



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1974.

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD  
COMMODITIES

INCREASED TEXTBOOK SUBSIDIES FOR NEEDY PUPILS

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE TEXTBOOKS AND STATIONERY GRANT AND THE CAPITATION GRANT TO SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO HELP NEEDY PUPILS AND TO HELP THE FINANCES OF THE SCHOOLS.

THE TEXTBOOKS AND STATIONERY GRANT HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$20 TO \$30 AND THE CAPITATION GRANT FROM \$20 TO \$25 FOR EACH PUPIL EACH YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE REVISIONS WERE MADE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF GENERAL PRICE INCREASES SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GRANTS.

THE TEXTBOOKS AND STATIONERY GRANT, WHICH IS INTENDED TO HELP PUPILS TO MEET EXPENSES FOR TEXTBOOKS AND STATIONERY, WAS INTRODUCED IN 1968.

IN GOVERNMENT CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND IN SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE NO FEES ARE CHARGED, THE GRANT IS PAYABLE TO UP TO 20 PER CENT OF THE PUPILS IN THE SCHOOL.

IN SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE FEES ARE CHARGED, THE GRANT IS MADE TO FREE-PLACE HOLDERS= AND IN SUBSIDIZED SPECIAL SCHOOLS, IT IS PAYABLE TO UP TO 30 PER CENT OF THE SCHOOLS' PUPILS.

THE CAPITATION GRANT WAS INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER 1971 WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

IT IS MADE TO SCHOOLS TO COVER THEIR EXPENDITURE PREVIOUSLY MET FROM 'TONG FAI' AND OTHER SUBSIDY CHARGES TO PUPILS.

THIS EXPENDITURE IS FOR CONSUMABLE STORES, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, INSURANCE, COST OF MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND REPLACEMENT OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.

SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS, WHICH DO NOT NOW CHARGE THEIR PUPILS ARE PAID A GRANT OF \$26 BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR EACH PUPIL EACH YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, FOR SCHOOLS WHICH DO NOT CHARGE FEES, THEIR CONTRIBUTION FROM THIS GRANT TOWARDS MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND REPLACEMENT OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 50 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT.

THEY WILL THUS BE ENCOURAGED TO CARRY OUT PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THEIR PREMISES BY HAVING TO CONTRIBUTE LESS FROM THE GRANT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO MAKE UP FOR THE DECREASE IN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THESE MAINTENANCE WORKS, IN THE FORM OF SUBVENTIONS, IS NOW TO BE PROPORTIONATELY INCREASED FROM 50 TO 80 PER CENT.

ALTOGETHER, THESE INCREASES IN GRANTS WILL COST AN ADDITIONAL \$4,447,000 ANNUALLY IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND \$1,590,000 IN NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

GOVERNMENT'S INDOOR DRIVING CENTRE OPENS

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A NEW SYSTEM TO GIVE BASIC DRIVING INSTRUCTION TO LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 1.

THIS IS THE DATE WHEN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S SIMULATOR-TRAINER SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIVE.

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED THE WRITTEN TEST ON THE HIGHWAY CODE WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN THE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF DRIVING INSIDE A SIMULATED CAR WITH A SCREEN IN FRONT SHOWING ROAD CONDITIONS.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE INDOOR INSTRUCTION CENTRE, MR. HENRY KU, SAID TODAY THAT THE DRIVER WILL BE TRAINED IN THE USE OF VARIOUS CONTROLS, RECOGNITION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS, AND NORMAL REACTIONS TO DIFFERENT TRAFFIC SITUATIONS.

+ANY MISTAKES MADE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DETECTED ON A COMPUTER-OPERATED CONSOLE ATTACHED TO THE CENTRAL CONTROL, WHERE AN INSTRUCTOR MONITORS THE DRIVING OF THE CARS AND THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. KU SAID THAT FROM JUNE 1, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD OFFER A COURSE OF 15 ONE-HOUR LESSONS ON THE SIMULATOR.

THE COURSE WILL COVER LECTURES BY TRAINED INSTRUCTORS, FILM DEMONSTRATIONS AND SIMULATOR DRIVING. THE FEE FOR EACH 15-HOUR COURSE WILL BE \$200. CLASSES WILL BE HELD SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 11 P.M. IN CANTONESE-ENGLISH COURSES WILL BE HELD FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE NEED ARISES.

MR. KU SAID THAT BY TAKING THE SPECIAL COURSE, IT WAS INTENDED TO REDUCE CONSIDERABLY THE TIME NEEDED BY A LEARNER DRIVER IN ON-THE-ROAD TRAINING.

AFTER PASSING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S TEST, THE DRIVER WILL STILL NEED TO TAKE ACTUAL DRIVING LESSONS ON THE ROADS BEFORE UNDERGOING A COMBINED ROAD TEST.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE AVERAGE HONG KONG CANDIDATE OVER THE AGE OF 30 TAKES HIS FINAL ROAD TEST 2.5 TIMES BEFORE HE QUALIFIES FOR HIS DRIVING LICENCE. THIS INVOLVES SOMETHING LIKE 130 HOURS OF ON-ROAD TRAINING.

FOR A PERSON UNDER 30, THE FIGURES ARE REDUCED SOMEWHAT, BUT STILL WITH AN AVERAGE OF TWO TIMES AND A TOTAL OF ABOUT 80 HOURS.

HOWEVER, MR. KU POINTED OUT THAT EARLY RESULTS USING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S COURSE INDICATE THAT MORE PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS THE COMBINED ROAD TEST AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT AND AFTER TAKING AN AVERAGE OF ONLY ABOUT 50 HOURS OF ON-ROAD TRAINING.

APPLICATIONS FOR COURSES ON THE SIMULATOR WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FROM FRIDAY (MAY 17).

/THOSE .....

THOSE WISHING TO ENROL SHOULD APPLY IN PERSON TO THE INDOOR INSTRUCTION CENTRE LOCATED AT THE PUI CHING ROAD LICENSING OFFICES OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN KOWLOON. THEY WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM FOR THE COURSE, PROVISIONAL DRIVING LICENCE AND HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD.

THE CANDIDATE MAY THEN CHOOSE A CLASS WHICH MEETS AT A TIME MOST SUITED TO HIS NEEDS. THE APPLICATION WILL BE CONFIRMED ON THE PAYMENT OF THE APPROPRIATE FEE.

AT THE END OF THE 15 LESSONS THERE WILL BE A COURSE TEST ON THE SIMULATOR. FAILURE IN THIS TEST WILL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF THE TEST FORM, AND THE CANDIDATE CAN EITHER REPEAT THE COURSE OR RETAIN ANY COMBINED ROAD TEST APPOINTMENT MADE BEFORE THE COURSE.

THOSE WHO PASS THE SIMULATOR TEST WILL BE PLACED ON A SPECIAL SHORT WAITING LIST FOR THE COMBINED ROAD TEST. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS TEST ONCE THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR ON-ROAD DRIVING TRAINING. THE WAITING PERIOD WILL BE ABOUT 11 WEEKS.

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GOVERNOR TO TOUR FACTORIES AT JUNK BAY  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL BE VISITING TWO FACTORIES AT JUNK BAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS IN THE STEEL ROLLING AND ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES.

HIS SHOP-FLOOR TOUR WILL START AT 2.40 P.M. AT SHIU WING STEEL LTD, WHICH MANUFACTURES STEEL REINFORCING BARS FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. THE FIRM HAS A PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF ABOUT 130,000 TONS A YEAR AND EMPLOYS 250 WORKERS.

SIR MURRAY WILL ALSO BE VISITING CHIAP HUA COMALCO LTD, WHICH PRODUCES ALUMINIUM AND BRASS COMPONENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. THE COMPANY EMPLOYS 750 WORKERS AND ITS OUTPUT LAST YEAR EXCEEDED 28 MILLION POUNDS.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR (THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATION AND INDUSTRY)), MR. ROY PORTER AND THE PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR. K.H. YEUNG.

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:  
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A PREVENTIVE SERVICE LAUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT A LIMITED PARTY OF PRESSMEN (NO MORE THAN 13) TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISITS. THE PICK-UP POINT IS QUEEN'S PIER AT 1.25 P.M. SHARP. RESERVATIONS TO SECURE TRANSPORT SHOULD BE MADE BY TELEPHONING THE GIS DUTY PRESS INQUIRY OFFICER. THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A +FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED+ BASIS. ALTERNATIVELY, NEWS REPRESENTATIVES CAN MAKE THEIR OWN WAY TO JUNK BAY. SHIU WING STEEL LTD IS SITUATED AT SD 3, LOT 1066, JUNK BAY, AND THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ARRIVING THERE BY HELICOPTER AT 2.40 P.M. CHIAP HUA COMALCO LTD, WHERE HE WILL ARRIVE AT 3.30 P.M., IS SITUATED AT SD 5, LOT 133, JUNK BAY.

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GOVERNOR TOURS CENTRAL DISTRICT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOURED THE CENTRAL DISTRICT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR. PETER K.T. NG, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (CHONG KONG) AND MRS. O. RAHMIN, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (CENTRAL), SIR MURRAY FIRST ARRIVED AT THE JUNCTION OF OLD BAILEY STREET AND CAINE ROAD WHERE HE TOOK A CLOSE LOOK AT THE EFFECTS OF THE MID-LEVELS BUS PRIORITY SCHEME.

PROCEEDING WESTWARDS ALONG CAINE ROAD, THE PARTY MADE ITS NEXT STOP AT KIN YUEN MANSION, A 12-STOREY BUILDING CONSISTING OF 93 FLATS. THERE THE GOVERNOR WAS MET BY MEMBERS OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE AND WAS TOLD ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENT WORK DONE BY THE COMMITTEE IN TERMS OF CLEANLINESS, SECURITY, BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND RECREATION FOR THE RESIDENTS WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION.

SIR MURRAY THEN PAID A VISIT TO THE Y.M.C.A. AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DISTRICT PERSONALITIES ON PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, TOUCHING ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, LUNCH PROBLEM AND CRIME.

CONTINUING HIS TOUR, THE GOVERNOR WENT ON TO LADDER STREET AND LADDER TERRACE WHERE THERE ARE SOME TOLERATED SQUATTER HUTS. HE WAS TOLD THAT SOME ILLEGAL HUTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CLEARED AND THE LAND MADE AVAILABLE WOULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A SITTING-OUT AREA.

BEFORE WINDING UP HIS VISIT, SIR MURRAY STOPPED AT STAUNTON STREET TO OBSERVE THE CONGESTION CAUSED BY HAWKERS AND THE TRAFFIC SITUATION. WHILE THERE, HE MADE BRIEF CALLS ON THREE RICE RETAIL SHOPS AND WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT PRICES WERE CLEARLY MARKED ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

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COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE CENTRAL DISTRICT ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE  
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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) 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

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE ( \$/CATTY) MODE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW	---	---
- OLD CROP	---	2.21
- NEW CROP	GOOD	---
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	---	2.16
- NEW CROP	GOOD	1.72
PO NGAI	---	---
CHU CHO	---	---
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	---	2.07
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.92
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.72
A1 SUPER	GOOD	2.03
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	---	---
U.S. RICE	---	---
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	21.92
PAKISTAN RICE	---	---
TAIWAN RICE	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - NORMAL

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 305 (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	4.20	3.00	3.60
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.10	0.80	2.20
SQUID	NORMAL	5.50	2.40	4.20
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.20	1.20	2.00
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.10	1.40	2.00
CROAKERS	LIMITED	2.20	0.80	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	GOOD	1.60	1.00	1.30
MELON GOAT	---	---	---	---
BREAMS	NORMAL	5.00	2.70	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.60	0.50	1.20
MACKERELS	GOOD	3.70	2.60	3.00
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	0.60	0.30	0.50
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.00	0.80	0.90
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	6.00	3.00	4.00
MELON SEED	NORMAL	2.00	1.50	1.80
POMFRETS	SCARCE	7.80	6.00	7.00
GAROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.00	6.50
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

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	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.20	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.50	0.50	1.00
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	3.80	1.60	2.50
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.60	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	0.80	0.30	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.60
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.60