



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WATER CHARGES UP 10 PER CENT

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A GENERAL INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN WATER RATES AND INCREASES IN OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES AS FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR FOLLOWING AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF WATER CHARGES TODAY (TUESDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER AUTHORITY SAID THE NEW RATE WHICH APPLIES TO BOTH DOMESTIC AND TRADE CONSUMERS IS AIMED AT REFLECTING MORE ACCURATELY OPERATING COSTS.

"AS A RESULT OF VARIOUS MEASURES AIMED AT IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY, THE WATER AUTHORITY WILL SEE ZERO GROWTH IN ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1991/92 DESPITE HAVING TO CONTEND WITH INCREASING DEMAND IN TERMS OF BOTH THE NUMBER OF CONSUMERS SERVED AND THE VOLUME OF WATER SUPPLIED.

"NEVERTHELESS, OPERATING COSTS HAVE STILL RISEN AS A RESULT OF INFLATION AND THE NEED TO PURCHASE INCREASED QUANTITIES OF WATER FROM CHINA TO IMPROVE THE RESERVOIR STORAGE," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE NEW RATE, 17 PER CENT OF THE 1.5 MILLION DOMESTIC CONSUMERS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY A FREE SUPPLY OF WATER WHILE 67 PER CENT WILL PAY AN EXTRA SUM OF LESS THAN \$2 PER WEEK.

THE REMAINING 16 PER CENT WILL PAY \$2 OR MORE EXTRA PER WEEK. OF THIS GROUP, ABOUT 11 PER CENT WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE THAN \$5 EXTRA PER WEEK FOR THE WATER BILLS.

A COMPARISON OF THE WATER CHARGES PAYABLE BY DOMESTIC CONSUMERS UNDER THE OLD AND NEW TARIFFS IS SHOWN BELOW:

CONSUMPTION IN UNITS (1 UNIT = 1 CUBIC METRE)	CHARGES PER FOUR-MONTH PERIOD	
	PRESENT	NEW
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	\$	\$
15 AND BELOW	FREE	FREE
16 - 53	0 - 110.63	3.29 - 125.02
54 - 76	113.62 - 210.94	130.13 - 242.55
77 - 120	215.59 - 486.22	249.71 - 557.59
OVER 120	486.22 PLUS \$6.51 PER UNIT OVER	557.59 PLUS \$7.16 PER UNIT OVER

AS FOR NON-DOMESTIC SUPPLIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE 10 PER CENT INCREASE IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON BUSINESS OPERATIONS AS WATER CHARGES REPRESENT A SMALL PART OF THE OPERATING COSTS OF MOST FIRMS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEW WATER RATE WILL INCREASE THE PRODUCTION COSTS OF THE BLEACHING-DYEING INDUSTRY WHICH IS THE LARGEST CONSUMER OF WATER BY ABOUT 0.2 PER CENT, AND THAT OF THE ENTIRE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY BY ABOUT 0.01 PER CENT," HE SAID.

THE CHARGES FOR CONNECTION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES WILL ALSO BE INCREASED TO REFLECT THE RISE IN MATERIAL AND LABOUR COSTS. THE LAST INCREASES IN THESE CHARGES WERE ON APRIL 1, 1989.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF THE WATERWORKS OPERATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN ANNUAL REVIEWS OF WATER CHARGES SINCE 1982.

"BY UNDERTAKING ANNUAL REVIEWS RESULTING IN MODERATE INCREASES, THE GOVERNMENT COULD AVOID THE NEED FOR MAJOR INCREASES AT ONE TIME WHICH WOULD BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT FOR BOTH HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES TO ADJUST TO," HE ADDED.

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MEXICO'S IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES OF DENIM IMPORTS ANNOUNCED
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED AN IMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES OF US\$0.57 PER KILOGRAM ON IMPORTS OF DENIM (CONTAINING 85 PER CENT OR MORE OF COTTON) FROM HONG KONG WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS WERE INITIATED BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ON MAY 31, 1990.

THE PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ARE APPLICABLE TO IMPORTS OF DENIM FROM ALL HONG KONG COMPANIES.

HOWEVER, THE NANYANG COTTON MILL LTD, WHICH MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS NEVER EXPORTED DENIM TO MEXICO, HAS BEEN EXCLUDED.

"THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS POINTED OUT TO THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS WOULD BE DUMPING," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR MATTHEW K.C. CHEUNG, SAID.

"HONG KONG HAS AN OPEN MARKET AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW DUMPING CAN BE FINANCED," HE SAID.

"THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE APPARENTLY NOT ATTACHED MUCH WEIGHT TO THIS FACT," MR CHEUNG SAID.

/"INSTEAD, THEY

"INSTEAD, THEY SEEM TO HAVE RELIED HEAVILY ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE COMPLAINANT FIRMS IN MEXICO," HE SAID.

ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE ASPECT OF THE CASE IS THAT, MR CHEUNG ADDED, ALTHOUGH ONE HONG KONG COMPANY HAS BEEN EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DID NOT EXPORT DENIM TO MEXICO IN THE PERIOD IN QUESTION, OTHER COMPANIES IN A SIMILAR SITUATION HAVE BEEN INCLUDED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE DUTIES.

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS CALCULATED THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON THE BASIS THAT THE NORMAL SALES VALUE OF DENIM IN HONG KONG WAS US\$3.82 PER KILOGRAM, WHEREAS THE AVERAGE WEIGHTED PRICE OF MEXICO'S IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG WAS US\$3.25 PER KILOGRAM.

THE MARGIN OF DUMPING IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NORMAL VALUE AND THE EXPORT PRICE.

MR CHEUNG STRESSED THAT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WAS STILL EXAMINING THE DETAILS OF THE CASE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LOCAL MANUFACTURERS THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDINGS, BUT HAS NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT THEM ABOUT THE FINDINGS, WHICH HAVE ONLY JUST BECOME AVAILABLE.

"OUR INITIAL REACTION TO THE FINDINGS IS THAT IN SOME IMPORTANT RESPECTS THEY ARE NOT CONVINCING," HE SAID.

"BUT IN FAIRNESS WE SHALL TAKE TIME TO LOOK AT THE DETAILS AND ALSO CONSULT OUR MANUFACTURERS.

"AFTER THAT, WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE," HE SAID, EMPHASISING THAT THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ARE PROVISIONAL IN NATURE, PENDING THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE CASE.

MR CHEUNG ADDED THAT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND MEXICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL IN HONG KONG OVER THIS ISSUE.

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BETTER LABOUR BENEFITS IN PIPELINE
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PROVISIONS AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT COVERED BY THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SPRING RECEPTION, MR HAMMOND SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO LABOUR LEGISLATION IN THE COMING YEAR AND THESE WERE AMONG ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE.

/THE RECEPTION

THE RECEPTION WAS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION AND THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

MR HAMMOND TOLD SOME 400 EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECEPTION THAT CO-OPERATION AND TRUST BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WERE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS IMPROVEMENTS TO LABOUR LEGISLATION.

"IN PURSUANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE, WE HAVE HELPED THE CATERING TRADE AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO SET UP TRIPARTITE LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEES, AND HOPE TO HELP MORE INDUSTRIES TO DO THE SAME IN THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE OF TRIPARTISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS HAD MET WITH VERY ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS.

"IN PROMOTING GOOD LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION ORGANISED VARIOUS KINDS OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR, INCLUDING SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, TALKS, EXHIBITIONS AND TRAINING COURSES," HE SAID.

"THEY COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS SUCH AS JOINT CONSULTATION, EFFECTIVE LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION, GOOD PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ORGANISE SIMILAR ACTIVITIES AND TO ACT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AS A CATALYST IN THE PROMOTION OF BETTER LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE STRESSED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SPRING RECEPTION WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ON THE LABOUR RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE, MR CHAN SUI-KAU AND MISS LI FUNG-YING.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT GOOD LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS DEPENDED VERY MUCH ON THE PARTICIPATION, COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

"HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, PARTICULARLY MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMPROMISE WHERE NECESSARY, ARE ESSENTIAL TO SUSTAIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY," MR CHAN SAID.

"IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED SLOWING DOWN OF THE ECONOMY THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A GOOD STATE OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE OUR CONTINUOUS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY," HE ADDED.

MISS LI ALSO UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, COMPROMISE AND TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN BUILDING UP A HARMONIOUS WORKING ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY.

"WE HOPE THE SPIRIT AND PRINCIPLE OF TRIPARTISM COULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE YEAR TO COME," SHE SAID.

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DISTRICT OFFICES WILL UPKEEP SERVICE STANDARD

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO MINIMISE ANY ADVERSE IMPACT THE AUSTERITY PROGRAMME MAY HAVE ON SERVICES PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE IN SAI WAN HO, HE PLEDGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE THREE-TIER GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN WHICH THE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE AN INTEGRAL PART.

CITING EASTERN DISTRICT AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICE WAS ABLE TO REDEPLOY MANPOWER AND RESOURCES WITH THE OPENING OF ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARD OF SERVICES WAS MAINTAINED AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL.

MR LAN ALSO ASSURED THAT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD ATTEND DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS IN FUTURE.

TURNING TO THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD THIS SUNDAY, HE URGED COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO VOTE.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, PLEDGED TO FURTHER UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF SERVICES OFFERED TO THE COMMUNITY AFTER MOVING INTO THE NEW OFFICES AT THE EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING.

AT THE CEREMONY, MR LAN AWARDED A HEAD OF DEPARTMENTS COMMENDATION TO A LIAISON OFFICER OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR TERENCE LAU, WHO HAD TRIED TO RESCUE A DROWNING BOY IN THE SHING MUN RESERVOIR LAST AUGUST.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO MR LAU FOR HIS BRAVERY AND INTEGRITY WHICH HAD SET AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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NO NEW AIDS CASE SO FAR IN FEBRUARY

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) CASES IN HONG KONG REMAINS AT 45 TO DATE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 31 AIDS PATIENTS HAVE PASSED AWAY WHILE 14 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT HONG KONG.

RELEASING THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID FIVE MORE MEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST, BRINGING TO 166 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV CARRIERS WHO HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED AIDS.

OF THESE, 55 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, 91 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, FOUR WERE DRUG ABUSERS, THREE ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION, AND THE INFORMATION FOR THE OTHER 13 WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 184,569 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 841,945 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 14 WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

/AIDS VIRUS

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愛滋病抗体檢驗

AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing
病毒組 衛生署
Virus Unit, Department of Health

	Apr 85-Dec 90		Jan 91		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*
經由政府診所及醫院轉介 Referrals from Govt. hospitals and clinics	14259	74	964	3	15223	77
經由私家醫生及補助醫院轉介 Referrals from private practitioners and subvented hospitals	2113	43	18		2131	43
前往社會衛生科診所求診人次 Attendances at social hygiene clinics	158390	27	2278	2	160668	29
血友病患者 Haemophiliacs	495	60	8		493	60
濫用靜脈注射毒品者 IV drug abusers	4916	1	82		4998	1
經由家庭計劃指導員轉介 Referrals from Family Planning Association	218	0	1	0	219	0
健康護理人員 Health care personnel	812	0	25	0	837	0

總數

TOTAL 181193 205 3376 5 184569 210

此及驗血樣本數字, 並非人數, 因某些人士的檢驗是重複的

* This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals.

	Aug 85-Dec 90		Jan 91		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve tested	No. tested	No. +ve tested	No. tested	No. +ve tested
香港紅十字會輸血服務 Hong Kong Red Cross Blood transfusion Service	826656	14	15289	0	841945	14

Department of Health
February 1991

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TENDERS INVITED FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PHASE THREE IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO SOUTHOEN PLAYGROUND IN WAN CHAI.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SITTING-OUT AREAS, A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND A ROOF OVER THE EXISTING SPECTATOR STAND.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 1992.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 15.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR MUSIC FUND GRANTS

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ALL REGISTERED NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS CAN NOW APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND FOR THE YEAR 1991-92 FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELDS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES.

GRANTS WERE PREVIOUSLY MADE TO SCHOOLS AND MUSIC AND DANCE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, DANCE EQUIPMENT, MUSIC SCORES AND PARTS, PAYMENT OF INSTRUCTORS' FEES FOR TRAINING, AS WELL AS ORGANISING OF MUSIC AND DANCE EVENTS SUCH AS CONCERTS, MUSIC CAMPS AND DANCE WORKSHOPS.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR GRANTS FOR OTHER PURPOSES WHICH CONFORM TO THE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE FUND.

A MUSIC FUND SPOKESMAN SAID GRANTS TOTTALLING \$816,000 WERE APPROVED IN 1990-91 FOR 133 SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT:

- * THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND SECRETARIAT, 25TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND
- * MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED ON TEL. 823 5327. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 12.

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