



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, March 7, 1974

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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SCHEME TO WIDEN DIRECT SALES OF RICE

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A scheme to widen direct sales of rice is being worked out by the Commerce and Industry Department in a further move to stabilise consumer rice prices.

As a first step, arrangements have already been made for major department stores to obtain supplies from importers at prevailing market rates for sale to the public.

The department is now working out a system for enabling wider direct sales to organisations employing a substantial number of workers.

"We are determined to do everything possible to ensure that the public get rice at a fair price," a department spokesman said today.

He confirmed that an Advisory Committee on Rice is being established by the Commerce and Industry Department to coordinate the operation of the rice control scheme.

All sections of the rice trade -- importers, wholesalers and retailers -- are being invited to nominate representatives to serve on the committee.

The working arrangements for wider direct sales of rice will be discussed when the committee meets for the first time next week.

It is intended that direct sales should be expanded to organisations employing at least 200 workers. An agreed minimum direct purchase from importers will be worked out.

In the meantime, the release of rice on a direct sale basis to major department stores is proceeding.

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LAND SALES FORECAST FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS

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Forty-two lots of crown land with an overall area of some 671,000 square feet will be offered for sale between April and September this year.

Of these, 22 are for industrial development, 14 for residential use and six for commercial/residential purposes.

This was disclosed today by the Director of Lands and Survey in the Land Sales Forecast for the six-month period between April 1 and September 30.

Those sites which will be sold for industrial/godown development will range from 2,100 square feet to 26,300 square feet in area. Their overall area covers some 302,182 square feet. Fourteen of them will be in Cheung Sha Wan, six in Kwun Tong and two in Chai Wan.

At the same time, 14 sites for residential purposes are to be put for sale -- seven in Broadcast Drive, four in Cloud View Road and three in San Ha Street, Chai Wan. The areas of the sites, which amount to 324,140 square feet, range from 10,600 square feet to 55,000 square feet.

Six other sites for commercial/residential development -- five in Kowloon and one on Hong Kong island -- will also be offered for sale.

/Particulars .....

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Particulars of the Land Sale Forecast together with plans showing the location of the lots to be sold may be inspected at the Crown Lands and Survey Offices on both sides of the harbour; the Public Enquiry Sub-office in Ice House Street; all City District Offices; the office of the District Commissioner, New Territories, North Kowloon Magistracy; and at the Commerce and Industry Department in Connaught Road Central.

Copies of the forecast may be obtained free of charge by calling at any of the above offices or by written request to the Crown Lands and Survey Offices.

The sale dates for each lot will be notified in the government gazette and advertised in English and Chinese newspapers in the usual way.

At the time of advertising, detailed conditions of sale and sale plans will be available to the public and these may be obtained at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, or at the Public Enquiry Sub-Office in Ice House Street.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full list of the Provisional Land Sales Forecast are boxed for collection.

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TAXI CONVERSION TABLES READY

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The Transport Department will begin distributing taxi conversion tables tomorrow (Friday) morning in preparation for the introduction of the revised fare structure on Sunday.

Copies of the tables will be available from the three taxi operators associations and from the licensing offices of the Transport Department in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

The table, which will be operative as an interim measure until taxi meters are recalibrated, tested and sealed at the new rate, will carry the department's special chop. This will identify them as the official guide for taxi drivers and passengers.

From Sunday morning, the tables will have to be displayed next to the taxi meter. Any taxi whose meter has not been converted and in which the table is not displayed will have to charge the amount shown on the existing meter.

In a covering note to the taxi associations and drivers, the Transport Department said, among other things, that all taxis must have their meters recalibrated and submitted for inspection, testing and sealing.

However, the department emphasises that operators should not convert meters until they have an appointment for an inspection.

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GOVERNOR VISITS HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, this afternoon spent about one and a half hours at Sai Kung to see for himself how work is progressing at High Island to build Hong Kong's largest reservoir.

At a cost of \$1,348 million, the High Island Scheme will boost the local fresh water storage capacity to 128,000 million gallons by 1979, when its major construction works are completed.

Sir Murray was first briefed by the Senior Resident Engineer, Mr. Tony Vail, on the construction plans and the work that is being carried out.

From a vantage point overlooking the strait of Kwun Mun, Sir Murray inspected the sea-bed between two coffer dams from which sea-water has been pumped out.

A concrete core base will be laid right across the bottom to form the foundation for the 340 feet west dam.

The Governor then proceeded to the casting yard for dolosse, where the giant concrete blocks are being cast in steel moulds.

Some 7,000 of these precast units will be locked together to form a breakwater at the eastern end of the fresh-water lake to withstand heavy seas.

Sir Murray next went to see the coffer dams being formed for the east dam.

These coffer dams have not been closed yet, but in a few weeks, sea water will start to be pumped out to enable construction of the main east dam to be carried out in the dry.

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The outer of the two coffer dams will be used, after the completion of the main dam, to form the permanent breakwater.

The High Island Water Scheme is the largest conventional reservoir built by the government. With the alternative of desalting plants, it is also the last because consulting engineers, Messrs. Binnie and Partners of London, have pointed out that there are no further watersheds for major reservoirs.

For the present scheme, water is trapped within a wide-covering catchment area and fed into the reservoir; but only to the extent it does not deprive farmers of water for irrigation and other uses.

There will be 4.5 miles of catchwaters, and some 25 miles of tunnels to carry the water to the reservoir, to transfer water from High Island to the Sha Tin Treatment Works, and to carry water between High Island and Plover Cove by way of Lower Shing Mun Reservoir.

When the water has been treated at the Sha Tin Works -- the handling capacity of which has been greatly expanded for the scheme -- it will be taken to urban areas in Kowloon through a duplicate Lion Rock Tunnel which will also carry road traffic.

Storing of water is expected to begin in 1976. When full, High Island reservoir will have a capacity of 60,000 million gallons, or some 70 percent of the existing 17 reservoirs put together.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph taken during the Governor's visit are boxed for collection.

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RENT CONTROL LEGISLATION CLARIFIED

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The Rent Control legislation does not permit an automatic increase of 21 per cent in rents as some landlord and tenants believe, a Rating and Valuation Department spokesman said today.

Clarifying the rate of increase permitted under the legislation, he said the amount of increase is determined from the current rent paid and the fair market rent assessed by the department.

The difference between these two rents is then divided by 5 and the resultant figure is the amount of the certified increase. However, in most cases where the rateable value of the premises does not exceed \$30,000 the increase may not exceed 21 per cent.

With regard to Current Rent, the spokesman explained that this was defined as "the rent payable, exclusive of rates," i.e. if the landlord is responsible for the payment of rates, the amount of such rates has to be deducted from the rent paid to arrive at the Current Rent.

It is to this figure that the maximum permitted increase in rent of 21 per cent is applied.

So far, the department has issued some 6,000 Certificates of Increase/No Increase.

The following table illustrates how the certified increase is worked out:

/Similar .....

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	Similar Premises		
	'A'	'B'	'C'
(i) Fair Market Rent	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
(ii) Current Rent	\$800	\$650	\$450
Difference (i - ii)	\$200	\$350	\$550
Difference divided by	\$40	\$70	\$110*
Factor of 5 (i.e. the Increase in rent allowed)	(a 5% increase)	(a 10% increase)	(*In this case as \$110 exceeds 21% of \$450 the amount of increase certified would be \$99)

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MEET THE MEDIA

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Note to Editors:

Mr. Roy Porter, Director of Oil Supplies, will be guest speaker at a **Meet The Media** session at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

The meeting will be held in the 35 mm theatre of the Government Information Services, 5th floor.

You are invited to have it covered.

Television crews are requested to set up their equipment before the start of the meeting.

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DSW OPENS CARE AND ATTENTION HOME

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The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' Care and Attention Home in Aberdeen was officially opened today (Thursday) by Mr. Kenneth Topley, the Director of Social Welfare.

The Home is attached to the David Trench Home for the Aged in Nam Long Shan Road. Housed in a converted block, it has places for 76 senile people needing special care and attention.

Speaking at the Ceremony Mr. Topley said the opening of the Home marked a significant step towards the provision of welfare services for the aged.

He said many welfare agencies had been working consistently in this field and many homes for the aged were set up a long time ago.

He said, however, it had been noticed that because of their inadequate facilities and establishment the existing homes for the aged were unable to take care of those infirm old people needing special attention.

But, he pointed out, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has been gaining much experience and making outstanding achievements in running homes for the aged and infirmaries and believed it would do its best to provide services to those for whom the Home has been planned.

Mr. Topley also noted that the setting-up of Care and Attention Homes or Infirmarys has been recommended by the Working Party on the future needs of the elderly.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON SUNDAY

Community Chest To Hold 'Walk For A Million'

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Special traffic arrangements will be introduced in the vicinity of the Government Stadium on Sunday (March 10) when the Community Chest will hold a 'Walk for a Million'.

On that day, Link Road will be one way (downslope) from Broadwood Road to Caroline Hill Road between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

During the same period, three other roads will be closed. They are Caroline Hill Road, south of the South China Athletic Association Building; Eastern Hospital Road (apart from those vehicles requiring access to the Tung Wah Hospital), south of the junction with Tung Lo Wan Road, and Cotton Path.

Parking will be suspended in Link Road between Broadwood Road and Caroline Hill Road from 7.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Parking will be permitted in the Stadium Car Parks before 9 a.m. after which time no vehicles will be allowed to leave the general area of the Stadium, and further parking will be suspended until 7 p.m.

Also affected will be the eastbound bus stop on Leighton Road, opposite the Po Leung Kuk, which will be temporarily suspended between 8 a.m. and 12 noon.

Motorists are strongly advised to avoid the area of the Government Stadium unless their journey is absolutely necessary.

People taking part in the walk are requested to use public transport when travelling to and from the Stadium.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Thursday) at sales 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</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
		<u>Average</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		-
See Mow -- old crop	Good	2.00
-- new crop		-
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.94
Po Hgai	Good	1.63
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>	Good	1.91
100% Whole		
10-15% Broken	Good	1.89
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.67
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.60

/Supplies and .....

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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	3.5	2.5	3.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.7	0.7	1.7
Squid	Limited	5.8	2.8	4.8
Hair-Tails	Good	2.7	1.0	1.8
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.8	1.1	1.8
Croakers	Normal	2.4	1.2	1.7
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	1.8	1.4	1.6
Melon Coat	Normal	2.2	1.6	2.0
Breams	Normal	4.5	2.8	3.4
Yellow Belly	Good	1.9	0.7	1.4
Mackerels	Good	4.5	3.0	3.5
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.6	0.5	1.3
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.3	1.0	1.1
Horse-Head	Good	5.0	3.0	4.5
Melon Seed	Scarce	2.5	1.5	1.8
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.0	7.0	7.5
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	0.8	0.2	0.5
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.7	0.15	0.4
Chinese Kale	Good	1.0	0.2	0.6
Spring onion	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Spinach	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.8	0.2	0.5
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.4	0.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

<u>Pork</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/picul)</u>
		<u>(Average)</u>
	Good	300

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