



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, September 18, 1973

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LAND SALE PROGRAMME FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS

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Thirty-six lots of Crown land with a total area of 665,690 square feet will be put up for sale by auction in the next six months.

This was announced today by the Director of Lands and Survey in his Land Sales Forecast for the six-month period ending March 31 next year.

"Of the 36 lots," he said, "20 are for industrial use, two for non-industrial purposes, 10 for residential development and four for funeral parlours."

All the four sites for funeral parlours are situated in Kowloon -- two each at Diamond Hill and Hung Hom.

Of the total area to be auctioned, 304,300 square feet is for industrial and godown development.

The industrial sites range in area from about 5,100 square feet to 32,500 square feet. Except for two lots at Chai Wan, they are all located at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon.

The land to be used for residential development totals 310,490 square feet. Two of the sites located at Ho Man Tin Road will be sold towards the end of next month.

The remaining sites are located at Braemar Hill Road, Black's Link, Chai Wan and Tin Hau Temple Road on Hong Kong Island.

The date of sale for each lot will be announced in advance in the gazette and advertised in English and Chinese newspapers.

At the time of advertising, detailed conditions of sale and sale plans will be available to the public.

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Particulars of the land sales forecast together with plans showing the location of the lots may be inspected at the Crown Lands & Survey Office in Murray Building, Garden Road or at its Kowloon branch office at the Kowloon Government Offices, Nathan Road.

They may also be inspected at the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices, West Wing; at all City District Offices; the Commerce & Industry Department at 46 Connaught Road Central and at the office of the District Commissioner, New Territories, North Kowloon Magistracy, Tai Po Road.

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 & Survey Offices.

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HONG KONG/US TEXTILES AGREEMENT

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Hong Kong has agreed to an extension for one year from October 1, 1973 of the current restraint arrangements for the export to the United States of cotton textiles.

Announcing this, a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said that the formal extension, signed today, followed a series of discussions in Geneva and Hong Kong.

He added that these resulted in agreement that, in addition to the five per cent annual growth rate already prescribed in the agreement, Hong Kong would be able to ship a further two per cent over the present limits.

This comes to nearly 10 million square yards equivalent and brings the limit for the year ending September 30, 1974 to 510 million square yards equivalent.

The spokesman added that, in addition, agreement had been reached on certain technical modifications to the agreement to allow more flexible administration. These should mean that Hong Kong exporters will be able to utilise their quotas more effectively and profitably.

Although the extension is for one year, part of the terms of the agreement prescribe that both sides will meet to review it within ninety days of the conclusion of a new multilateral arrangement which is currently under negotiation in Geneva.

These negotiations are expected to produce an international set of rules to replace those in the so-called Cotton Textiles Arrangement, due to expire at the end of this year. It was under the terms of that Arrangement that the present Hong Kong/US cotton textiles restraint agreement was negotiated in 1970.

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OVER 450 CLAIMS HEARD BY LABOUR TRIBUNAL

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A total of 563 claims, involving \$1,079,935.61, has been filed at the Labour Tribunal during the first six months of its operation.

Of these, 452 claims have been heard and a total of \$417,587.45 has been awarded to the claimants.

Mr. Michael Wong, Presiding Officer of the Tribunal, said today that the main causes of these claims were for wages in lieu of notice and arrears of wages.

"There are also claims for statutory holiday pay, sickness allowance, double pay, bonus, commission, rebates and recovery of deposits paid under contracts of employment," he said.

Mr. Wong pointed out that 92 per cent of the claims filed had been referred to them by the Labour Department where attempts for reconciliation were unsuccessful.

He also noted that of the total 563 claims, only 16 were filed by employers. The remaining 547 claims were all filed by employees.

The Labour Tribunal first came into operation on March 1 this year. Its object is to provide a quick, simple, and inexpensive method of settling monetary claims arising from contracts of employment, the provisions of the Employment Ordinance and certain other ordinances.

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TEMPORARY FIRE STATION FOR AIRPORT

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A temporary fire station is to be built shortly at Kai Tak Airport to provide better access to areas on the tarmac and the runway in case of accidents.

To be sited on the newly reclaimed land to the east of the runway, it will replace the existing one which is gradually being cut off from the rest of the airport because of the construction of the airport tunnel.

A small fire sub-station together with an electrical sub-station will also be built near the seawall to serve both the temporary station and the future permanent station.

The temporary station will be a single-storey structure with all the usual fire station facilities. Eight fire engines and 25 firemen and officers will be stationed there round the clock. Another four fire engines will also be accommodated at the fire sub-station.

A government spokesman explained today that it was necessary to build the temporary station because the freshly reclaimed land was not yet suitable for piling work associated with the permanent station.

"A recent site investigation shows that piling work could probably begin in about two years time," he said.

Work on the temporary station is expected to start next month and will take about three months to complete.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SERVICES TO ELDERLY APPEAR ACCEPTABLE

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There are only two weeks to go before the deadline expires for receiving comments on the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Party on the Future Needs of the Elderly.

"From the response so far, it would appear that the recommendations are generally acceptable because we have received only eight comments. It could be people are satisfied so they feel it unnecessary to write in. However, we would still like to hear from more people," said Mr. Bowen Leung, Administrative Officer (Planning) of the Social Welfare Department.

He said the report had been published specifically to elicit the views and comments of the community, and in particular those who were concerned with services to the elderly, so that a final draft can be prepared for presentation to the government.

"In anything of this nature, it is vital we know the community's thinking so that their views can be taken into consideration in the overall planning and implementation of the types of services recommended in the report.

"It is, after all, something very much involving the community at all levels, so what they think is important to us," Mr. Leung said.

The report, prepared by a working party of both government and non-government members, was published in July.

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It makes wide-ranging recommendations for providing much more comprehensive services for the elderly based on the concept of care in the community, which in practice, will mean in the majority of cases, care within the family rather than residential or institutional care.

So far, more than one thousand copies each of the Chinese and English versions of a summary of the report containing the main recommendations have been sent out to interested organisations and individuals, so that they may express their opinions.

Anyone wishing to obtain copies can do so, at a cost of \$1 a copy, from the Government's Publications Centre at the Star Ferry Concourse on Hong Kong Island.

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LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HELPS SETTLE 322 LABOUR DISPUTES

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The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department last month helped settle 322 disputes.

Disclosing this today, the head of the Service, Mr. T.F. Tsui said that as a result of agreements reached in meetings conducted by his conciliation officers, 1,270 employees had received a total of \$802,924.

Of this total, 41.5 per cent was paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, statutory holiday pay and bonuses.

The remaining 58.5 per cent - about \$469,484 - was paid as severance pay and other ex-gratia payments to employees.

Mr. Tsui said last month officers of the Service handled 1,600 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management.

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161 PUPILS AWARDED GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

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Government External Scholarships tenable at approved Chinese or Anglo-Chinese Secondary Grammar Schools have been awarded to 141 pupils.

Another 20 candidates have been awarded such scholarships tenable at approved secondary technical schools.

"These awards have been made on the results of the 1973 Secondary School Entrance Examination," a spokesman for the Education Department said today.

He pointed out that the awards were for the five-year secondary course and were renewable annually subject to the satisfactory progress of each pupil.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a list of successful candidates and the secondary schools allocated to them will be distributed separately in the Press Boxes, G.I.S. this evening.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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Mr. P.G. Williams and Mr. Wilson Wang ceased to be temporary Unofficial Members of the Executive Council with effect from September 14 and 15 respectively, following the return to Hong Kong of Sir Sidney Gordon and Sir Yuet-keung Kan.

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Release Time: 8.00 p.m.