



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DROP IN CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR APRIL
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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES (A) AND (B) FOR LAST MONTH (APRIL) WERE BOTH 156, DOWN BY TWO POINTS AND ONE POINT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE CPI (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI (B) FROM THOSE SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 500 AND \$2 999 A MONTH, AS DETERMINED IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY OF 1973/74.

THE CHANGES FOR APRIL 1980 IN RESPECT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE TWO INDICES, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1979, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COMPONENT	CPI (A)			CPI (B)		
	APRIL 1980	MARCH 1980	APRIL 1979	APRIL 1980	MARCH 1980	APRIL 1979
FOODSTUFFS	148	153	134	151	154	134
HOUSING	151	148	140	150	149	139
FUEL AND LIGHT	263	263	149	248	247	147
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	181	181	156	174	174	151
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	118	118	106	116	115	104
DURABLE GOODS	133	133	123	129	129	120
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	167	166	141	165	164	139
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	194	192	148	195	192	154
SERVICES	165	163	144	169	167	146
ALL ITEMS	156	158	137	156	157	136

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY FIVE POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY THREE POINTS IN CPI (B). PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT WERE THE DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, PORK, SALT-WATER FISH AND LIVE POULTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF RICE INCREASED. THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP. MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY THREE POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY ONE POINT IN CPI (B) AS HIGHER RENT WAS REGISTERED IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND IN SOME HOUSING SOCIETY ESTATES AND HOUSING AUTHORITY GROUP A ESTATES.

HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY INCREASED THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT BY ONE POINT IN CPI (B). THE EFFECT OF THIS INCREASE WAS PARTLY OFFSET BY THE DECREASE IN THE PRICE OF KEROSENE.

THE ONE POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN CPI (B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR RUBBER FOOTWEAR.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES FOR MEDICINES, PERIODICALS, TOILET REQUISITES, RELIGIOUS ITEMS AND FRESH FLOWERS.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY THREE POINTS IN CPI (B), REFLECTING THE IMPACT OF THE UPWARD REVISION IN PEAK TRAM FARES AND MACAO FERRY AND HYDROFOIL FARES SINCE MARCH AS WELL AS HIGHER CHARGES FOR TRAIN FARES, STAR FERRY FARES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES AND REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

FOLLOWING HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HAIR-DRESSING, THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B).

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR APRIL 1980, WHICH WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

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PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS NEED PRIVATE HELP

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PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SHOULD PLAY A MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT IMPROVING SOCIAL ATTITUDES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION (PUBLICITY), MR PETER MOSS, TOLD THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING ON GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDIA, MR MOSS CITED THE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN AS AN EXAMPLE.

HE SAID THE CAMPAIGN HAD AN ENORMOUS BOOST THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ESTABLISHING AND PROMOTING ITS GOOD CITIZENS AWARD SCHEME.

+I WISH THAT INDIVIDUAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS WOULD FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE IN OTHER FIELDS,+ MR MOSS SAID.

TIME AND AGAIN HE HAD SEEN TELEVISION COMMERCIALS IN WHICH THE PRODUCTS OF VARIOUS SOFT DRINK DISTRIBUTORS WERE CONSUMED BY VACATIONERS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

+WHAT HAPPENS TO THE IMPERISHABLE PACKAGING WHEN THE VACATIONERS DEPART? DO WE SEE THEIR BOTTLES AND CANS CONSCIENTIOUSLY DEPOSITED IN THE LITTER BINS PROVIDED? NO WE DON'T. IT TAKES UP TOO MUCH PRECIOUS AIR TIME.+

SIMILARLY, HE CONTINUED, THOSE INDIVIDUALISTS WHO PERSISTED IN SMOKING WERE DEPICTED ENJOYING THEIR FAVOURITE BLEND OF TOBACCO IN THE MIDST OF FORESTS THAT MIGHT WELL BE IN A HIGHLY IMFLAMMABLE CONDITION, DEPENDING ON THE PREVAILING FIRE WARNINGS.

+DO WE SEE THEM CAREFULLY EXTINGUISH THESE POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS BEFORE THEY LEAVE? NO, WE MOST DECIDEDLY DO NOT,+ HE OBSERVED.

MR MOSS ADMIRERD THE FLAIR, THE IMAGINATION AND THE TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE THAT WENT INTO MUCH OF ADVERTISING DISPLAY, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF TV COMMERCIALS. +INDEED, SOME OF OUR BEST WORK BEARS COMPARISON WITH THE BEST YOU WILL SEE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.+

+HOWEVER, WHERE COMMUNITY AWARENESS IS CONCERNED, OUR ADVERTISERS HAVE YET TO GROW UP. THEY HAVE LARGELY DISREGARDED THE BENEFITS THEY STAND TO GAIN BY ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

+AND IT IS A LESSON THAT, IN THE END, MAY COST THEM DEAR. FOR COMMUNITY LOBBIES ARE FORMING THAT WILL CAMPAIGN FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOCIAL ATTITUDES OF OUR MAJOR PRODUCT DISTRIBUTORS.

+THE PUBLIC WILL DEMAND THAT THEY SHOW A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THEIR CONSUMERS,+ HE SAID.

MR MOSS ALSO SPOKE ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGNS, THE GOOD RESULTS OF WHICH COULD BE NEGATED BY A SELFISH FEW.

+YOUR INTENTION TO REPORT A PETTY CRIME IS NOT HELPED BY THE ACQUAINTANCE WHO ASSURES YOU IT IS A WASTE OF TIME- YOUR RESOLVE TO INFORM THE MANAGEMENT OF A STAIRWAY OBSTRUCTION THAT POSES A SERIOUS FIRE RISK TO YOUR BUILDING IS WEAKENED BY THE INDIFFERENCE DISPLAYED BY YOUR NEIGHBOURS,+ HE SAID.

FORTUNATELY, HE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE SUFFICIENT PEOPLE WHO CARED ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE THINGS AND TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

THIS HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED TIME AND AGAIN IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS WITH THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, THE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, THE COMMUNITY AGAINST DRUGS CAMPAIGN, AND THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

+THE BALL IS ROLLING, AND IS PICKING UP MOMENTUM. BUT IT NEEDN'T ALWAYS BE GOVERNMENT THAT TAKES THE LEAD. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE COULD CONTRIBUTE A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN IT HAS DONE SO FAR,+ HE SAID.

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CUSTOMERS SATISFIED WITH IMMIGRATION HOT LINE
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THE EXTENDED TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES SERVICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, SET UP LAST DECEMBER, HAS BEEN VERY POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC.

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES MADE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AT 80 715, SHOWED A 30 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+NOT ONLY ARE WE ABLE TO COPE WITH MORE ENQUIRIES, WE ARE ALSO GETTING MANY MORE SATISFIED CUSTOMERS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE DEPARTMENT EXTENDED THE SERVICE TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR TO COPE WITH GROWING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR ADVICE ON THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF SERVICE IT PROVIDED, WHETHER IT CONCERNS THE IMMIGRATION OR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE OR THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE REGISTRY.

+TEN TELEPHONE HOT LINES FOR PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND REQUESTS WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE NEW OFFICE, GREATLY AUGMENTING THE FOUR LINES PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED.

+CALLERS ARE CONNECTED THROUGH ALMOST IMMEDIATELY NOW, EXCEPT DURING THE LUNCH HOUR WHEN HALF OF THE OFFICERS HAVE THEIR LUNCH BREAK,+ HE SAID. GENERALLY, THE BUSY HOURS ARE 10 AM TO 4 PM.

MOST OF THE CALLERS ARE GIVEN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS IMMEDIATELY.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING TO LEARN THAT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT LONG WAITING TIME FOR ANSWERS HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPANDED SERVICE,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

A +DIAL - A - FORM+ SERVICE IS ALSO PROVIDED.

+THIS SERVICE IS CONVENIENT AND TIME-SAVING. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO OBTAIN ANY APPLICATION FORM CAN SIMPLY DIAL 5-434711 AND THE FORM WILL BE SENT TO HIM BY POST,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED IN PERSON FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTER IN THE BASEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

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SCHOLARSHIP AT MALTA UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY AND MATRICULATION STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TENABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE SCHOLARSHIP IS BEING OFFERED BY THE MALTA GOVERNMENT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN FOR STUDENTS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

IT GIVES A STUDENT A CHANCE TO FOLLOW AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE, ACCOUNTANCY, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, PHARMACY, LAW, OR OTHER SUBJECTS.

THE SCHOLARSHIP COVERS FARES FROM AND RETURN TO HONG KONG, A MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE, AN ALLOWANCE FOR A NON-WORKING WIFE ACCOMPANYING THE STUDENT, APPROVED TUITION, LABORATORY AND EXAMINATION FEES, A BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE, AND FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

CANDIDATES MUST BE NORMALLY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, GRADUATES OR MATRICULANTS OF RECOGNISED UNIVERSITIES, AND UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE.

THEY MUST ALSO HAVE A GOOD COMMAND OF WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH, AND BE PREPARED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG AT THE END OF THEIR STUDY.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 15TH FLOOR, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS SELECTION COMMITTEE, AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BEFORE JUNE 14. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MAY BE REQUESTED TO FORWARD ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS AND WILL BE ASKED TO COMPLETE FURTHER STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS.

INFORMATION ON COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA IS LISTED IN THE +COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY YEARBOOK+ WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR READING AT THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION.

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TAX EXEMPTION ON EARNED INTEREST

INTEREST PAYABLE BY LICENSED BANKS, BY CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BY THE GOVERNMENT AT RATES OF UP TO 9 PER CENT PER ANNUM WILL BE EXEMPT FROM INTEREST TAX FROM TODAY (MONDAY).

IN ANNOUNCING THIS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT REPRESENTS A REDUCTION OF 1-1/2 PER CENT IN THE EXEMPTION LIMIT, AND FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY THAT THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE REDUCED TO 9 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE REDUCED RATE OF EXEMPTION APPLIES TO INTEREST ON ALL TIME DEPOSITS PAID ON AND AFTER TODAY. INTEREST AT A RATE ABOVE 9 PER CENT ON ANY SUCH TIME DEPOSIT WILL NOT BE EXEMPTED FROM INTEREST TAX, EVEN THOUGH THE RATE OF INTEREST MAY HAVE BEEN BELOW THE EXEMPTION CEILING IN FORCE AT THE TIME WHEN THE DEPOSIT WAS PLACED.

A NOTICE SIGNED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 28(1) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE TODAY.

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SECTION OF ROBINSON RD CLOSED

ROBINSON ROAD BETWEEN PARK ROAD AND THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO HOUSE NOS. 111-113 WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 28) FOR ABOUT A WEEK FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, ANOTHER SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN THE ACCESS ROAD AND OAKLANDS AVENUE WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO WAY.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT

WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY HIGH STREET, EASTERN STREET, FIRST STREET AND WESTERN STREET, AND INCLUDES PREMISES ON POKFULAM ROAD FROM HONG KONG UNIVERSITY TO HIGH STREET.

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