



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1977

## APPLICATION FOR EXTENDED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME STARTS NEXT MONTH

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM UNEMPLOYED ABLE-BODIED PERSONS BETWEEN 15 AND 55 NEXT MONTH.

MR. LAW CHI-KIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS DESIGNED TO BRING THE INCOME OF A SINGLE ELIGIBLE PERSON OR A FAMILY UP TO A LEVEL WHERE ESSENTIAL NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING COULD BE MET WITHOUT SUFFERING HARDSHIP.

REFERRING TO THE EXTENDED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, HOWEVER, MR. LAW SAID: +APPLICANTS, WHO HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR TWO YEARS, MUST APPLY IN PERSON AT THEIR NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT.

+THEY WILL THEN BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHO WILL REGISTER THEM FOR JOBS.

+IF THE APPLICANTS FAIL TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE OF APPLICATION, THEIR MONTHLY ENTITLEMENT WILL START FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH.+

FAMILY MEMBERS, WHO ARE OVER THE AGE OF 15 AND UNDER 55, THUS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AT PRESENT, ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT.

+THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO BE INCLUDED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AS PART OF THE HOUSEHOLD WHEN CALCULATING ENTITLEMENT AFTER APRIL 1,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE COST OF ACCOMMODATION IS COVERED SEPARATELY BY A RENT ALLOWANCE= WHERE THERE ARE SPECIAL EXPENSES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COST OF A MEDICALLY APPROVED DIET, DISCRETIONARY PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE.+

TURNING TO THE SCALE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, MR. LAW SAID: +THE PRESENT RATE IS \$180 A MONTH FOR A SINGLE PERSON WHEREAS FOR A FAMILY, \$130 FOR EACH OF THE FIRST THREE MEMBERS, \$105 FOR EACH OF THE NEXT THREE AND \$80 FOR THE SEVENTH MEMBER AND SO ON. ON TOP OF THIS, A RENT ALLOWANCE IS ALSO PAID AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO MEET ESSENTIAL EXPENDITURE.

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+FOR EXAMPLE, IF A FAMILY CONSISTS OF FIVE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS WITH NO INCOME AND THE RENT IT HAS TO PAY IS \$150 A MONTH, THEN THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PAID TO THE FAMILY IS \$750 A MONTH. IF THIS FAMILY HAS A TOTAL INCOME OF \$350, THEN THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE WILL BE \$400.+

A LEAFLET ON THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME - THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS - WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE EXTENSION TO COVER THE ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED BETWEEN 15 AND 55, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS ARE ALSO LISTED IN THE LEAFLET.

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET ARE OBTAINABLE FROM ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREA, DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES AND SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CHUNG HOM KOK AREA ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON TUESDAY (MARCH 29) TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE ON CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD, HORIZON DRIVE AND CAPE ROAD, INCLUDING CHUNG HOM KOK CHESHIRE HOME.

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## PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE DURING FEBRUARY 1977. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR FEBRUARY WAS \$2,254 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$3,379 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$659 MILLION.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977 (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976 OF 21.3 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 16.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 16.0 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1976, INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$505 MILLION OR 28.9 PER CENT IN EXPORTS, \$395 MILLION OR 13.2 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$23 MILLION OR 3.6 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, FEBRUARY 1977 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1977, SHOWED A DECREASE OF \$435 MILLION OR 16.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS; THIS DECLINE BEING IN TIME WITH THE NORMAL SEASONAL MOVEMENT FOLLOWING CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. IMPORTS DECLINED BY \$453 MILLION OR 11.8 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$181 MILLION OR 21.6 PER CENT.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM MARCH 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 36.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 26.1 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 23.5 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TRADE TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

LATEST 3 MONTHS	DECEMBER 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977	DECEMBER 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,036	6,624	+ 1,412	+ 21.3
IMPORTS	11,276	9,657	+ 1,618	+ 16.8
RE-EXPORTS	2,312	1,992	+ 320	+ 16.0
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	FEBRUARY 1977	FEBRUARY 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,254 (77.4%)	1,749 (73.3%)	+ 505	+28.9
IMPORTS	3,379	2,983	+ 395	+13.2
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	659 (22.6%)	636 (26.7%)	+ 23	+3.6

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	FEBRUARY 1977	JANUARY 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,254 (77.4%)	2,690 (76.2%)	- 435	- 16.2
IMPORTS	3,379	3,831	- 453	- 11.8
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	659 (22.6%)	841 (23.8%)	- 181	- 21.6
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN. - FEB. 1977	JAN. - FEB. 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,944 (76.7%)	4,332 (76.0%)	+ 613	+ 14.1
IMPORTS	7,210	6,219	+ 990	+ 15.9
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,500 (23.3%)	1,366 (24.0%)	+ 134	+ 9.8
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	MARCH 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977	MARCH 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	33,242	24,283	+ 8,959	+36.9
IMPORTS	44,283	35,131	+ 9,152	+26.1
RE-EXPORTS	9,062	7,339	+ 1,722	+23.5

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ANTI-CANCER EXHIBITION STARTS NEXT MONTH  
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CANCER DISEASES, WHICH HAVE IN RECENT YEARS TOPPED THE LIST OF LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN HONG KONG, WILL BE FEATURED IN A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS TO BE HELD IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS DURING APRIL AND MAY.

THE EXHIBITIONS ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, ASSISTED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND A NUMBER OF MEDICAL BODIES.

CANCER AWARENESS '77, AS THE EXHIBITION IS CALLED, WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND WARNINGS AGAINST THE SYMPTOMS OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF CANCER.

THERE WILL BE FILM SHOWS, SLIDES, PICTURES, MODELS, RECORDINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND WHAT CANCER IS ALL ABOUT.

CREATORS OF THE DISPLAYS ARE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TEAM OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS. THE TEAM CONSISTS OF SIX YOUNG WOMEN WHO HAVE TAKEN LEAVE FROM THEIR SCHOOLING AND JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES TO COME TO HONG KONG FOR ONE AND HALF YEARS OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY SAID CANCER AWARENESS '77 WAS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH.

HE EXPLAINED THAT WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TODAY CANCER COULD BE CURED IF ONLY PEOPLE KNEW THE WARNING SIGNS AND SAW A DOCTOR EARLY.

THE ANTI-CANCER CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN WITH A TWO-DAY EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL ON APRIL 5 AND 6, WHICH WILL THEN MOVE ON TO CAUSEWAY BAY, TSIM SHA TSUI, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KWUN TONG AND MACAU.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE WORLD CHRISTIAN FEDERATION, 33 GRANVILLE ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 2 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, WHEN DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

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