



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR NOVEMBER
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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES (A) AND (B) FOR NOVEMBER WERE 145 AND 146 RESPECTIVELY WITH CPI(A) DOWN BY ONE POINT AND CPI(B) UNCHANGED COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE CENTRED 12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE FOR MAY 1979, THAT IS, THE SIMPLE AVERAGE OF THE TWO MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGES ENDING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1979 RESPECTIVELY, WAS 136.8 FOR CPI(A) AND 136.9 FOR CPI(B), EACH BEING 1.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CENTRED 12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE FOR MAY A YEAR AGO, THE INCREASES WERE RESPECTIVELY 10.8 PER CENT AND 10.6 PER CENT.

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

THE SECTION INDICES FOR NOVEMBER 1979, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1978, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>			<u>CPI(B)</u>		
	<u>NOV.79</u>	<u>OCT.79</u>	<u>NOV.78</u>	<u>NOV.79</u>	<u>OCT.79</u>	<u>NOV.78</u>
FOODSTUFFS	139	142	124	141	144	124
HOUSING	146	146	132	146	146	132
FUEL AND LIGHT	198	199	134	193	194	133
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	168	167	147	162	162	142
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	117	112	107	115	110	106
DURABLE GOODS	130	130	118	127	127	116
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	162	148	137	157	147	134
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	163	159	128	169	165	130
SERVICES	156	155	139	159	158	140
ALL ITEMS	145	146	127	146	146	127

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECLINED BY THREE POINTS IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B). REDUCTIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUITS, LIVE POULTRY AND SALT-WATER FISH.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF PORK AND RICE ADVANCED: THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME ALSO WENT UP AS SOME RESTAURANTS AND EATING-PLACES RAISED THEIR PRICES. MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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DUE TO THE FLUCTUATION OF THE FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT, ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOR NOVEMBER WERE REDUCED AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT DECREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B).

THE ONE-POINT RISE IN THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO IN CPI(A) WAS MAINLY BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIGHER PRICES FOR FOREIGN-STYLE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY FIVE POINTS EACH IN CPI(A) AND CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR OUTERCLOTHING ITEMS.

HIGHER PRICES FOR NEWSPAPERS PUSHED THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS UP BY 14 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY 10 POINTS IN CPI(B).

FOLLOWING HIGHER FARES FOR HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES ROSE BY FOUR POINTS IN BOTH INDICES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ADVANCED BY ONE POINT EACH IN CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIR DRESSING.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE EXPECTED TO OPEN IN MARCH

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THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE AND ITS APPROACH ROADS AT BOTH ENDS ARE EXPECTED TO OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

WORK ON THE \$32 MILLION BRIDGE AND ITS NORTHERN ROAD CONNECTIONS IN ABERDEEN HAS BEEN COMPLETED WHILE WORK ON THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS ON AP LEI CHAU IS PROGRESSING.

THE PWD HAS ALSO BUILT A SPECIAL ACCESS ROAD LINKING THE BRIDGE WITH THE NEW AP LEI CHAU PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS WHO WILL SHORTLY MOVE INTO THEIR NEW HOMES.

THE 230-METRE BRIDGE, THE FIRST TO JOIN HONG KONG ISLAND WITH AN OFFSHORE ISLAND, CARRIES TWO TRAFFIC LANES, WITH A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 1 500 VEHICLES PER HOUR IN EACH DIRECTION.

IT ALSO CARRIES A WATER MAIN AND OTHER ESSENTIAL UTILITIES TO SERVE THE POPULATION ON AP LEI CHAU.

THE BRIDGE WILL ALSO ENABLE THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A QUICK SERVICE FROM THE MAINLAND.

TO ALLOW PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS SAFELY, A FOOTWAY HAS BEEN BUILT ALONG ITS SIDE.

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SIXTY YEARS OF LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS IN THE NT
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FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS IN 1919, THE GOVERNMENT'S LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS (LPW) PROGRAMME HAS GROWN INTO A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT.

SIXTY YEARS AGO, WHEN THE PROGRAMME WAS LAUNCHED, THE BUDGET WAS ONLY \$5 000.

DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, IT IS MORE THAN \$8 MILLION.

THE PROGRAMME, WHICH IMPROVES THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF VILLAGERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

PROJECTS LAUNCHED UNDER THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ROADS, VILLAGE SCHOOLS, PAVEMENTS, BRIDGES, PIERS, INCINERATORS, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, LATRINES, INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY GENERATORS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

MORE SOPHISTICATED PROJECTS, SUCH AS BUILDING OF PLAYGROUNDS, RECREATIONAL HALLS, LIBRARIES AND VILLAGE HALLS, ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN.

AMONG THE PROJECTS FOR 1979/80 ARE:

- * A FOOTBRIDGE ON PO TOI ISLAND (COSTING \$61 000)-
- * A 1 260-METRE FOOTPATH BETWEEN FAN LAU AND YI O ON LANTAU (COSTING \$165 000)-
- * A COMMUNAL BATHROOM ON CHEUNG CHAU (COSTING \$70 000)-
- * A YOUTH CENTRE AT HO SHEUNG HEUNG, SHEUNG SHUI (COSTING \$171 000)- AND
- * A RECREATIONAL CENTRE AT TSING LUNG TAU, TSUEN WAN (COSTING \$150 000).

SINCE 1977 THE LPW PROGRAMME HAS INCLUDED INSTALLATION OF VILLAGE LIGHTING.

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 497 STREET LAMPS WITH ABOUT 30 KILOMETRES OF UNDERGROUND CABLE WILL BE INSTALLED AT A COST OF \$1.6 MILLION.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, 548 STREET LAMPS WERE INSTALLED WITH 35 KILOMETRES OF UNDERGROUND CABLE AT A COST OF \$1.75 MILLION.

VILLAGE LIGHTING SCHEMES WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE OVERALL ROAD LIGHTING PROGRAMME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS REORGANISED AND EXPANDED ITS WORKS SECTION TO DEAL WITH INCREASING DEMANDS ON THE LPW PROGRAMME.

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HEADED BY AN ENGINEER ON SECONDMENT FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE SECTION HAS MORE THAN 60 STAFF STATIONED IN THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF SHA TIN, SAI KUNG, TAI PO, NORTHERN, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG AND ISLANDS.

MORE THAN \$28 MILLION WERE SPENT ON LPW AND RELATED PROJECTS DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 1979.

IN CARRYING OUT THIS PROGRAMME, THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION MAINTAINS CLOSE LIAISON WITH PWD AND NT SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THE ARMY AND UTILITY COMPANIES TO ENSURE SMOOTH PROGRESS.

PROJECTS ARE INITIATED BY DISTRICT OFFICERS AND LOCAL VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES WHILE THE NTA'S WORKS SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DESIGN AND SUPERVISION.

THE PROJECTS ARE OFTEN CONSTRUCTED WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL VILLAGERS, WHOSE PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED.

SOME ARE JOINT EFFORTS WITH THE ARMY OR OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE CO-OPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN RELIEF EVERYWHERE (CARE).

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GOVERNMENT EVENING CLASSES BENEFIT MANY

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A FORMER HAWKER IS NOW A SCHOOL TEACHER, AND A FORM II SCHOOL DROPOUT IS NOW AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THEY BOTH HAVE AT LEAST ONE THING IN COMMON -- THE DETERMINATION TO BETTER THEMSELVES BY ATTENDING EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES RUN BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THEY DID SO WELL IN THEIR PART-TIME STUDIES THAT BOTH CAME OFF WITH FLYING COLOURS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, EACH SCORING ONE DISTINCTION AND FOUR CREDITS.

WITH THE HELP OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THEY OBTAINED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES IN THE MATRICULATION COURSE AND EVENTUALLY TO UNIVERSITY, WHICH LANDED THEM IN THEIR PRESENT JOBS.

MR. C.H. YIP, A FORMER HAWKER IS THE ELDEST SON IN A FAMILY OF EIGHT. HE HAD TO QUIT SCHOOL AFTER COMPLETING PRIMARY SIX TO HELP OUT AT HIS PARENTS' POULTRY STALL.

ADVISED BY HIS FRIENDS, HE LATER ENROLLED IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE AT THE TIN KWONG ROAD GOVERNMENT SCHOOL CENTRE WHERE HE RECEIVED FORMAL SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE EVENING.

/MR. M.F.

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MR. M.F. CHENG, A FORM 11 SCHOOL DROPOUT, HAD A DIFFERENT STORY.

HE QUITTED DAY SCHOOL BECAUSE OF POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

+I WASN'T A SERIOUS STUDENT WHEN I FIRST ENROLLED IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE AT THE CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTRE BUT SOON I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE LEARNING ENTHUSIASM OF MY CLASS-MATES AND THE DEDICATION OF THE TEACHERS,+ MR. CHENG SAID.

+THE SPIRIT WAS CATCHING AND I WAS TOTALLY IMMersed IN IT,+ HE ADDED.

THEIR SUCCESS IN ATTAINING HIGHER EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE ATTENDED EVENING CLASSES OPERATED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (ADULT EDUCATION), MR. TANG CHUN-SING SAID : +THE AIM OF OUR EVENING SCHOOLS IS TO PROVIDE PEOPLE LIKE MR. YIP AND MR. CHENG WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION. THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WENT ON TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, ENTERED THE NURSING PROFESSION OR GOT PROMOTION BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGHER EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.+

AT PRESENT SECONDARY SCHOOL EVENING COURSES ARE OFFERED AT 10 CENTRES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WITH AN ENROLMENT OF ABOUT 4 800. THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS ARE CLERKS OR FACTORY WORKERS.

THEY ARE ENROLLED IN EITHER THE CHINESE OR THE ENGLISH SECTION AND AIM AT SITTING THE HKCEE ON COMPLETION OF THEIR COURSE.

CLASSES MEET FIVE EVENINGS A WEEK AND THE ENTIRE SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE LASTS SIX YEARS.

YEAR I TO III CLASSES ARE FREE BUT FOR YEAR IV TO VI A FEE OF \$260 PER SCHOOL YEAR IS CHARGED.

MR. TANG DISCLOSED THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO ENLARGE THE EXISTING CURRICULUM BY INTRODUCING SCIENCE SUBJECTS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY IN SENIOR CLASSES AND THE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP CENTRES IN THE NEW TOWNS.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE IS ONLY ONE OF THE MANY FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS CURRENTLY OPERATING 10 COURSES IN ALL, WITH A TOTAL ENROLMENT OF 24 441 STUDENTS IN 123 CENTRES. IN ADDITION, IT HAS 8 939 ACTIVE MEMBERS IN 16 ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES.

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TENDERS BEING INVITED TO OPERATE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL'S
MUSIC AND BOOKSHOP
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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE OPERATION OF A MUSIC AND BOOKSHOP IN TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

THE MUSIC AND BOOKSHOP WILL SELL PUBLICATIONS ON ARTS, GRAMOPHONE RECORDS, AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT, ANTIQUES, PAINTINGS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS TO THE PUBLIC.

THE BOOKSHOP, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 37 SQUARE METRES ON THE FIRST FLOOR NEXT TO THE EXHIBITION GALLERY, IS SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY TINTED GLASS OVERLOOKING THE TOWN HALL'S PROMENADE.

THE RENTAL PERIOD WILL BE THREE YEARS, STARTING FROM FEBRUARY 1 THIS YEAR UNTIL JANUARY 31, 1983.

TENDER FORMS AND PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, KOWLOON.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING THE MUSIC AND BOOKSHOP MUST PUT THEIR TENDERS INTO THE TENDER BOX AT THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BEFORE 9 AM ON JANUARY 11 (FRIDAY).

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