



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1974

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SOME WORKERS NOT BENEFITTING FROM STATUTORY HOLIDAYS
EMPLOYERS ADVISED TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS

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MORE THAN A MILLION HONG KONG EMPLOYEES ARE ENTITLED TO SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS A YEAR - BUT NOT ALL ARE GETTING THEM, A SENIOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY.

MR. TSUI TIM-FOOK, THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE, SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS RECEIVING COMPLAINTS FROM EMPLOYEES IN NON-INDUSTRIAL JOBS THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN THEIR STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

HE POINTED OUT TO EMPLOYERS THAT NEW PROVISIONS INCORPORATED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FROM JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR MEANT THAT ANY NON-MANUAL WORKER EARNING UP TO \$1,500 A MONTH QUALIFIED FOR THE SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, ALONG WITH ALL MANUAL WORKERS. AND SINCE APRIL, THIS WAGE LIMIT HAD BEEN INCREASED TO \$2,000.

FORMERLY, STATUTORY HOLIDAYS WERE THE PREROGATIVE OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, AS LAID DOWN IN THE OLD INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (HOLIDAYS WITH PAY AND SICKNESS ALLOWANCE) ORDINANCE.

MR. TSUI WAS ADDRESSING A HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON.

HE SAID: +IT IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS, SOME NON-INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS ARE UNABLE TO RELEASE THEIR STAFF ON STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

+BUT THERE IS NO REASON THAT THE EMPLOYER CONCERNED SHOULD NOT PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAYS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE ORDINANCE, OR THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE SHOULD NOT, AS FAR AS THE ORDINANCE PERMITS, AGREE TO ARRANGE SUBSTITUTE HOLIDAYS.+

MR. TSUI URGED NON-INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS AND THEIR STAFF TO READ THE ORDINANCE OR BE GUIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SO THAT OFFICERS DID NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH MORE COMPLAINTS AFTER THE NEXT STATUTORY HOLIDAY - OCTOBER 1, THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

HE SAID THE OTHER STATUTORY HOLIDAYS ARE - LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE SECOND DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR, CHING MING FESTIVAL, TUEN NG (DRAGON BOAT) FESTIVAL AND THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY.

MR. TSUI ALSO REVEALED THAT SOME INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS HAD NOT YET MADE THE NECESSARY CHANGES REGARDING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEIR WORKERS WERE PAID FOR STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE QUALIFYING SERVICE WHICH ENTITLED AN EMPLOYEE TO PAY ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY HAD BEEN SHORTENED FROM 180 DAYS TO THREE MONTHS ON A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

HE SAID: +WE HAVE LEARNED OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE NOT MADE THE NECESSARY CHANGE. WE HOPE IT IS UNINTENTIONAL, OTHERWISE IT WOULD BECOME AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

+IF THEY HAVE ANY QUERY ON THE NEW STATUTORY HOLIDAY PROVISIONS, OFFICERS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE ARE READY TO HELP.+

SPEAKING ON TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, MR. TSUI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN UNEQUIVOCAL WRITTEN CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WHICH WOULD SERVE TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

+AN ORAL CONTRACT MAY NOT BE CLEAR OR WELL REMEMBERED,+ HE SAID.

EMPLOYERS WERE OBLIGED UNDER THE LAW TO TELL PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES IN ADVANCE ABOUT THEIR WAGES AND CONDITIONS.

AND IF THE EMPLOYEE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION IN WRITING, THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER MUST IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE IT.

MR. TSUI ALSO ADVISED EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO AGREE ON THE LENGTH OF NOTICE FOR TERMINATING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

+IF YOU HAVE NOT AGREED ON THE LENGTH OF NOTICE, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, WHERE IT IS APPLICABLE, SHALL PRESUME IT TO BE ONE MONTH, WHICH DOES NOT ALWAYS, AS OUR OWN EXPERIENCE SHOWS, SUIT BOTH PARTIES, ESPECIALLY IN INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

AS 75 PER CENT OF DISPUTES WERE, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, RELATED TO NOTICE OF TERMINATION, MR. TSUI ENCOURAGED EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS EMPLOYEES TO BE CLEAR-CUT IN THIS MATTER AT THE OUTSET.

+THE ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT MAY WELL BE AN UNPLEASANT ROW AT THE END,+ MR. TSUI SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. TSUI'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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OVERSEAS DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED
FOR GOVERNMENT JOBS
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES ACCEPT AMERICAN AND OTHER OVERSEAS DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS IN RECRUITING STAFF TO THE CIVIL SERVICE.

HE MADE THE REMARKS AT A STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE HANG SENG BANK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN AMERICA.

IN FACT, MR. HAMMOND SAID THAT CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT FOR JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE REQUIRING GRADUATES USUALLY STIPULATE 'A HONG KONG DEGREE OF THE EQUIVALENT'.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE CASE OF DEGREES OBTAINED ABROAD, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE HONG KONG EQUIVALENT.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS BASED ON THE LENGTH AND DEPTH OF STUDY LEADING TO THE DEGREE AND THE STANDARD ATTAINED.

MR. HAMMOND ADDED THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH HAD THE NECESSARY MEANS TO ASSESS AND TO RECOGNISE THE EQUIVALENT HONG KONG STANDARD OF AN AMERICAN DEGREE. BUT EACH APPLICATION HAS TO BE ASSESSED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS.

HIS ADVICE TO HOLDERS OF AMERICAN DEGREES WHO WERE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WERE IN DOUBT ABOUT THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, WAS TO APPLY FOR THE JOB.

ON THE QUESTION OF POST GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS, MR. HAMMOND SAID THERE WERE OPENINGS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR MOST PROFESSIONS, BUT THERE WERE SOME DIFFICULTIES ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, APART FROM JOBS REQUIRING A PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION THERE WERE MANY OTHER JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE TWO GENERAL GRADES WHICH REGULARLY RECRUIT GRADUATES ARE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE GRADES AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER GRADES WHOSE MEMBERS SPECIALISE IN A PARTICULAR SPHERE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. IN THESE LATTER POSTS, DEGREES ARE ALSO PREFERRED.

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OCCUPATION PERMITS GRANTED TO FOUR NEW SCHOOLS

A TOTAL OF 41 COMPLETED BUILDINGS, INCLUDING FOUR SCHOOLS AND A FERRY PIER IN KWUN TONG, WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION LAST MONTH.

ONE OF THE SCHOOLS IS LOCATED IN BLUE POOL ROAD AND BELONGS TO THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS. ANOTHER IS IN BORRETT ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS AND COMPRISES FIVE SCHOOL BLOCKS, AN ASSEMBLY HALL AND A SWIMMING POOL.

THE OTHER TWO ARE SITUATED IN SAI YEE STREET, AND IN SHEK PAI STREET IN KWUN TONG.

THE TOTAL DECLARED BUILDING COSTS OF THE 41 NEW BUILDINGS AMOUNTED TO OVER \$100 MILLION.

FIFTY-EIGHT BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED IN JUNE, AS COMPARED WITH 92 IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THESE INCLUDE MULTI-STOREY COMMERCIAL AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN KING'S ROAD, WANCHAI ROAD AND HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD.

APPROVAL WAS ALSO GIVEN FOR WORK TO START ON 43 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, FACTORIES, STAFF QUARTERS AND A HOSPITAL IN SANDY BAY.

CONSENT WAS ALSO GIVEN FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 47 BUILDINGS, INCLUDING NINE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

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PREVENTIVE SERVICE PASSING-OUT PARADE

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PASSING-OUT PARADE FOR REVENUE INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT REVENUE OFFICERS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JULY 27) AT 11 A.M. IN THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL AT 16 MILES, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TAI LAM CHUNG.

MR. DAVID JORDAN, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE SERVICE, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AND ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT. A VAN WILL BE WAITING AT THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATION IN TSIN SHA TSUI AT 9.45 A.M. ON SATURDAY TO TAKE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL AND BACK. LIGHT REFRESHMENT WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE PARADE.

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WATER SUPPLY TO LICENSED AREAS

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PLANS FOR A NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TO LICENSED AREAS TO IMPROVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT ARE NOW IN THE FINAL STAGE OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE WATERWORKS OFFICE.

UNDER THIS SYSTEM, WATER SUPPLY WILL LITERALLY BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOORSTEP OF TENANTS' HOMES.

IN THE INITIAL STAGE, CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHEK YAM AND KOWLOON BAY WEST LICENSED AREAS WILL BE INSTALLED WITH THIS NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

+THIS SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD HELP TO CONSERVE SUPPLY, WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL FUTURE LICENSED AREAS AND DEPENDING ON FINANCE, TO ALL EXISTING LICENSED AREAS AS WELL,+ A HOUSING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

REFERRING TO COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS OF KOWLOON BAY WEST LICENSED AREA OF AN INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AS THIS SITE HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW SUPPLY SYSTEM, ONLY TWO PUBLIC STANDPIPES WERE INSTALLED.

+TO MEET THEIR NEEDS IN THIS HOT WEATHER, THE WATERWORKS OFFICE HAVE AGREED TO SET UP ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY STANDPIPES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN YUEN LONG WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS ON SATURDAY (JULY 27) STARTING FROM 1 A.M.

THE TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION IS TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREAS AFFECTED INCLUDE YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD, THE NULLAH, ON NING ROAD, SAI TAI STREET, KOK TING STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU CROSS ROAD AND SAN TIN, KAM TIN SHI, KAM HING WAI, SHUI TAU TSUEN, SHUI MEI TSUEN, PAK WAI TSUEN, KAM TIN MARKET, KAM SHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN KAM TIN ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD, KAM TIN ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU CROSS ROAD AND TSUEN KAM ROAD, INCLUDING SHEK KONG CAMP.

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N.T. VILLAGES TO BE EXPANDED

MORE CROWN LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR VILLAGE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING VILLAGE POPULATION IN CERTAIN AREAS.

FOUR VILLAGES IN SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU DISTRICTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH BUILDING LAND FOR VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT.

DISCLOSING THE PLAN, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, DISTRICT OFFICER, SAI KUNG, TOLD THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES OF TAI MONG TSAI, PAK KONG AU, HA YEUNG AND SHEUNG SZE VAN THAT THE AIM OF THE VILLAGE AREA EXTENSION SCHEME IS TO MEET DEMANDS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN VILLAGE HOUSING CONDITIONS.

HE SAID THAT SMALL HOUSES WOULD BE BUILT ON THE SITES, ALL OF WHICH ARE FAVOURABLY LOCATED. AREAS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, VILLAGE OFFICE, CAR PARK AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WERE ALSO EARMARKED IN THE PLAN.

THE PROPOSAL BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER WAS WELCOMED AND ACCEPTED BY THE TWO CHAIRMEN OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE FOUR VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES.

A TOTAL OF 74 FAMILIES FROM THE FOUR VILLAGES HAVE APPLIED FOR BUILDING PLANS, AND THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED SHORTLY.

APPLICATIONS FROM A FURTHER 19 OR MORE VILLAGES IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT FOR THE VILLAGE EXTENSION PROGRAMME ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT SALE 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

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	--	--
CHU CHO	--	--
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.79
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.77
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.50
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
U.S. RICE		

AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.72

PAKISTAN RICE	--	--

TAIWAN RICE	--	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - NORMAL
 WHOLESAL PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	LIMITED	6.30	3.50	4.50
BIG-EYES	NORMAL	3.20	0.90	2.10
SQUID	SCARCE	5.80	2.40	4.50
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.80	1.70	2.00
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.50	1.50	2.30
CROAKERS	LIMITED	3.00	1.00	2.40
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	SCARCE	3.30	2.00	2.70
MELON COAT	LIMITED	2.60	1.60	2.40
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.80	3.20	5.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	3.20	0.80	2.00
MACKERELS	LIMITED	5.80	4.50	5.00
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	0.60	0.50	0.55
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.80	1.00	1.40
HORSE-HEAD	SCARCE	7.00	4.50	6.00
MELON SEED	GOOD	3.60	1.20	2.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	11.00	10.00	10.50
GARROUPAS	SCARCE	9.50	7.50	8.00
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.40	1.00	1.60
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.60	0.50	1.20
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.50	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.65	0.10	0.40
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	2.20	0.80	1.50
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	4.20	1.20	2.60
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.40	0.30	1.00
SPINACH			NO SALE	
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.70
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.60
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.60	1.00	1.80