



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1984

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR PEKING  
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A FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, FOR PEKING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

SIR EDWARD, ACCOMPANIED BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, WILL BE LEAVING ON FLIGHT CA 102, ETD 12.45 PM.

PLEASE ADVISE THOSE ASSIGNED TO COVER THE DEPARTURE TO ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING NOT LATER THAN 11.30 AM TOMORROW. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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MORE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS FOR AUCTION  
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A TOTAL OF 35 VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT THIS SATURDAY (JANUARY 28) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

THE NUMBERS ARE:

DB 6608	BB 14	DA 8910	AL 1948	DB 288
DB 662	DB 8168	AA 22	DB 621	1997
DB 6338	DB 136	DA 6663	BU 888	DB 1638
DB 8010	CH 18	DA 7328	DB 6228	BC 8964
CY 777	DB 1698	DB 2628	DB 112	CY 7878
DB 1283	DB 4001	BX 19	DB 829	DB 638
DB 2168	DB 310	DB 729	CP 3388	2218

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT EACH VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 89TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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MANY NEW WEATHER RECORDS SET  
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THE YEAR 1983 WAS ONE OF NEW RECORDS AND CONTRASTS, ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL WEATHER REPORT JUST RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

RAINFALL WAS ABOVE NORMAL EVERY MONTH FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, WITH THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL OF 916.4 MM FROM JANUARY TO APRIL BREAKING ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

IN CONTRAST, 1983 ENDED WITH A LONG DRY SPELL WITH NO MEASURABLE RAIN BETWEEN OCTOBER 27 AND DECEMBER 27.

THE YEAR AS A WHOLE WAS WETTER THAN NORMAL, WITH A TOTAL RAINFALL OF 2 893.8 MM RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER THE WESTERN PACIFIC UP TO ABOUT THE END OF JUNE, A RARE SITUATION WHICH LAST OCCURRED IN 1973.

BUT IN SEPTEMBER, TYPHOON ELLEN HIT HONG KONG DIRECTLY, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.

IN JANUARY THERE WAS 76.3 MM OF RAIN, NEARLY THREE TIMES THE AVERAGE FIGURE, BUT ONLY HALF THE NORMAL DURATION OF SUNSHINE.

THE MONTH WAS COOLER THAN USUAL, WITH TEMPERATURES FALLING BELOW 10 DEGREE CELSIUS BETWEEN JANUARY 20 AND 24. ON JANUARY 22, A MINIMUM OF 7.1 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED AND -1.0 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS REPORTED ON TAI MO SHAN THE SAME MORNING.

THE OBSERVATORY RECORDED 241.0 MM OF RAINFALL IN FEBRUARY, THE HIGHEST SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884, AND ABOUT SIX TIMES THE AVERAGE LEVEL.

THE MONTH ALSO MARKED ANOTHER RECORD -- 24 DAYS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER, OF MEASURABLE RAIN.

THE MONTH WAS COOLER THAN USUAL. FOG WAS REPORTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, RESULTING IN THE DIVERSION OF SIX AIRCRAFT FROM THE AIRPORT, AND DISRUPTIONS TO FERRY SERVICES.

ON FEBRUARY 1, A TRIPLE-DECKER FERRY WITH MORE THAN 430 PASSENGERS RAN AGROUND OFF KAU YI CHAU.

MARCH WAS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH WITH A RECORD RAINFALL, OF 428.0 MM, COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF 54.8 MM.

MOST OF THE RAIN WAS BROUGHT BY THUNDERSTORMS ON 10 DAYS, THE HIGHEST FREQUENCY FOR THE MONTH SINCE 1947. THUNDERSTORMS ON MARCH 27 ALONE BROUGHT 98.6 MM OF RAIN, MAKING IT THE WETTEST DAY FOR THE MONTH SINCE 1884.

HAIL WAS REPORTED ON MARCH 1, 2, 12, 25 AND 26, MORE FREQUENT THAN EVER OBSERVED IN ANY SINGLE YEAR.

/WIDESPREAD COASTAL .....

WIDESPREAD COASTAL FOG BETWEEN 20 AND 24 CAUSED A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AT SEA AND SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AIR AND SEA TRAFFIC.

APRIL WAS AGAIN WET WITH A TOTAL RAINFALL OF 171.1 MM, 23 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

HAIL WAS REPORTED ON APRIL 5 AND 7, AND HEAVY THUNDERY SHOWERS ON APRIL 8 CAUSED FLOODING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG. THE MONTH WAS WARMER THAN NORMAL.

MAY WAS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH WITH AN ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL OF 372.5 MM. HEAVY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS CAUSED FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS ON EIGHT DAYS OF THE MONTH.

JUNE RECORDED 445.8 MM OF RAINFALL, OF WHICH 346.7 MM FELL ON JUNE 17, CAUSING WIDESPREAD FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS, AND KILLING ONE MAN, INJURING 12 OTHERS AND MAKING MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE HOMELESS.

THE MONTH'S MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JUNE.

JULY WAS THE FIRST MONTH IN THE YEAR WITH BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL -- 131.2 MM OR 41 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL FIGURE. WITH A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.4 DEGREES CELSIUS, IT WAS THE SECOND HOTTEST JULY.

THE FIRST TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNAL IN THE YEAR WAS DISPLAYED ON JULY 12 WHEN SEVERE TROPICAL STORM TIP APPROACHED HONG KONG.

TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS WERE ALSO DISPLAYED FOR TYPHOON VERA ON JULY 15 AND TYPHOON WAYNE ON JULY 25.

AUGUST'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.0 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH.

HURRICANE SIGNAL NO. 10 WAS HOISTED IN THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 9 FOR TYPHOON ELLEN, THE WORST TYPHOON TO STRIKE HONG KONG SINCE TYPHOON HOPE IN 1979.

HURRICANE FORCE WINDS WERE RECORDED AT WAGLAN ISLAND OVER A PERIOD OF EIGHT HOURS, THE LONGEST DURATION OF HURRICANE FORCE WINDS SINCE RECORDS BEGAN AT THE STATION IN DECEMBER 1952. GUSTS EXCEEDING 100 KNOTS WERE RECORDED AT MOST METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

DURING THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON ELLEN, 10 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 12 MISSING, 333 OTHERS INJURED AND ABOUT 1 200 PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS.

STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS HOISTED TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GEORGIA CAME WITHIN 740 KILOMETRES.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT WEATHER PHENOMENA INCLUDED A TORNADO IN SAN TIN ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND A HAILSTORM ON SEPTEMBER 24.

/OCTOBER WAS .....

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OCTOBER WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WARM, WITH ITS MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 26.4 DEGREES CELSIUS BEING THE HIGHEST AND ITS MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 28.9 DEGREES CELSIUS THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR OCTOBER.

THE MONTHLY MEAN CLOUDINESS OF 71 PER CENT WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR OCTOBER. THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 227.4 MM WAS NEARLY 90 PER CENT ABOVE AVERAGE.

ON OCTOBER 13, THE GALE OR STORM SIGNALS, NO. 8 NE AND NO. 8 SE, WERE DISPLAYED DURING THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON JOE. FIFTY-EIGHT PEOPLE WERE INJURED, BUT NO MAJOR DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.

ON OCTOBER 23, STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS HOISTED FOR SEVERE TROPICAL STORM LEX.

THE FOLLOWING MONTH WITH ONLY A TRACE OF RAIN WAS THE DRIEST NOVEMBER ON RECORD. ITS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 59 PER CENT AND MEAN CLOUDINESS OF 25 PER CENT WERE BOTH THE SECOND LOWEST FOR NOVEMBER.

THE DRY SPELL PERSISTED UNTIL RAIN FELL ON DECEMBER 28 AND 29.

AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED FROM THE NORTH ON DECEMBER 29, RESULTING IN VERY COLD WEATHER ON DECEMBER 30.

A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 6.1 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WHILE HOAR FROST WAS REPORTED AT TAI MO SHAN AND TATE'S CAIRN WHERE TEMPERATURES DROPPED TO -3.6 DEGREES CELSIUS AND -0.1 DEGREE CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

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**OFFICER PRAISED FOR COST-SAVING WORK  
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A SENIOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS TODAY (MONDAY) COMMENDED FOR BRINGING ABOUT ECONOMIES AND COST EFFECTIVE IMPROVEMENTS RESULTING IN AN ANNUAL SAVING OF SOME \$30 MILLION IN RECURRENT COSTS TO THE NTSD'S CLEANSING SERVICES.

RECEIVING A COMMENDATION FROM THE DIRECTOR, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, AT A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS WAS MR TONY CROSS, WHO IS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE UP A SIMILAR ASSIGNMENT IN THE URBAN AREA FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE CLEANSING REVIEW TEAM HEADED BY MR CROSS ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SAVINGS OF SOME \$13 MILLION.

MR HEYWOOD SAID THE NTSD HAS GREATLY BENEFITED FROM +THE LONG, HARD AND INDEPENDENTLY MINDED STUDY OF ITS ORGANISATION AND THE OBJECTIVE STUDY OF SOME OF THE LONG-STANDING, TRADITIONAL WAYS IT WENT ABOUT ITS WORK+.

/+THE END .....

+THE END RESULT OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE A LEANER, FITTER, MORE EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION TO THE NTSD,+ HE SAID.

MR HEYWOOD SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS LONG RELIED UPON TRADITIONAL WORKING METHODS WHICH HAVE GONE WITHOUT QUESTION FOR FAR TOO LONG.

+TRADITIONALLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SIMPLY RELIED UPON THE ADDITION OF CHEAP LABOUR TO MEET ALL PROBLEMS WHICH IT HAS ENCOUNTERED.

+THE RESULT HAS BEEN AN INCREASINGLY OVERSTAFFED AND LESS EFFICIENT ORGANISATION,+ HE SAID.

+DISTRICTS ARE NOW ENCOURAGED TO FIND NEW WAYS OF APPLYING THEIR RESOURCES TO OVERCOME THE NEED FOR EXPANDING SERVICES, FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS, AND NOT SIMPLY ADDING MORE LABOUR TO THE ALREADY LARGE LABOUR FORCE.+

HE SAID MR CROSS AND HIS TEAM HAD POINTED THE WAY TO DO THIS.

IF MR CROSS HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE WAS SURE THAT HE WOULD HAVE EARNED A HANDSOME BONUS IF HE HAD EARNED A PROFIT OF \$30 MILLION FOR A PRIVATE COMPANY.

+IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, HOWEVER, WE CAN BUT COMMEND HIM FOR HIS VALUABLE WORK AND OFFER HIM A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR THANKS,+ MR HEYWOOD SAID.

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ADVANCE PAYMENT OF WELFARE ALLOWANCES

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOLDING CASH COUPONS MAY RECEIVE THEIR ALLOWANCES EARLIER IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THOSE WHO ARE TO RECEIVE PAYMENT ON FEBRUARY 2, 3, 4 AND 5 CAN CASH THEIR COUPONS ON JANUARY 26, 27, 30 AND 31 RESPECTIVELY OR THEREAFTER AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO ST. JOHN HOSPITAL  
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A PASSENGER LIFT IS TO BE INSTALLED AT ST. JOHN HOSPITAL, CHEUNG CHAU, AS PART OF AN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH AND TAKE ABOUT 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES BUILDING A 37-METRE LONG COVERED WALKWAY.

THE 90-BED ST. JOHN HOSPITAL IS A DISTRICT HOSPITAL SERVING RESIDENTS OF TAI O, PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND, AS WELL AS CHEUNG CHAU.

APART FROM GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES AND MATERNITY CARE, IT PROVIDES VARIOUS SPECIALIST SERVICES.

A 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

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JURY LIST TO BE POSTED  
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A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING AT JACKSON ROAD ON JANUARY 30, THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, MR NICHOLAS BARNETT, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS, AND DURING WHICH PERIOD ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING THAT HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED UPON CAUSE DULY ASSIGNED IN SUCH NOTICE.

THE REGISTRAR SHALL IN HIS DISCRETION, POST OR REMOVE SUCH NAME ACCORDINGLY AND SHALL IF NECESSARY ALTER THE LIST.

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STATISTICS DIGEST ON SALE

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THE ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS FOR 1983, PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$90 A COPY.

THIS ANNUAL PUBLICATION IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS, AND BRINGS TOGETHER IN ONE VOLUME, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

THE REPORT COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING POPULATION, LABOUR, INDUSTRY, TRADE, SERVICES, GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, PUBLIC FINANCE, MONEY AND BANKING, CONSUMER PRICES, FOOD SUPPLIES, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM, CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AS WELL AS LAW AND ORDER.

IT PROVIDES A TOTAL OF 286 TABLES AND COVERS THE PERIOD FROM 1973 TO 1982.

THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, G.P.O. BUILDING, G/F, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COMPUTER STUDIES SCHEME

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DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO EXTEND THE COMPUTER STUDIES PILOT SCHEME IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 3/F, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR JOHN WINFIELD, WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

BOARD TO DISCUSS PROJECT  
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 25) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS DETAILS FOR SELECTING THE BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT, THE BOARD'S REVISED BUDGET FOR 1983-84, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MEETING.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING  
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FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 24), TRAFFIC ON LUNG TAK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY NORTH-BOUND, AND MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO ENTER BY NGAN HON STREET AND EXIT FROM CHI KIANG STREET.

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SALT WATER MAINS WORKS  
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF ON JANUARY 25 (WEDNESDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM FOR MAINS WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE PREMISES ALONG WO YIP HOP ROAD, INCLUDING LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE, SHEK YAM ESTATE AND SHEK LEI ESTATE.

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WATER FIGURES  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 87.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 510.138 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 421.553 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 71.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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