



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, February 5, 1974

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commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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GOVERNOR PRAISES TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS

For Its Role In Social And Educational Services

The government has relied heavily on the co-operation and support of voluntary organisations to provide social and educational services for Hong Kong, the Governor said today.

Speaking at the opening of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Lee Ching Dea Memorial College, Sir Murray MacLehose said: "The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has always been one of the leaders in this voluntary partnership with the Government."

He praised the important role it played in education and in providing medical care for the needy for over a hundred years.

"Its seven primary and four secondary schools with over 12,000 pupils represent a fine contribution, and it has plans for a further three secondary schools," the Governor said.

Sir Murray pointed out that the targets for post-primary education set for 1976 were now well on the way to achievement and plans for the next stage were being formulated.

"The aim as you know is to ensure that all in the 12-14 age group receive a minimum of three years' secondary education, and that 40 per cent of the 12-16 age group will secure places in five-year courses," he said.

The liveliness of the public debate on this high expansion of secondary education stimulated by the Education Board's Green Paper, he added, had been refreshing, and showed how valuable this method of public consultation could be.

Sir Murray asked the young people, who benefit from the expanding educational facilities, not to forget their responsibility to the people of Hong Kong, who had played a very substantial part in the provision of secondary education.

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The new school is located at Cloud View Road near Tin Hau Temple Road. It has 24 classrooms for over 900 students.

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

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"I am very pleased to be here today to officiate at the formal opening of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Lee Ching Dea Memorial College.

"For over a hundred years, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has been known for its provision of medical care for the needy, but its educational work is equally important. Its seven primary and four secondary schools with over 12,000 pupils represent a fine contribution, and it has plans for a further three secondary schools.

"In providing social and educational services for our population, the Government has relied heavily on the co-operation and support of the many voluntary organisations which have become established within our community. The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has always been one of the leaders in this voluntary partnership with the Government. I am most grateful for this, and I am reassured by your address, Mr. Chairman, that the Government can count on your continued co-operation and support in the years to come.

"We are well on our way to achieving the targets for post-primary education set for 1976, and we are now formulating our plans for the next stage. The aim as you know is to ensure that all in the 12 - 14 age group receive a minimum of three years' secondary education, and that 40% of the 12 - 16 age group will secure places in 5-year courses.

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"The modalities of this high expansion in secondary education are now the subject of a public debate stimulated by the Education Board's Green Paper. The liveliness of this debate has been refreshing, and shows how valuable this method of public consultation can be. But whatever the road chosen, the challenge to our resources will be formidable, but I am sure that with the support of the voluntary organisations and of the public it can be met.

"Finally, to the young people who benefit from Hong Kong's ever expanding educational facilities I have this to say: never forget your responsibility to the people of Hong Kong, who have played a very substantial part in the provision of secondary education. When you leave school - and, indeed, while you are at school - take part in activities designed to help those less fortunate than yourselves.

"In doing this, you will do a service to Hong Kong and follow the fine example set by the Directors of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals."

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INCREASE IN PORT ACTIVITIES

There has been a general upward trend in port activities in the last three years, according to statistics released by the Marine Department today.

Although the number of ocean-going ships entering Hong Kong has been decreasing, the amount of cargo throughput has been steadily on the increase.

In 1973, 7,358 vessels entered port, 469 less than the previous year, while the cargo throughput, including all types of oil imports, was 15,940,120 long tons, an increase of 11.5 per cent or 1,643,554 long tons over 1972.

Commenting on the statistics, a spokesman for the department explained that the decrease in the number of ships entering port was due to the advent of container ships.

"All three containers berths at Kwai Chung are now operational and handling the large (60,000 tons gross) 'third generation' container ships," he said.

"These are progressively replacing smaller conventional ships on certain trades, mainly to the U.S.A., Europe and the United Kingdom.

"Indications are that about 40 per cent of all dry cargo imports and exports are presently carried in containers," he added.

The influx of larger ships is shown by the increase in the total net tonnage of ships entering port.

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In 1971, it was 24.26 million tons. The figure went up to 28.23 million tons in 1972 and 31.01 million tons last year -- this despite fewer number of ships coming in.

The port statistics also showed a marked decrease in the number of passengers arriving by sea, coming down from 26,097 in 1971 to 11,655 in 1972, and a mere 8,802 in 1973.

"Several reasons can be attributed to this fall-off," the Marine Department spokesman said, "not least of which are the increasing running costs for passenger ships and the increasing number of cheaper chartered air passages which are now available."

On the other hand, however, the number of passengers travelling to and from Macau has shown a significant increase.

In 1971, the figure was 3,193,855, increasing to 3,861,876 in 1972, and 4,496,507 last year.

The spokesman said that in view of the escalation in passenger movements, the government would completely re-provision the Macau Ferry Terminal to meet the increasing demands on the facility.

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FLYOVERS FOR GARDEN ROAD

Two new flyovers are to be built over the Garden Road Roundabout to cope with the increasing volume of traffic in the Mid-Levels area.

One will be about 360 feet long and will link Magazine Gap Road to Garden Road, while the other, approximately 450 feet in length, will carry eastbound traffic on Robinson Road across the existing roundabout to Magazine Gap Road.

Ground level roads in the vicinity will also be widened as a part of the improvement project.

Commenting on the project, a Public Works spokesman said: "Traffic congestion at this location already occurs during peak hours and is expected to increase with the completion of residential development currently taking place in the Mid-Levels.

"When completed, the new flyovers will enable all major traffic movements at the junction to flow freely, thus considerably increasing the present capacity."

Work is scheduled to start in April and is expected to take about 12 months to complete.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a sketch showing the new flyovers will be distributed separately in the press boxes this evening.

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IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

To Stanley And Repulse Bay Area

A new break-pressure tank, capable of holding 12,500 gallons of water, will be built shortly at West Bay to improve the water supply to the Stanley and Repulse Bay area.

At the same time, about 200 feet of main will be laid in conjunction with the project.

The new tank will replace the existing one which serves premises at Headland Road and the low lying area of Repulse Bay.

Work on the project will begin next month and is expected to take about four months to complete.

Commenting on the project, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said that the existing tank, which only has a capacity of 11,000 gallons, was built before the war and cracks and leakage had developed resulting in wastage of water and the possibility of contamination.

"To cope with the present demand a bigger tank with larger inlet pipe is necessary," he said.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR PARTY FOR 400 DISABLED

Some 400 disabled people from all over Hong Kong are to be entertained at a Lunar New Year Party on Friday (February 8).

They will be the guests of the Social Welfare Department's Kwun Tong Settlement For The Severely Disabled and the Kwun Tong Kai Liu Area Committee.

The disabled are from institutions run by the Social Welfare Department, the Spastics Association of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

Relatives and friends of the disabled have also been invited to make this party for them as enjoyable as possible.

The party will be held at the Kwun Tong Community Centre from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

Officiating will be Miss Annie Chan, Assistant Director (Social Work) of the Social Welfare Department; Mr. Michael Sze, City District Officer Kwun Tong; Mr. Wong Wah-sang, Managing Director of Chung Wah Ship Building Company and Mr. Lok Chuen-pan, Chairman of the Kai Liu Area Committee.

A varied programme of entertainment has been arranged and will include folk dance, a magic show, a dragon dance and a demonstration of the Chinese martial art Kung Fu.

During the party gifts donated by a number of commercial firms will be distributed to the disabled.

Students of Baptist College, scouts from the Shing Tak Street Boys' Centre and members of the Kwun Tong Youth Service Group will act as volunteers to help run the party.

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Notes to Editors: You are welcome to cover the party on Friday (February 8) at the Kwun Tong Community Centre at 17 Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

New traffic arrangements will be introduced in a section of Waterloo Road on Thursday (February 7) to facilitate the construction of the next phase of the Waterloo Road flyover.

From 10.30 a .m. on Thursday, right turns from Waterloo Road northbound into Boundary Street will be prohibited.

All vehicles wishing to make this turn will be diverted along Prince Edward Road, Knight Street and then into Boundary Street.

Through traffic travelling northwards along Waterloo Road will not be affected by the arrangements.

Appropriate traffic signs will be in position to guide motorists.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Tuesday) 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 Mew -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		1.84
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	-
A1 Super	Good	1.42
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.74
<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	5.2	3.2	4.2
Big-Eyes	Good	2.7	0.8	1.8
Squid	Scarce	6.5	2.8	5.5
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.2	1.0	1.5
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.3	1.0	1.8
Croakers	Good	1.8	0.7	1.2
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.3	2.4	3.0
Melon Coat	Good	1.9	1.2	1.4
Breams	-	-	-	"
Yellow Belly	Good	1.5	0.7	1.2
Mackerels	Normal	5.3	3.8	4.2
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.7	0.6	1.7
Fork-Tail	Good	1.6	0.9	1.3
Horse-Head	Limited	5.5	4.0	4.8
Melon Seed	Normal	3.5	2.0	3.0
Pomfrets	-	-	-	"
Garoupas	Limited	8.0	5.5	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	1.6	0.6	1.2
White cabbage	Normal	0.8	0.3	0.5
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.7	0.2	0.45
Chinese Kale	Limited	1.4	0.4	0.9
Spring onion	Good	0.8	0.2	0.5
Spinach	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.4	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Limited	1.5	0.5	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Limited	290