



傳媒報導
Media Report

兩屋邨清拆重建 搬新居愁眉苦臉 450長者無力購熱水爐

過去不少舊型公共屋邨清拆重建，讓公屋居民改善居住環境，蘇屋邨及牛頭角下邨將要清拆重建，居住這兩個屋邨的貧困無依長者，短期內要搬往新居，除要花費一筆搬遷費外，還要籌措購置約1,800元的一台熱水爐，並非易事。聖雅各福群會接獲受重建影響的兩個屋邨的450名長者求助，望能協助購置熱水爐。對於面臨重建搬遷的蘇屋邨及牛頭角下邨的無依貧困老人來說，他們除了必須交付新居水電煤費的按金、新屋簡單的裝修費，以及支付搬遷費外，更要張羅至少1,800元購置高壓熱水爐（批發價連安裝）。

難負擔近兩千支出

一名體弱多病的獨居長者說：「現在樣樣都咁貴，根本綜援金都唔夠用，怎可以用近2,000元購置一台電熱水爐，發夢都不敢想啦！」另一名面臨搬遷的婆婆愁眉苦臉地說：「上屋搬下屋，唔見一籬穀！樣樣都係錢，當搬到新屋後，真是財絕力竭，我怎可有餘錢安裝電熱水爐呢？」居住石硤尾邨的譚伯一年前亦有同樣煩惱，皆因年初他獲分配搬到新居後，種種意想不到的問題逐漸浮現出來，例如家中缺乏電器，在港無親人支援等，最令他困擾的，還是在晚上沒有熱水爐。「你知啦，而家啲天時咁熱，一日唔沖涼都覺得成身臭味，好難頂。但我又無錢買一個，用冷水沖又好易病親，唯有日日都自己用熱水煲煲水頂住先。」譚伯又說：「有一次就係因為自己心急，想快啲拎水去沖涼，唔小心跌親喺地下，結果咁就跌斷咗隻手。」社工有見及此，遂向聖雅各福群會提出申請熱水爐，該會經審核後，安排供應商在譚伯家中安裝熱水爐。聖雅各福群會呼籲社會人士作出捐助，為有需要的數百名長者購置電熱水爐。善長可用支票，抬頭請書：聖雅各福群會，支票背面請指定捐予「購買電熱水爐」，連同捐款者之姓名及地址，寄香港灣仔石水渠街85號1字樓105室收。施善查詢：2835 4321或8107 8324。

Two housing estates to be redeveloped Moving into new home brings misery

450 Elderlies can't afford water heater

Many old public housing estates were demolished and redeveloped to provide the residents with a better living environment. About to meet the same fate are So Uk Estate and Ngau Tau Kok Lower Estate. As a result, poor and dispossessed elderly residents living there have to move into new homes shortly, and apart from removal expenses, each has to buy a water heater costing about \$1,800 each, which is not at all easy for them. The St. James' Settlement (SJS) has received applications for financial assistance to buy new water heaters from 450 affected elderly residents living in the two estates. In addition to paying deposits for utility supplies, fees for some basic renovation and removal expenses, they have to spend at least \$1,800 each for a high-pressure water heater (wholesale price plus installation fee).

Can't afford the \$2,000 expenses

A weak, sickly elderly man said: "Now that everything is so expensive, the social security assistance is simply not enough. How can I afford \$2,000 to buy a water heater? I dare not even dream about it!" Another elderly lady, also having to move soon, said with a long face: "If you move from one place to another, it'll certainly cost you a sum of money. Everything has a cost. The move will use up all my savings – I have no money to spare for a water heater." Mr. Tam, who lived in Shek Kip Mei Estate, had the same problem last year. After he was allocated and moved into a new unit at the beginning of the year, various unexpected problems arose, such as lacking electrical appliances in the new home, and having no one to render support in Hong Kong. But troubling him most is the lack of a water heater for taking a bath. "You know, in such a hot weather, the body stinks if you don't take a bath for even a day. But I don't have money to buy an electric water heater. Taking a cold bath will give me a cold. So I make hot water using a kettle for the time being." Mr. Tam also said: "Once, I was eager to take a bath and rushed carrying the kettle, and I tripped and broke my arm." In view of Mr. Tam's situation, the social worker helped him apply for a water heater from SJS. After vetting the application, SJS arranged for the supplier to install the heater in Mr. Tam's home. SJS would like to appeal to members of the community to render their support to help hundreds of elderly people buy water heaters. Donors can make donations by cheque payable to St. James' Settlement. Please mark "Buying electrical water heater" on the back of the cheque, and mail together with donor's name and address to Room 105, 1/F, 85 Stone Nuller Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Enquiry hotline: 2835 4321 or 8107 8324.



我們需要你的捐助
We Need Your Donation

經濟改善與我無關 助電費是困苦者盼

「香港經濟改善是一件好事，因為可以解決失業問題。」面黃肌瘦的張伯伯說。「但這與我無關，反而是帶來我生活上的困難。」

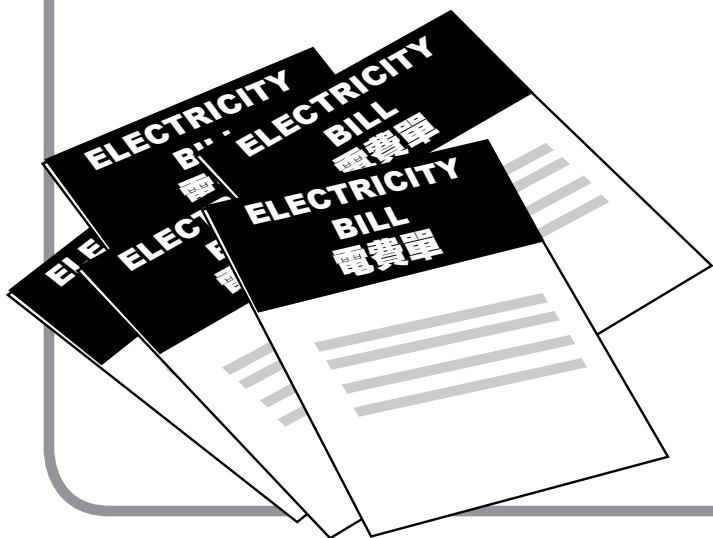
「點解？因為經濟繁榮，自然會帶來物價上漲。」張伯伯苦著臉說。「超級市場的副食品有些已增加30%，現在的生活比沙士時更為艱難。」年72歲的張伯伯因健康問題，已退休10年多，因在港缺乏親友照顧，只可領取綜援金過活。

「雖然有政府供養，但每個月交完租、氧氣機租用費、睇醫生費及每次診病來回的士費，已用了我大部份每月的使費。」張伯伯氣噓噓地說。「現在百物漲價，銀紙不值錢，每樣嘢都要俾多些，剩下來不足二仟圓，真令我不知怎樣辦。」

「我每月要應付生活食用之外，還要用來交數佰圓的電費。」張伯伯展示剛收到的電費單說。「電費點解咁貴，因為我要每日大部份時間用呼吸機，如果我唔用呼吸機我便會呼吸困難，好辛苦。」原來張伯伯患有嚴重肺氣腫，須長期使用氧氣機助呼吸。

為了支付因而增加的電費支出，張伯伯無奈要由生活費用中抽取應付，因而影響他的食用，故經醫務社工的轉介，申請聖雅各福群會之「電費助貧弱」計劃之資助。「現在電費又加價，雖然話增加咗數拾圓，但對我來說確是百上加斤，真是苦上加苦；真是希望社會人士可以伸援手，解我困苦。」

負責此項慈惠計劃的本會社工表示，由於現有與張伯伯相同的10多名貧困病弱個案，正急待電費資助，故呼籲社會人士伸出援手，捐款以助解貧弱者額外的電費支出；捐款支票請書「聖雅各福群會」，指定捐予「電費助貧弱」計劃，逕寄香港灣仔石水渠街85號一字樓105室。施善查詢：2835-4321或8107-8324。



Economic upturn has nothing for me Help to ease electricity bill is the poor's will

"It's a good thing that Hong Kong's economy has improved, because that helps to solve unemployment problems," said Mr. Cheung, who looks skinny and pale. "But that has done me no good. On the contrary, it has made my life even harder."

"Why? Because of good economy brings inflation!" Mr. Cheung said morosely. "Prices of supplementary food items in supermarkets have already gone up 30%. Life is harder than in the SARS period." Because of health problems, 72-year old Mr. Cheung has retired more than 10 years ago. As he has no relative or friend in Hong Kong to take care of him, he relies on social security assistance for living.

"Although the government supports my living, the monthly rent, oxygen machine rental, medical consultation fees, and taxi fares when I travel to see the doctors, already use up much of my monthly allowance," said Mr. Cheung, rather short of breath. "Now that everything's price has gone up, money has become less worthy – you have to pay more for everything. I now have less than \$2,000 left. I don't know really what to do."

"Apart from food, I have to pay several hundred dollars a month for electricity." Mr. Cheung showed the electricity bill. "Why so expensive? That's because I need to use the oxygen machine most of the day. Breathing will be very difficult if I don't use it, and I can hardly bare the suffering." Mr. Cheung is suffering from serious pulmonary emphysema, and has to rely on the oxygen machine to breathe.

In order to pay for the expensive electricity charges, Mr. Cheung has cut down his other daily expenses, even his meal expenses. The medical social worker has thus referred Mr. Cheung's case to the St James' Settlement's "Electricity Funds for the Feeble Elderly Program." "Now, electricity charges have also increased, and although by only a few ten dollars, it's adding to my already heavy burden. I really hope some people could give me a helping hand, to ease my hardship."

The worker responsible for this program said that the Settlement now has over 10 cases of poor, chronic disease patients, similar to Mr. Cheung's case, who are urgently in need of sponsorship of electricity charges. We thus appeal for donations to this Program. Donations can be made by crossed cheques payable to "St. James' Settlement", specified to be for the "Electricity Funds for the Feeble Elderly Program", and mail to Room 105, 85 Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Donation Enquiry: 2835-4321 or 8107-8324.