.0 °C;	0.2 °C below normal
Mean Minimum Temperature	23.0 °C;	0.3 °C below normal
Mean Dew Point	23.0 °C;	0.6 °C above normal
Total Evaporation	136.3 mm;	33.4 mm below normal

The maximum temperature of 32.0 °C was recorded on May 30, and the minimum temperature of 20.2 °C was recorded on May 11.

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CLEARWAY HOURS EXTENDED

The Transport Department is to extend the operating hours of special clearway zones in parts of Kowloon in an effort to improve traffic flow during peak periods.

With effect from Tuesday (June 27), the daily clearway hours in Shanghai Street and Reclamation Street, between Mong Kok and Public Square Street, will be extended by two and a half hours.

The new operating times will be between 7.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. This means that the morning clearway times are being increased by half-an-hour and the afternoon by two hours.

All motor vehicles, except franchised buses, will be prohibited from stopping to pick up or set down passengers and to load or unload goods during the clearway hours. Appropriate traffic signs will be erected to indicate the revised times.

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1972 AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department is organising an Agricultural Show this year to provide an opportunity for people to see the latest developments on Hong Kong's farming scene.

The Show aims at introducing to farmers new techniques in both crop and livestock husbandry as well as stimulating public interest in farming industry and conservation of the countryside.

Like the previous one held in 1965, it will take place on the airstrip at Sek Kong, between December 8 and December 11.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department today invites applications from those commercial firms who wish to exhibit at the Show but who have not yet applied for stands.

These firms may contact the Show Secretary, Mr. A.M. Height, of the department at 393, Canton Road, 12th floor, Kowloon (Tel. K-688111 Ext. 92).

On display at the Show will be exhibits staged by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Vegetable Marketing Organisation and commercial firms. Some other government departments will also be showing aspects of the services they provide to the public in general, and to the rural community in particular.

In connection with the Show, a number of competitions for farmers are being held in many types of livestock and crops, and the winners will be awarded challenge cups and trophies.

An entertainment programme, which includes cooking demonstrations and performances by dog teams from the Police and Army, is also planned for visitors.

The 1965 Agricultural Show attracted about 100,000 visitors. It is expected that the attendance this year will top 150,000.

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SPECIAL CONCERT FOR CITY HALL ANNIVERSARY

Twelve leading local instrumentalists will play for the City Hall in two of the gala concerts being held as part of its tenth anniversary celebrations next month.

The performers include four violinists, five pianists, one flautist, one horn-player and one harpsichordist.

The programme for the two concerts will cover a wide range of works from Chinese contemporary to classical European; from French impressionists to local compositions.

Among the players are Moya Rea, Arrigo Foa, Lim Kek-han, Virginia Sun and David Gwilt.

Tickets for the two concerts, on Friday and Saturday (July 21 and 22) are available daily from 12 noon to 9 p.m. at the City Hall Box Office at \$1, \$2 and \$3.

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32 YEARS WITH POST OFFICE REWARDED

Mr. Chan Ka-cheuk, Senior Postal Officer, will retire from the Government service on Monday (June 26) after more than 32 years of service with the Post Office.

To mark the occasion, the Deputy Postmaster General, Mr. D.J.K. Bamford, will present a gift to Mr. Chan on behalf of his friends and colleagues on Monday at the Air Mails Centre, Kai Tak Airport.

Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation ceremony which will take place at 1.55 p.m.

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291,000 LOTTERY TICKETS SOLD SO FAR

Four Commercial Radio artistes will help sell tickets of the 49th Government Lottery - this year's third - at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club selling booth outside the Star Ferry pier, Hong Kong side, on Monday, June 26.

They are Miss Wang Fong-ling, Miss Winnie Yu, Mr. Fung Chin-ping and Mr. Stephen Yung. They will sell the tickets from 12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.

Up to noon today, 291,000 tickets of the 49th Government Lottery had been sold.

Winning numbers will be drawn by the four artistes at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Race Course, Happy Valley, at 10 a.m. on Saturday (July 1)

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

The Port Health Authorities announced today that quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Belitung (P), Indonesia because of cholera.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.