



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, March 4, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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TRAINING FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Improving Standards Of Service In Private Sector

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The Government is at present giving consideration to the **introduction** of legislation to improve the standards of service in medical laboratories belonging to private companies.

One of the objects of this legislation would be to lay down minimum standards for all medical laboratory technicians and to set higher standards for those carrying full responsibilities in medical laboratories.

It is recognised that many workers in laboratories have received little or no training beyond that given on the job by their employers, and it is felt that more than this is required in the public interest.

Those people without formal training or qualifications at present working in medical laboratories who are unable to enter existing part-time course conducted in English at the University of Hong Kong Extra-Mural Studies Department will have the opportunity of achieving the minimum required standards by taking a part-time extra-mural course, scheduled to start in April at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where the instruction will be given in the Chinese language.

The cost of the whole course, lasting one year, will be \$1,200. It is intended that those who pass the course should be eligible to apply for registration as medical laboratory technicians.

The course is not intended for those in charge of medical laboratories who will be expected already to have reached a higher standard of attainment. Only one such course is scheduled, and it is in the interest of all eligible persons to undertake this course.

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It is hoped that, in the comparatively near future, Chinese-language courses will be operated in addition to the existing English-language courses to enable school-leavers to qualify for registration.

At that time, only those so registered will be allowed to start work as medical laboratory technicians and eventually to proceed to a higher-level course to qualify them to be in charge of a medical laboratory.

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OPENING OF NEW AMBULANCE DEPOT

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Note to Editors: The Secretary for Social Services, Mr. Li Fook-kow, will officially open a new ambulance depot at Yau Ma Tei on Wednesday (March 6) at 10.30 a.m.

You are invited to send members of your editorial staff to cover the opening of the depot which is situated at 44 Waterloo Road (opposite the Y.M.C.A.)

Mr. Donald Strange of the Fire Services Department will be present to assist your staff if necessary.

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INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

By Secretary For The Environment

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Two interesting suggestions for property developers to help government solve its continuing shortage of accommodation for its own employees were made by the Secretary for the Environment, Mr. James Robson, today.

Mr. Robson was speaking at the annual dinner given by the Real Estate Developers Association.

One of the suggestions is that land would be sold with a requirement for the developer to produce under his scheme a certain number of flats which government could use for housing its staff.

He said: "Such an agreement would meet both the developer's current shortage of money, and the government's needs."

Another suggestion will enable private developers to carry out large development projects for government with payment being made in land.

"If the developer got at least a portion of his land early in the scheme he could put up housing for sale and thus generate his necessary cash flow while helping the housing shortage," Mr. Robson said.

With all the expertise assembled there this evening, he said it should be possible to devise ways and means to maintain the momentum of the building industry and break away from the traditional stop-go pattern.

Mr. Robson said he was not suggesting that all "our problems will be easily resolved".

"We do have difficulties with labour and material cost, not to mention the lack of supply.

"But they are not new problems and in my opinion given your co-operation they **are** not insoluble," he added.

/Turning to .....

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Turning to drills and pile-drivers used by the developer, Mr. Robson said that they should be fitted with silencers. Costing only about a hundred dollars each, the silencer could cut down the noise by about a half.

He called on all property developers and building contractors to **initiate** an anti-noise campaign on their individual work sites without waiting for the legislation which he intended to introduce.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED COTTON TEXTILES

To Federal Republic Of Germany

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The Director of Commerce and Industry today issued a notice to exporters regarding the implementation of 1974 "Free Quota" Export Authorization Scheme II for export of a certain category of restrained cotton textiles to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters Series 3 (European Economic Community) will receive copies of the above notice shortly.

People who wish to seek advance notice to its contents are invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department.

Mr. N.C.C. Chan - Assistant Trade Officer  
Tel. No. 5-229777

Mr. Y.H. Law - Industry Assistant  
Tel. No. 5-228513

Copies of this Notice to Exporters are also available from the receptionist counter on the ground floor of the Fire Brigade Building, Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today paid tribute to Hong Kong community leaders.

Speaking at the annual spring reception held at the Peninsula Hotel, Sir Murray described the parts they played in community work during the past year as intensive and fruitful.

"If the community as a whole works with one purpose, a great deal can be achieved," he said.

Following is the full text of the Governor's speech:-

"I am glad to be here with you this evening at this annual Spring reception.

"I know that the parts you have played in community work during the past year have been intensive and fruitful. Since last year the Home Affairs Department has energetically encouraged community involvement in achieving good order and cleanliness in our city, by means of various campaigns organised by the Government. I am most gratified by the ready assistance you have given.

"As the saying goes, 'it is difficult to get things done single-handed, but what is supported by all can easily be accomplished'. If the community as a whole works with one purpose, a great deal can be achieved.

"May I personally thank you all for what has been achieved, and ask you to drink a toast with me to a Happy and Successful New Year."

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PILING WORK FOR NEW GPO NEARING COMPLETION

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The General Post Office will stand on a new site with an area nearly double its present size when it moves from Pedder Street.

The site, to the north of Connaught Centre and between Blake Pier and the Star Ferry Concourse, takes up 40,000 square feet. The existing site occupied by the 63-year-old building is about 23,000 square feet.

Piling work for the new GPO started last month and is now nearing completion. The actual building work will begin in May and should be completed by the end of next year.

With a total area of about 180,000 square feet, the new office complex will have space for a comprehensive range of services.

On the ground floor will be the main parcel office and associated parcel sorting areas and loading and unloading facilities.

The main public hall and some 15,000 post office boxes will be on the first floor, which also accommodates a mail sorting office.

On the second floor will be the main mail sorting office, and on the third and fourth floors administrative offices for the post office headquarters and welfare facilities for the staff.

The new building will be provided with up-to-date mail handling equipment to improve mail flow, and to enable the work to be handled more efficiently.

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MORE BUILDINGS IN WESTERN TO BE PULLED DOWN

Part Of Urban Renewal Scheme

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Fourteen buildings in the Western District will be pulled down as part of the government's redevelopment plan, to make way for a hawker bazaar in the future.

A senior estate surveyor with the Public Works Department, Mr. H.C. Tam, said that under the Urban Renewal Pilot Scheme, (Phase II) for the Western District, the government would demolish No. 6 to 16, Fat Hing Street and No. 42 to 46, Queen's Road West.

The cost of the demolition work is estimated to be \$140,000, and tenders are now being invited.

This piece of land will eventually be used for a controlled hawker bazaar.

"This will be the only permanent site for a hawker bazaar within the scheme," said Mr. Tam. "It will be allocated to Urban Services Department for hawkers within the district."

The bazaar, with an area of about 7,000 square feet, will accommodate 74 fruit and vegetable stalls and 237 stalls of various types.

Additional space will be provided to accommodate hawkers at present operating outside this immediate area.

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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 (Monday) 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>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mow -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		2.0
S.C.Jion - old crop	Good	1.9
Po Hgai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	-
A1 Super	Good	1.5
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	-

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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	4.8	3.0	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.6	0.6	1.8
Squid	Limited	6.2	2.5	5.0
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.3	1.1	1.7
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.5	1.2	1.8
Croakers	Good	1.9	1.0	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	1.85	1.4	1.7
Melon Coat	Good	2.7	1.6	2.0
Breams	Normal	4.5	3.5	4.0
Yellow Belly	Good	2.1	0.7	1.5
Mackerels	Limited	5.0	3.2	3.8
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.7	0.8	1.1
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.5	1.1	1.4
Horse-Head	Good	5.5	3.2	4.2
Melon Seed	Normal	3.1	2.5	2.8
Pomfrets	-	-	-	-
Garoupas	Normal	8.0	5.0	7.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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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	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.6
White cabbage	Limited	1.2	0.4	0.8
Chinese Lottuce	Limited	1.0	0.3	0.7
Chinese Kale	Normal	1.6	0.6	1.2
Spring onion	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Spinach	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.9	0.3	0.6
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

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