



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CLG MEMBERS VISIT VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES .....	1
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	2

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS GO UP IN APRIL .....	3
DISABLED ABLE TO UNDERTAKE MANY JOBS .....	5
BUDGET WILL IMPROVE WELFARE .....	6
EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES SURVEY UNDER WAY .....	6
9 BODIES TO RAISE FUNDS IN APRIL .....	7

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1994

- 1 -

CLG MEMBERS VISIT VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUPS (CLG) TODAY (SATURDAY) SAW HOW MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS MAKE VEHICLES SAFE RUNNING ON THE ROADS.

SOME 30 MEMBERS VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES IN KOWLOON BAY WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE WAYS VARIOUS TYPES OF CARS WERE EXAMINED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TWO CLGS WERE SET UP IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR AS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME LAUNCHED IN DECEMBER 1992.

THE GROUPS, WITH A TOTAL OF 42 MEMBERS, ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN MONITORING THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE, AND TO ADVISE ON HOW TO MAKE THE LICENSING SERVICES MORE USER-FRIENDLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MEMBERS HAD BEEN GIVING VIEWS TO IMPROVE SERVICES.

"SOME OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

VISITS OF THIS NATURE WILL ENABLE CLG MEMBERS KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTION AND OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"THIS WILL HELP THEM PUT FORWARD EVEN MORE USEFUL AND PRACTICABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS," HE SAID.

DURING THE VISIT, AN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, MR DAVID TSANG, TOLD MEMBERS THAT CARS WERE USUALLY SENT TO A GARAGE FOR INSPECTION BEFORE EXAMINATION AT THESE CENTRES. THEREFORE ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF CARS PASSED AT THEIR FIRST EXAMINATION.

"A CAR WILL PASS THE EXAMINATION IF NO MAJOR FAULTS ARE FOUND AFFECTING ITS SAFE OPERATION. IF IT FAILS, IT MUST BE RE-SUBMITTED FOR ANOTHER FULL INSPECTION AFTER REPAIR," HE SAID.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, PRIVATE CARS OF SIX YEARS AND OVER; AND FROM APRIL 1 LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND GOODS VEHICLES OVER 5.5 TONNES WITH MANUFACTURING YEAR IN 1990 OR BEFORE, ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL INSPECTION BEFORE RENEWAL OF A LICENCE.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 171,584 VEHICLES WERE EXAMINED.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1994

- 2 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,931	0930	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,861	1000	NIL
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	NIL
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	NIL	1200	NIL
LAF TODAY	-70		

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER      TWI 125.4 \*-0.1\*      26.3.94

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/3 .....

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS GO UP IN APRIL

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RECEIVING PAYMENTS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) AND SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE (SSA) SCHEMES WILL COLLECT MORE MONEY FROM APRIL 1.

THE REVISION OF PAYMENTS IS MADE POSSIBLE FOLLOWING AN APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE REVISION MAINLY COVERS AN INCREASE OF \$100 IN THE STANDARD RATES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE CSSA SCHEME AND AN INCREASE OF 7.7 PER CENT IN THE PAYMENT RATES OF CSSA AND SSA TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION.

DETAILS OF THE REVISED RATES ARE:

CSSA

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PAYMENT RATES (PER MONTH)

	EXISTING SCALE ----- (\$)		NEW SCALE ----- (\$)	
(1) STANDARD RATES				
	SINGLE PERSON -----	FAMILY MEMBER -----	SINGLE PERSON -----	FAMILY MEMBER -----
ELDERLY PERSONS AGED 60 OR ABOVE	1,550	1,285	1,670	1,385
DISABLED ADULT				
50% DISABLED	1,550	1,285	1,670	1,385
100% DISABLED	1,935	1,675	2,085	1,805
REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENDANCE	2,835	2,570	3,055	2,770
DISABLED CHILD				
50% DISABLED	1,770	1,510	2,015	1,735
100% DISABLED	2,160	1,895	2,435	2,150
REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENDANCE	3,055	2,795	3,400	3,120
ABLE-BODIED CHILD	1,260	995	1,465	1,180
ABLE-BODIED ADULT	1,035	895	1,115	965

## (2) ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT

ONE ELIGIBLE MEMBER	1,145	1,235
TWO-FOUR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS	2,290	2,470
FIVE OR MORE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS	3,435	3,705

## (3) MONTHLY MEAL ALLOWANCE FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOL AND TAKING LUNCH AWAY FROM HOME

	154	166
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## SSA

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EXISTING  
SCALE

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(\$)

NEW

SCALE

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(\$)

## (1) PAYMENT RATES (PER MONTH)

## (A) DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

NORMAL RATE	900	970
HIGHER RATE	1,800	1,940

## (B) OLD AGE ALLOWANCE

NORMAL RATE	450	485
HIGHER RATE	510	550

## (2) FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR NORMAL OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES

EXISTING  
SCALE

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(\$)

NEW

SCALE

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(\$)

## MONTHLY INCOME LIMITS

FOR A SINGLE PERSON	3,450	3,630
FOR A MARRIED COUPLE	5,610	5,870

## ASSETS LIMITS

FOR A SINGLE PERSON	121,000	130,000
FOR A MARRIED COUPLE	181,000	195,000

CSSA AND SSA RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE FURTHER ENQUIRIES ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994

- 5 -

DISABLED ABLE TO UNDERTAKE MANY JOBS

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DISABLED PERSONS ARE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE SUCCESSFULLY A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS FROM UNSKILLED TO PROFESSIONAL LEVELS WITH THE PROVISION OF SUITABLE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL AIDS.

TO HELP THEM COMPLETE THE REHABILITATION PROCESS, NOT ONLY THE FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED, BUT ALSO THE ACCEPTANCE OF DISABLED WORKERS BY EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS RECOGNITION OF THEIR ABILITIES BY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A QUIZ CONDUCTED BY THE DIVISION DURING THE RECENT FOURTH EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO, SOME 30 PER CENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE MISCONCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE MENTALLY ILL, MENTALLY RETARDED AND BLIND PEOPLE.

"GENERAL MISCONCEPTIONS ON THEIR WORKING ABILITIES WOULD DEFINITELY POSE A HINDRANCE FOR EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOY DISABLED PERSONS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MRS JENNIE CHOR, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"IN FACT, MOST OF THE MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS ARE NOT PRONE TO VIOLENCE AS MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED," SHE SAID.

"LIKEWISE, THE MENTALLY RETARDED ARE NOT TOTALLY NON-PRODUCTIVE.

"THEY CAN PERFORM MANY KINDS OF JOBS SUCH AS MESSENGERS AND WAITERS AFTER TRAINING."

MRS CHOR NOTED THAT MANY PEOPLE TENDED TO BELIEVE THAT "BLIND PEOPLE COULD ONLY BE EMPLOYED AS TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

"THIS IS AGAIN NOT TRUE," SHE SAID.

"THE ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY ENABLES THE BLIND TO READ DOCUMENTS WITH THE HELP OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND BRAILLE DISPLAY UNITS.

"THEREFORE, THEY CAN TAKE UP DIFFERENT KINDS OF JOBS INCLUDING THOSE AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, SUCH AS EXECUTIVE, ACCOUNTING AND COMPUTER JOBS," SHE ADDED.

MRS CHOR SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT IN ASSISTING THE DISABLED TO FIND SUITABLE JOBS.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, STAFF OF THE DIVISION WILL CONTINUE TO PERSUADE EMPLOYERS TO ACCEPT DISABLED EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE DISABLED.

/"WE WILL .....

"WE WILL ALSO USE DIFFERENT CHANNELS, SUCH AS PARTICIPATING IN THE EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO, TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT DISABLED PERSONS COULD CONTRIBUTE THEIR TALENTS, THROUGH WORK, TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HOPE THE GENERAL PUBLIC COULD ACCEPT THE DISABLED AND HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR WORKING ABILITIES SO THAT THEY COULD WORK WITH THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL 'TOGETHER WE DEVELOP OUR ABILITIES'," MRS CHOR ADDED.

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BUDGET WILL IMPROVE WELFARE

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THE 1994/95 BUDGET PROPOSALS ARE AIMED TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND MAINTAIN THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT AN OPERA NIGHT FOR LOCAL ELDERLY, MR YAP SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED WITH PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES TO SENIOR CITIZENS BECAUSE THEY HAD CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED A SATISFACTORY GROWTH RATE OF 5.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS LAST YEAR, MR YAP SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS DETERMINED TO SPEND MORE ON DIVERSIFYING AND IMPROVING ITS SERVICES.

IN PARTICULAR, BETTER CARE AND HELP WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE ELDERLY, THE POOR AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, HE SAID.

MR YAP ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TACKLE INFLATION AND MINIMISE ITS IMPACT.

"AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE BUILDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES TO CATER FOR THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE TERRITORY," HE ADDED.

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EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES SURVEY UNDER WAY

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A QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY FOR THIS MONTH IS UNDER WAY.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS MAILING QUESTIONNAIRES TO ABOUT 67,000 ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN SERVING AS SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ON LATEST CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND VACANCIES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENT.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES) ORDER, THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED RESPONDENTS TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 5076 IF THEY HAD DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

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9 BODIES TO RAISE FUNDS IN APRIL

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A TOTAL OF NINE ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO RAISE FUNDS IN PUBLIC PLACE NEXT MONTH, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THEY WILL EITHER SELL FLAGS, TOKENS OR SIMILAR ITEMS, OR PLACE DONATION BOXES IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ON TEL 866 8123 IN CASE OF DOUBTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO FUND-RAISING ORGANISERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FRAUD.

"SELLERS SHOULD DISPLAY THE PERMIT OR CARRY COPIES OF THE PERMIT IF THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY MOVES FROM PLACE TO PLACE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED ORGANISERS TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, FIX THE PLACES AND TIMES FOR SELLING AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND SEEK THEIR HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND.

DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE:

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994

- 8 -

\* FOR FLAGS

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EVENT DATE

ORGANISATION

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APRIL 9

NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION  
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 16

BREAKTHROUGH LTD

APRIL 23

NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE-ACTION COUNCIL

APRIL 30

STEWARD'S CO, (HK) LTD

\* FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION

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APRIL 2

HONG KONG COUNCIL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION AND SERVICES

APRIL 3

APRIL 3

LIONS CLUB OF SILVERSTRAND

APRIL 4

APRIL 9

WORLD VISION OF HONG KONG

APRIL 10

APRIL 10

LAND OF VIRTUE CENTRE LTD

APRIL 10

THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME,  
ADMINISTRATOR, INC.

APRIL 24

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