



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
MACAU FERRY TERMINAL PASSENGER CHARGE CUT BY TWO DOLLARS	1
AUGUST CONSUMER PRICE INDICES REMAIN STABLE	2
AIRMAIL SERVICES TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED	2
OVER \$3.5 MILLION ALLOCATED FROM LOTTERIES FUND TO SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS	3
ANTI-DRUGS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FINALS TOMORROW	4
WATER SITUATION : RESERVOIRS 96 PER CENT FULL	5
WINNERS OF WONG TAI SIN COMPETITIONS TO RECEIVE PRIZES TOMORROW	5

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975.

- 1 -

MACAU FERRY TERMINAL PASSENGER CHARGE REVISED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 26) THE PRESENT EMBARKATION AND DIS-EMBARKATION FEES WHICH WERE INCREASED AS PART OF THE 1975 BUDGET WOULD BE REDUCED BY 20 PER CENT AND CONSOLIDATED INTO A SINGLE EMBARKATION FEE.

EXPLAINING THE REDUCTION IN THE FEES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FEWER PASSENGERS HAD BEEN TRAVELLING TO MACAU SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974, AND THIS DECLINE COINCIDED WITH THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IN HONG KONG.

MACAU IS ALSO GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT PHASE ECONOMICALLY, AND AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO REDUCE THE FEES CHARGED.

AT THE SAME TIME THE OPPORTUNITY WAS BEING TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT A SUGGESTION FROM THE FERRY COMPANIES THAT, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, ONE EMBARKATION FEE SHOULD BE PAYABLE IN HONG KONG RATHER THAN SEPARATE FEES ON EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION.

THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE EFFECT OF BOTH THE REDUCTION IN FEES AND THE NEW SYSTEM OF PAYMENT WOULD BE THAT ON TICKETS COSTING MORE THAN \$12 SINGLE (OR \$24 RETURN) THERE WOULD BE AN EMBARKATION FEE OF \$8= AND ON TICKETS COSTING \$12 OR LESS SINGLE (\$24 OR LESS RETURN) THE FEE WOULD BE \$3.20.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

- 2 -

AUGUST CONSUMER PRICE INDICES REMAIN STABLE

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THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDICES (A AND B) FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST REMAINED STABLE AT 107 AS INCREASES IN VARIOUS SECTORS WERE OFFSET BY DECREASES IN OTHERS.

IN THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), RELATING TO HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF \$400-\$1,499, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DROPPED BY ONE POINT. THIS REFLECTED A 10 PER CENT DROP IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF RICE AND A 12 PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT INCREASE RESPECTIVELY IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH AND FRESH FRUITS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AN INCREASE OF ONE POINT WAS RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR HOUSING, MAINLY AS A RESULT OF HIGHER WATER CHARGES.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES ALSO ROSE BY ONE POINT, DUE TO HIGHER PRICES AND REPAIRING CHARGES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

IN THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B), REFLECTING MONTHLY EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE \$1,500-\$2,999 GROUP, A FRACTIONAL INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS RECORDED.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING ALSO ADVANCED BY ONE POINT AND THAT FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS BY ONE POINT, MAINLY AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR MEDICINE AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD GOODS.

THE EFFECT OF THESE INCREASES DID NOT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE 'ALL-ITEMS' INDEX, HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF ROUNDING OFF.

MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF COMMODITY AND SERVICE IN THE TWO MAIN INDICES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

IN COMPARISON, THE OLD GENERAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST STOOD AT 188, TWO POINTS OR 1.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR JULY.

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AIRMAIL TO TIMOR SUSPENDED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT AIRMAIL SERVICES TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

- 3 -

OVER \$3.5 M. ALLOCATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS
FROM LOTTERIES FUND

MORE THAN \$3.5 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND IN THE FORM OF GRANTS OR LOANS FOR VARIOUS SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE BIGGEST OF THE 41 GRANTS AMOUNTED TO \$1.7 MILLION AND WAS MADE TO THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TO SUBSIDISE THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF ITS HEADQUARTERS IN WANCHAI.

ANOTHER GRANT OF \$275,000 WAS SET ASIDE FOR SALVATION ARMY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AT ITS TAI HANG TUNG CENTRE.

ST JAMES SETTLEMENT'S SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED AT KENNEDY ROAD, NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION, RECEIVED A RECURRENT GRANT OF \$227,500.

ANOTHER WORKSHOP, OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, WAS GIVEN AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF \$500,000. THIS IS THE ONLY LOAN FROM THE FUND SO FAR IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE LOTTERIES FUND, WHICH OBTAINS ITS PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES AND 'LUCKY' CAR NUMBERS, WAS SET UP TO HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE EIGHT GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES HELD SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE BROUGHT MORE THAN \$2.7 MILLION TO THE FUND AND THE AUCTION OF 'LUCKY' CAR NUMBERS, ABOUT \$370,000.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LOTTERIES FUND NOTED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LOTTERY SERIES WOULD END IN OCTOBER, BUT THE FUND WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AS THE NEW MARK SIX LOTTERY WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

THE FIRST MARK SIX LOTTERY WAS HELD IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

THOUGH IN A DIFFERENT FORM, THE APPROPRIATION OF PROCEEDS FROM THE MARK SIX LOTTERIES FOLLOWS THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES - THAT IS, THE PAYMENT OF SURPLUSES INTO THE FUND AFTER PAYMENT OF PRIZES, BETTING DUTY AND OPERATING EXPENSES.

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/4

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

- 4 -

ANTI-DRUGS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FINALS TOMORROW

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THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CUP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REACHES ITS CLIMAX TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHEN THE FOUR SURVIVING TEAMS WILL BATTLE IT OUT FOR THE TOP HONOURS AT QUEEN ELIZABETH II YOUTH CENTRE STADIUM IN MONG KOK.

THE FINALS WILL BE BETWEEN TEAMS FROM WESTERN DISTRICT AND KOWLOON CITY, AND EASTERN AND MONG KOK DISTRICTS AT 7 P.M. AND 8.15 P.M. RESPECTIVELY.

THE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THE ERIC HO CUP AND THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CUP AFTER THE FINAL GAMES.

OFFICIATING WILL BE MR. ERIC HO, DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, REV. K.L. STUMPF, CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. CHAM SUI-LAM, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, AND MR. CHING MAN-KI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION.

THE TOURNAMENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE SPORTS AS WELL AS TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE DANGERS OF DRUG ADDICTION.

TEN TEAMS TOOK PART IN THE TOURNAMENT, REPRESENTING WESTERN, EASTERN, CENTRAL, AND WANCHAI DISTRICTS ON THE ISLAND, AND WONG TAI SIN, YAU MA TEI, MONG KOK, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON CITY AND SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICTS OF KOWLOON.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FINALS TOMORROW EVENING.

PUBLICITY PAMPHLETS ON THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SPECTATORS ATTENDING THE FUNCTION.

NOTE TO EDITORS: MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE OCCASION COVERED. THE FIRST GAME BETWEEN WESTERN AND KOWLOON CITY BEGINS AT 7 P.M. TOMORROW. THE PRIZE PRESENTATIONS WILL START AT ABOUT 9 P.M.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975.

- 5 -

RESERVOIRS 96 PER CENT FULL

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HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS HELD A TOTAL OF 65,200 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER AS AT 9 A.M. THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 96.9 PER CENT OF THE FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 35,782 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE, THE BIGGEST RESERVOIR, WAS 98.0 PER CENT FULL WITH 49,470 MILLION GALLONS -- COMPARED WITH 27,521 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR.

NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 2,492.6 MM (98.13 IN) OF RAINFALL HAS BEEN RECORDED. THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR STANDS AT 1,941.0 MM (76.42 IN).

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PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

WINNERS OF THE CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY, PAINTING, SINGING AND MODEL BUILDING COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY THE CULTURAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE PRESENTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HALL OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 104 CHING TAK STREET, WONG TAI SIN, AT 3 P.M. PRESENTING THE PRIZES WILL BE MR. SIEH SIN-CHEUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

ABOUT 300 GUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, INCLUDING HEADMASTERS AND STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS. WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE FUNCTION.

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