



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 18, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 8.00 p.m.

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COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION TO MAKE IMMEDIATE START ON RECRUITING

The newly appointed Independent Commission Against Corruption is to embark on an immediate recruiting exercise.

Announcing this today, the Commissioner, Mr. Jack Cater, said that a public notice would be appearing in the press tomorrow, inviting members of the public to apply for appointments at all levels.

Mr. Cater said the Commission would start operating next month.

"We need talented men and women dedicated to the task of stamping out corruption in Hong Kong," he said.

"I expect a good response from the public. As one prominent citizen so aptly put it to me, this is a task which involves all of us. If there is success in this, it will be the community's success."

The Commission will be divided into three departments, dealing with Operations, Prevention and Community Relations.

The Operations Department, under Mr. John Prendergast, who is also the Deputy Commissioner, will be responsible for investigating corruption and preparing cases for prosecution.

The Prevention Department, headed by Mr. Trevor Bedford, will devise ways and means of preventing corruption.

No selection has yet been made for the top post of the Community Relations Department, which will be concerned with measures to involve the public - largely through the mass media and through community organisations.

Mr. Cater said that a newspaper advertisement would be appearing tomorrow, seeking a Director and an Assistant Director for this department, whose efforts to mobilise public support in the fight against corruption would be crucial to its success.

/A draft

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A draft bill to be gazetted on Tuesday (January 22) makes it clear that although financed by public funds, the Commission will be an independent body responsible directly to the Governor.

It will be granted powers to enter government premises, question any public servant and search any records or other documents.

Aside from checking for actual instances of corruption, the Commission will examine the practices and procedures of government departments and various public bodies with the object of eliminating opportunities for corruption.

It will also offer advice to any government or public official, private individual or organisation, on ways and means of dealing with the problem.

"Community relations and education will be specified in the draft bill as an important part of the Commission's work," said Mr. Cater.

"The task here is to enlist and foster public support in combatting corruption.

"We have a strong foundation, even before we begin. The tide of public opinion is clearly on the turn. It has been made abundantly clear, in the views publicly expressed at all levels, and especially among the younger generation, that this society is no longer prepared to put up with corruption as a necessary and unavoidable feature of life.

"The time has now come to harness those sentiments. As the Governor has said, what we must achieve is nothing short of a quiet revolution in our society.

"This revolution will take time. It would be unwise, and rather foolhardy, to expect dramatic immediate results. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that we - the community - will win."

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PREVENTION OF BRIBERY BILL

To Be Published Next Week

A draft bill is to be published in the Gazette on Tuesday, seeking to amend the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

The bill is intended to transfer powers of investigation from the Director of the Anti-Corruption Office to the Commissioner of the new Independent Commission Against Corruption, and to implement certain recommendations made by Sir Alastair Blair-Kerr in his second report.

Included among the new provisions is one which empowers a court to order the confiscation of a sum not exceeding the amount of the unexplained wealth of a person convicted under section 10 (1) (b) of the ordinance.

The bill will also provide that the assets of a suspect may be 'frozen' during the period of investigation, restraining him - or any third party acting for him - from dealing with or disposing of those assets without consent.

The assets of any person shown to have a close relationship with a person accused of being in control of unexplained wealth can be regarded as part of the wealth of the accused - if there is reason to believe that those assets were held in trust for, on behalf of or as a gift from the accused.

Under the new legislation, the failure to answer a notice calling on a suspect to give information about his financial affairs will be an offence, as will a reply which is deliberately false.

The powers

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The powers of investigation, under the ordinance, of the Attorney General will be transferred to the Commissioner, who may authorize investigating officers to exercise such powers on his behalf.

The Commissioner will also be given discretion to disclose the identity of a person under investigation- in certain clearly defined situations where that person, and others, are already aware of the investigation.

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BIRTHS SHOW UPWARD TREND

More births and deaths were registered last year, according to figures released today by the Registrar General, Mr. Walter Hume.

The number of births registered during the year rose slightly to 80,147 — 1,094 over the 1972 figure of 79,053 — while the number of registered deaths increased by 215 to 21,360.

Although the increase in registered births was only about 1.38 per cent, Mr. Hume said it was significant in that 1973 was the second successive year in which the total of registered births showed an increase.

The greatest number of births registered in one year was 115,263 in 1963. The number declined every year thereafter until the downward trend was reversed in 1972.

Of the total number of births registered last year, 78,104 were Chinese (40,216 male and 37,888 female) and 2,043 non-Chinese (1,024 male and 1,019 female).

A total of 20,224 were registered on Hong Kong Island, 49,011 in Kowloon and 10,912 in the New Territories. These represented increases of 1.58 per cent, 1.36 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively over the 1972 figures.

In issuing these figures, Mr. Hume emphasised that they were in respect of registered births only.

"There are always a number of births every year which are not registered by the parents at the time, with the result that while the figures for the registered births show trends, they do not give a completely accurate picture," he said.

/The total

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The total number of registered deaths comprised 21,070 Chinese (11,809 male and 9,261 female), and 290 non-Chinese (202 male and 88 female).

The number of registered deaths of infants under one year of age was 1,345 as against 1,380 in 1972, while that of infants under one week old was 724 compared with 740 the previous year.

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LARGE TSING YI SITE EARMARKED FOR SHIP-REPAIRING YARD

The government intends to grant about 12.2 acres of land along the south-west coast of Tsing Yi Island for a ship-repairing yard which will be capable of handling large ocean-going ships.

It is proposed to grant the land, comprising an area of foreshore and sea bed, to the Island Navigation Corporation.

The extent of the area involved is described in a notification in today's gazette which calls upon all persons having objections to the proposal or any claim of private right to submit such objections or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months.

The notice, in both English and Chinese, can also be seen on the notice board posted near the site.

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PROMOTING BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG COMMONWEALTH YOUTH

Hong Kong is expected to benefit from a new Commonwealth undertaking which is designed to help young people within the Commonwealth to understand each other and to encourage them to participate in the development of their communities.

This was disclosed by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr. Arnold Smith, in Hong Kong today.

Mr. Smith said that the Commonwealth Youth Programme was initiated at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1971 and details would soon be worked out when the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Affairs Council meets in March in India.

"Through a system of awards, scholarships and bursaries, the programme will enable young people of the Commonwealth to visit each other, exchange new ideas and receive practical training in youth work at one of the three regional training centres being planned under this programme," said Mr. Smith.

He envisaged that during the initial stage of the programme, there would be several hundred awards every year. In addition, there would also be national awards made available by individual Commonwealth countries.

He pointed out that Commonwealth countries were paying increasing attention to youth activities and accordingly, the Commonwealth Secretariat had set up a Youth Division to promote co-operation in the field of youth affairs.

The Secretary General, accompanied by his wife, is here for a brief visit en route to the Commonwealth Games at the invitation of the New Zealand Government.

/A veteran

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A veteran Canadian diplomat, Mr. Smith has been the Secretary General of the Commonwealth since 1965 when the Secretariat was set up.

While here, Mr. Smith will meet local people closely connected with Commonwealth affairs. He has met the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, and other senior government officials. He will leave for New Zealand on Sunday (January 20).

After the Commonwealth Games, the Secretary General and Mrs. Smith will fly to the Caribbeans to attend the Independence Day of Granada on February 7 before returning to London.

He said that there was a need for closer co-operation between Commonwealth countries since the pattern in the conduct of world affairs was changing. It was particularly so in the fields of technology, export development and in the training of legislation draftsmen. Special projects to meet these needs are already embarked on by the Commonwealth Secretariat, he said. He added that Hong Kong had contributed a great deal in Commonwealth co-operation and benefited from it too.

He described Hong Kong as an exciting and dynamic city and was impressed by the developments since his last visit about ten years ago.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Smith's photograph are boxed for collection.

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SAND TO COST MORE

The price of sand purchased from government sand depots has been increased from \$23.50 to \$26 per cubic yard, it was announced today.

The new price will be charged for all sand for which payment is made on or after today (Friday).

Announcing the increase, a Public Works spokesman emphasised that it was not the government's policy to recover more than the cost of buying and selling sand. The increase, he explained, was necessary because of a higher rate of compensation payable to the Chinese authorities now applying to the purchase of sand from China.

He estimated that the effect on building costs would represent at most an increase of from 0.2 per cent to 0.5 per cent, depending on the complexity of the building.

The new price will also apply to royalty payments for sand collected from authorised sites with the exception of the sale and removal of sand for local village purposes or community works.

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TSUEN WAN ZONING PLAN APPROVED

The revised Outline Zoning Plan, which covers about one third of the Tsuen Wan/Kwai Chung area, has been approved by the Governor-in-Council.

In the larger context of the Tsuen Wan District, the plan proposes a balanced pattern of land use, such as the relationship between industrial and residential zones.

In the areas zoned for residential purposes it is intended, upon detailed planning, to provide a complete infrastructure of facilities such as schools, community halls, open spaces, and others.

The revised plan also provides 29 acres of open space for a park in Tsuen Wan west. The area, fronting Castle Peak Road, was previously zoned for Green Belt.

However, it was considered that the area was better suited for use as a park, which would provide a desirable link between the residential zones in the adjoining planning area.

Meanwhile, the Wong Nai Chung Outline Zoning Plan has been amended to rezone a site at Blue Pool Road from green belt to residential.

A spokesman for the Town Planning Board explained that while preparing the draft plan, the Planning Branch was not aware that the site had been reserved for a local government officer's co-operative society.

As the site was not shown as a building lot on the base plan, he said, it was erroneously assumed that it was uncommitted Crown land and was consequently zoned green belt.

/"Had it

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"Had it been known that the site had been committed, it would have been zoned residential," the spokesman added.

A list of plans prepared by the Town Planning Board is published in today's gazette for general information.

The plans are in three categories - approved plans, approved plans referred back to the Town Planning Board for amendment or replacement, and draft plans exhibited by the Board for public inspection.

Certified copies of the approved plans are available for public inspection free of charge at the Land Office, Central Government Offices (West Wing).

Printed copies of the approved plans may be purchased from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

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DUTY-FREE BRANDY FROM MACAU

The Director of Commerce and Industry today announced a concession regarding the importation into Hong Kong of duty free Portuguese brandy from Macau during the Lunar New Year holidays.

Passengers arriving from Macau on January 24 and 25 -- the two days following Chinese New Year's Day -- will be allowed to bring free of duty one bottle of Portuguese brandy containing not more than 1 litre, instead of the customary one quart bottle of grape wine presently allowed.

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NEW HOUSING COMPLEX FOR LOCAL OFFICERS

The new housing scheme for local government officers at Ngok Yue Shan in Kwun Tong has been completed and will be available for occupation shortly.

The housing complex is the second and largest of its type and costs about \$17 million. Located on a hill top in Hong Lee Road, it was planned and built by the government and leased, under mortgage, to individual eligible officers.

A spokesman for the Civil Service Branch said today the 431 successful applicants would be notified at the end of this week.

They were selected from eligible serving officers on pensionable establishment in various government departments on a point system assessed on the basis of their salary, length of service, the size of family, housing condition and preference, the spokesman added.

Successful applicants will be required to make a down-payment of 20 or 25 per cent of the total cost of the flats allocated to them. The amount will be about \$7,500 or \$13,000 according to their salary and type of flat allocated.

The balance will be repaid over a period of 20 years with an interest of seven per cent a year. This will be subject to variation by the Colonial Treasurer Incorporated, but will be within the lower and upper limits of five and nine per cent, the spokesman explained.

The monthly repayment for a small flat will be \$232 and \$298 for a larger flat.

/There are

There are 340 units each with a total floor area of 775 square feet in Block One and another 91 units each of 1,060 square feet in Block Two.

Both types of self-contained flats are built with one combined living and dining room, two or three bed rooms, one bath room, and kitchen. There will be a servant's quarter for the larger flats. Car parks are provided for each flat.

Flats in Block One are for officers with monthly salaries ranging from \$980 to \$1,455 while flats in Block Two are for those who earn a minimum of \$2,710 a month.

The first bulk housing project was the Lung Cheung Road Government Housing Scheme where 296 flats for local officers were completed and occupied in 1970.

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STREET ALTERATIONS

The Public Works Department intends to alter a section of On Fu Street in Wong Tai Sin to different alignments and levels so as to provide space for the construction of Chuk Yuen Road Extension.

When completed, the Chuk Yuen Road Extension will provide a permanent access to the western part of the Wong Tai Sin housing estate and adjoining areas for westbound traffic coming from Shatin Pass Road.

An announcement regarding the project is made in today's gazette. Anyone objecting to the project should send his objections in writing to the Director of Public Works not later than February 18, 1974.

Notice is also given that part of Choi Shek Road in Wong Tai Sin is to be closed under the Streets (Alteration) Ordinance. Objections should be lodged in writing not later than March 18, 1974 to the Director of Public Works.

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SEMINAR ON FURTHER STUDIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS

A Seminar on Further Studies for Secondary School-leavers will be held on Sunday (January 20) from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Tai Hang Tung Community Centre.

This is a joint project organized by Tai Hang Tung Community Centre of the Social Welfare Department and the West Kowloon Children and Youth Guidance Council as one of a series of programmes of the Youth Employment and Further Studies Guidance Project.

Mr. SEE Sui-lum, Warden of the Community Centre said its purpose was to provide school-leavers with information and guidance on prospects of employment and further studies.

"Students attending the seminar will be able to get information concerning the curriculum, enrolment prerequisites and prospects of post-secondary education," he added.

Speaking in the seminar will be representatives from Hong Kong Polytechnic, Sir Robert Black College of Education and the Social Work Training Institute. About 200 Form Five students from secondary schools will participate.

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DON'T GAMBLE ON ILLEGAL HUTS -- PUBLIC WARNED

The Housing Department today again advised members of the public to exercise great care and caution with offers of sales of squatter type structures, particularly when these offers are coupled with promises of re-accommodation by the department at some later time.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that it was illegal to occupy Crown land without proper permission and any structure built in this way was illegal and subject to demolition.

"If the occupants of unleased land fail to comply with a notice to quit, they are liable to a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment of six months," he said.

The spokesman also warned that it was against the law to erect or place anything on leased or licensed land without lawful authority.

"In such a case, the lessee or licensee on failing to comply with a notice to demolish the illegal structure built on the land runs the risk of having the property on the land confiscated. He may also be liable to the costs for or arising out of the demolition."

Recently racketeers had been active at the Hong Ning Road area of Kwun Tong purporting to sell huts built illegally on Crown land. The spokesman warned that anyone who fails to heed the advice would lose his money paid to racketeers trading in the sale of illegal huts.

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TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES IN PRISONS

New measures aimed at tightening prison security and discipline are to be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly.

The measures are contained in the Prisons (Amendment) Bill 1974 published in today's Gazette.

Under the bill penalties for offences relating to the introduction of unauthorized articles into a prison are to be increased from the present \$1,000 and six months' imprisonment to \$2,000 and three years' imprisonment.

Under the present Ordinance, it is an offence for any person to introduce any prohibited article into a prison with the intent that it shall come into the possession of a prisoner.

The bill introduces a new section with stricter provisions relating to the possession by prison staff of prohibited articles and the introduction by such staff into a prison of such articles.

The Prison (Amendment) Rules 1974 were published last Friday.

The new rules enable a medical officer, or certain prison staff authorized by him, to search any external orifices of a prisoner for the purpose of discovering concealed articles.

They also empower a medical officer, or certain prison staff authorized by him, to require a prisoner to submit a urine specimen for examination and analysis.

These rules will help in detecting the introduction of illicit drugs and other unauthorized articles.

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.6	3.8	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.8	0.55	1.9
Squid	Normal	6.5	2.8	5.0
Hair-Tails	Good	1.6	0.7	1.3
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.4	1.0	2.5
Croakers	Good	2.6	1.1	1.7
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.4	2.5	3.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.8	2.2	2.4
Breams	Normal	5.5	3.2	4.5
Yellow Belly	Good	2.2	0.8	1.6
Mackerels	Normal	5.7	5.1	5.4
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.5	0.7	1.8
Fork-Tail	Good	1.65	1.2	1.4
Horse-Head	Normal	6.5	3.5	4.5
Melon Seed	Normal	3.0	2.0	2.6
Pomfrets	-	-	-	-
Garoupas	Normal	7.0	5.0	6.0
Yellow Croaker				

/Supplies and

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8
White cabbage	Good	0.5	0.2	0.3
Chinese Lettuce	Good	0.5	0.15	0.3
Chinese Kale	Good	0.4	0.15	0.3
Spring onion	Normal	1.2	0.5	0.8
Spinach	Good	0.8	0.2	0.5
Water cress	Normal	1.2	0.3	0.7
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
Pork	Good	(Average) 285

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