



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, February 8, 1973

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NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Household Survey To Pave Way

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A new Consumer Price Index which can better reflect the current cost of living in Hong Kong will be compiled by the Census and Statistics Department.

In order to revise and improve the present Index, a spokesman for the department said, a new Household Expenditure Survey had already started early last month.

The findings of the survey would enable the department to work out the new Index.

He pointed out that the existing Consumer Price Index, comprising the General C.P.I. and the Modified C.P.I., was based on a survey conducted ten years ago.

Since then, the spokesman said, a great deal of changes had taken place in the life pattern and living condition of the population.

"There have been changes in the variety of consumer goods available and in consumer preferences which now have a definite influence on the pattern of consumer expenditure.

"Consumer expenditure on food items is taking on a different picture over the years," he explained.

"Consumption of rice has shown a steady decline while that of other food items has increased.

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"There is also a distinct shift from the use of firewood and kerosine to the use of liquefied petroleum gas.

"As mass-produced goods improve in quality, there is a growing market for ready-made clothes and durables like television sets, refrigerators and furniture.

"The introduction of minibuses and cross-harbour tunnel buses also affects the expenditure pattern of the population.

"In addition, more than a million people are now accommodated in the public housing.

#### Patterns

"Such changes in the living and consumption patterns in recent years will have a significant bearing on the new Consumer Price Index.

"And the purpose of compiling the new Index is to gain an insight into the current living conditions in Hongkong," he added.

The new survey covers 3,600 randomly selected households whose monthly expenditure ranges from \$400 to \$3,000.

The participating households, living on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the Tsuen Wan township, had been given survey forms to record every item of their daily expenditure.

They had been asked to itemised any amount they spend each day and to maintain the record for one calendar month, the spokesman said.

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COMMISSIONING UNIT FOR NEW HOSPITAL

Three-Man Team To Be Set Up For Princess Margaret Hospital

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A Commissioning Unit will soon be formed for the new Princess Margaret Hospital in Lai Chi Kok.

Members of the Commissioning Unit are Dr. J.K. Craig, Medical Administrator; Mr. R.E. Coles, Senior Hospital Secretary; and Miss E. Gregory, Senior Nursing Officer Class I.

Mr. A.E. Starling, Chief Hospital Secretary, who has been involved with the detailed planning of the project, will continue to work with the Unit.

It is expected that the first stage of the Hospital, which consists of a 1,300-bed general and infectious diseases hospital, and staff quarters and other services, will be completed early in 1974.

At first, the Unit will be responsible for preparing the specifications and the requisitioning of all the necessary hospital equipment and supplies, finalising staff requirements, and working out general administrative details involved in the operation of the hospital.

The Unit will work from the Headquarters of the Medical and Health Department at the outset, and will move to the new hospital as soon as office accommodation is available there.

After the building work is completed, it is expected that it will take some six months to commission the hospital, and the target date for opening will therefore be towards the end of 1974.

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## JOBS IN KNITTING AND KNITWEAR FINISHING

### Minimum Standards Set Out In Manual

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A manual setting out the minimum job standards and specifications for 20 principal jobs in the knitting and knitwear finishing branch of the textile industry has been published and is now available on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong.

This publication, in English and Chinese, was the last of a series of six such manuals prepared by the Textile Industrial Committee of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee.

The other five manuals had been on sale to the public for some time.

"The manual should play an important role in improving the quality of our future skilled manpower", a spokesman for the Committee said.

Generally the job standards aim at -

- \* establishing generally acceptable skill standards for the principal jobs in the knitting and knitwear finishing branch of the textile industry;
- \* providing guidelines for courses at technical institutions or vocational training centres;
- \* helping managements to devise in-plant training programmes and in determining the competency of a person, either a new or existing worker, for a particular job; and
- \* standardising the nomenclature already used in the knitting and knitwear finishing branch of the textile industry.

/Specifically .....

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Specifically the job standards indicate the skills and knowledge which competent workers in the principal jobs should have.

They also specify the type of training and technical courses as well as the necessary educational background for entry into training if the workers are to be equipped with such skills and knowledge.

The Textile Industrial Committee points out that the job standards will be reviewed periodically to meet the requirements of advancing technology.

It also recommends, among other things, that proper recognition should be given to those who have been trained to the specified standard.

It stresses that all employers in the industry, who are training-conscious, would find the manual a useful reference.

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#### BUILDING STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER

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A 34-storey building in Paterson Street, Causeway Bay, with a cinema on the ground floor was among 74 buildings which were certified for occupation by the Building Authority in December last year.

The declared total construction cost of these buildings was more than \$180 million.

During the month, the Building Authority approved 42 plans for new buildings.

It gave permission for work to start on 43 building sites and approved the demolition of 91 buildings, including 16 which had already been declared dangerous.

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### ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN QUARRY BAY BUILDINGS

P.W.D. And Fire Services Start Detailed Survey

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Officers of the Buildings Ordinance Office and the Fire Services Department today began a detailed survey of the extensive unauthorised works and alterations in five buildings in Quarry Bay.

The survey, lasting several months, aims at finding out the nature and the number of illegal structures at Hoi King, Hoi Sang, Fook Chong, Yik Chong and Yik Fat Buildings at Nos. 1026 - 1048 King's Road.

The survey followed a number of small fires and complaints by members of the public and occupants of the buildings.

Since then, a spokesman for the Building Ordinance Office said the authorities discovered many illegal alternations constituting a danger to residents and a fire and health hazard. This practice showed that some residents displayed a total disregard of building regulations.

"The Government intends to rectify the situation, in the first instance, by serving statutory notices requiring the reinstatement of the buildings to their former condition," he said.

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HONG KONG PEOPLE IN BRITAIN URGED TO USE FACILITIES

Offered By H.K. Government Office In London

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The Hong Kong Commissioner, Mr. A.M.J. Wright, has expressed the hope that the Hong Kong Chinese community in Britain would make full use of the facilities offered by the Hong Kong Government Office in London.

He said this at a reception at the Government Office on Tuesday (February 6) marking the Year of the Ox. About 100 Chinese guests attended.

Mr. Wright said that the new and larger office building was a reflection of the growth of the work of all sections of the Government Office.

The Commissioner congratulated the community for its successful New Year festivities in Gerrard Street on Sunday (February 4), which attracted large crowds of Londoners and achieved wide publicity in the press and on television.

"The publicity which you gained from the celebrations has been most favourable and will further enhance the reputation of Hong Kong people in Britain," Mr. Wright said.

Guests at the reception came from all over Britain -- some came from as far as Scotland.

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GUIDE TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL

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The Labour Department has prepared in English and Chinese a simple guide to the Labour Tribunal which starts operation on March 1, 1973 as part of the Judiciary.

A spokesman of the Labour Department said: "This simple guide explains to employers and employees what the Tribunal will do, the types of claims it will hear, the types of claims it cannot hear, and how and where claims can be made."

The guide, which also explains in simple terms the procedures to be followed, can be obtained free of charge from any branch office of the Labour Department and from City District Offices.

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY FORMER CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER

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Note to Editors: The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, MP, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who arrived in Hong Kong today, will hold a press conference in the G.I.S. theatre at 5.30 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) and not (repeat not) at the airport on Saturday at 9.30 a.m. as previously announced.

Mr. Ian Mikardo, MP, and Mr. Tom McNally, will also be present at the press conference.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.