

**From:** Org Development  
**To:** panel\_ajls@legco.gov.hk  
**Cc:**

**Date:** Monday, May 23, 2016 09:48AM  
**Subject:** Further submissions in response to papers by Judiciary

**History:** ➔ This message has been forwarded.

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Dear Members,

Below are some important and crucial facts to be considered in the meeting, in response to the paper submitted by Judiciary Panel:

The said paper is too brief to take into account all the needed criteria, it fails to cover the following OVERLOOKED points as well as issues mentioned in our precious letter addressed to The chief executive. We earnestly request the respected members to consider these BASIC POINTS, in order to protect the rights of the Part time interpreters (PTIs).

1. Although there has been increment in the remuneration of the govt employees with retrospective effect since 2003, but ours has not been increased relating to the REMUNERATION APPLICABLE AS PART THEREOF following the minimum of first two hours . The half hour is expected to fetch us the fees for one hour, after the first two hours as prevailed since many years before. But yet the remuneration is still being calculated based on the half hour or part thereof and not one hour or part thereof. Referring to the paragraph 5 of the former letter to CE attached.

2. Basically, the minimum wages FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PTIs are not according to the international standards or as per THE QUALIFICATION of the relevant interpreters. Quebec consulate (Canadian) in Hong Kong, is offering HK\$1380 dollars as minimum remuneration per interview(which does not last more than 2 hours). However, HK government is not offering even half of such remuneration, Neither does it take into account the Academical qualifications. Refer to the additional paper attached with the letter "Remuneration of Interpreters under various Jurisdictions".

3. There is no standard CRITERIA/PROCESS/RULE about THE cancellation of the appointments FIXED BY any Government department. Please refer the email from THE Duty Lawyer Service, regarding this problem. THE BOOKED INTERPRETER'S APPOINTMENTS ARE CANCELLED WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE OR COMPENSATION.

4. Furthermore, there is a great need to RESTRICT the appointments on half day or full day basis. THE CONCERNED DEPT MUST BE AWARE OF ITS NEED AND SHOULD BOOK US ACCORDINGLY. Many A times such appointments are cancelled due to some unforeseen factors , i.e sickness of the interviewee or some other reasons. AS A RESULT THE ASSIGNED PTIs have to suffer significant loss FOR the whole day or half day as they cannot EXPECT any other appointment on that particular day.

All the above important facts have to be considered AS THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE PTIS WHICH THEY ARE DEPRIVED OF FOR MANY YEARS.

To add to their insecure earnings one must also realise that the PTIs are not entitled to the benefits such as MPF or insurance etc or any educational aid to their family members.

We believe that in recent years inflation rate in general has surged drastically. Therefore, the PTIs find it too difficult to make both ends meet

and also to cater to the needs of their growing offsprings, remaining confined to their limited income from this source.

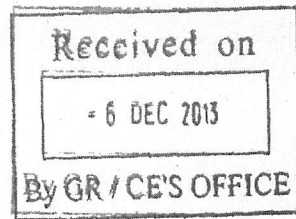
Please remember that a Part Time Interpreter just can not get engaged in any permanent 9 to 6 job even if they remain idle for days at home owing to the lack of their demand at times.

We sincerely hope that this will enlighten the members about the true picture of the PTIs and help DO JUSTICE TO TO THEIR SERVICES AND UPGRADE THEIR STANDARD FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SLOGGING SINCE A COUPLE OF DECADES.

Regards  
Part-time Interpreters

**Attachments:**

2016-05-23 09-05.pdf



To  
His Excellency Chief Executive,  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
People's Republic of China  
1 Tim Wa Avenue, Admiralty, Hong Kong  
Tel: 28783300  
Fax: 2509 0580  
Email: [ceo@ceo.gov.hk](mailto:ceo@ceo.gov.hk)

5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Application for Appropriate Increment of Interpretation Fees  
for Professional Free Lance Interpretation and Translation Services**

Honorable sir,

We, the undersigned, are representatives of what are known as, the part-time interpreters, all of whom are registered with the Judiciary.

This letter is addressed on behalf of those of us who, because of our command of English and one or more other foreign languages, are called upon by the Courts, the Police, the Department of Immigration, hospitals, etc., to assist in the investigations concerning the increasing influx of foreign people into Hong Kong, and in particular, the ever-growing number of persons claiming asylum in recent years.

Interpreters have been described as the backbone of the judicial system, for in very many cases, the process of law will come to a halt without us.

We feel bound to place on record that, frankly, we harbour feelings of considerable disappointment that our worth has not been recognised, despite the key role that we play in the administration of justice. In particular, the rate at which our services are remunerated is by no means commensurate with the heavy responsibilities laid upon our shoulders as professionals.

In view of the above we, the undersigned, part-time interpreters, registered with the Judiciary, wish to highlight some facts concerning our current interpreting fees for your kind consideration.

1. At present the fee is HK\$250 per hour with a minimum payment of 2 hours.

2. The translation fee is HK\$85.00 per 100 words for normal translations and HK\$106.00 for technical translations.

3. In 2008, the prevailing rates were increased for the first time since 1996 from HK\$204 per hour to HK\$230 per hour and for a second time from HK\$230 per hour to HK\$250 per hour, in 2012. The fee for written translation was increased to HK\$78.00 per 100 words around April 2012.

**We draw your attention to the fact that our situation has been completely ignored for more than a decade now. After starting off at HK\$204 per hour, our collective wage increment stands at a meager HK\$46 per hour, over a period of 17 years!**

**Please note that the aforementioned 2-hour minimum wage is inclusive of all benefits, including but not limited to traveling, insurance, retirement fund etc. In other words, we can only claim HK\$500 on many occasions regardless of the considerable amount of time and money invested into commuting.**

4. **A brief overview of the inflation rates for this period of 17 years reflects an increase of more than 60%.** Everything from housing rents to transportation costs and utility bills have increased considerably. To further add to the misery, over the last 10 years, the Hong Kong dollar has drastically fallen against the RMB. Hong Kong's heavy dependence on China for daily necessities such as food and clothes has made matters much worse, with price increases of over 100% for many daily items. The plight of we, part-time interpreters has worsened due to the uncertain and unstable nature of our work assignments.

5. In view of the international financial crisis, **a half-hour pay spread was temporarily introduced in 2003. The same increase is still in effect after 10 years, despite steady improvements in the general economic outlook.** We humbly request that the contingent half-hour spread, for service fee after the minimum two hours, be reset to one-hour spread.

6. Furthermore, although we are paid a minimum of 2 hours when engaged, an engagement which we regard as a professional commitment warranting a rejection of any other work offers in the designated timeslots, the Government departments have the option, which they do not infrequently exercise, to cancel the engagement without sufficient notice, depriving us of any income, in many cases for an entire day!

7. Furthermore, we would like to bring to your attention, the context in which we work. Firstly, our services are required any time of the day. Secondly, there are times where our service is required in remote locations which are difficult to reach. In such situations, we either have to take multiple forms of public transport, or take a taxi. We request compensation for our travelling expenses, as night time public transport fares are higher than daytime and travelling to remote places significantly increases our financial burden.



At present, no compensation for travelling time is offered, which can take up an inordinate percentage of our earnings. Nor are we covered by insurance. You will also well understand, Sir, that it frequently happens that time and transport costs make our attendance on behalf of Government departments sub-economic. But we do recognise the important nature of our expertise to the community and for that reason, usually accept the financial sacrifice. However, the time has come when very many of us may regard this particular sacrifice as pointless as it is in no way recognised or acknowledged by the Government.

It is perhaps worth re-emphasizing the imperative role part-time interpreters play in the local judicial system. The great influx of refugees and illegal immigrants into Hong Kong from around the world has made our work more important than ever. Part-time interpreters are one of the main contributors to the smooth running of our legal system that oversees ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, playing an integral part in official investigations, court proceedings and interrogations. We, part-time interpreters have been working sincerely and closely with the courts, as well as all other government departments, rendering our best professional services with complete integrity. We sometimes work round the clock to uphold the good image of the judicial system. Needless to state, without our dedicated services, cases pertaining to the ethnic minorities could not be dealt with. Our value to the Courts has been frequently acknowledged by the Judiciary.

8. Civil servants in Hong Kong and indeed most wage earners have an annual review of salary. However, this review has not been applied to the part-time interpreters. We request that the **increment of our fees be assessed periodically on a regular basis** in relation to the annual rise in inflation.

9. Referring to the attached data compilation of interpreter remuneration in other parts of the world, the Hong Kong figures are frankly abysmal. Interpreters in Australia are paid a 90-minute minimum of over HK\$1200 that excludes an additional travel allowance. The rates in Canada are a minimum of HK\$680 for the first 3 hours and a 6-hour minimum for any amount of time spent thereafter. Food, accommodation and travel allowances are among the added fringe benefits.

Given these factors, we do earnestly request your consideration to institute the necessary mechanism to grant us an increment not only in our basic hourly minimum earnings but also for commitment of a minimum of 4 hours engagement to make up for travelling expenses and time. Further, to mandate any engagement of our services as a contractual obligation to be reimbursed for the minimum 4 hours, whether cancelled or not.

**Once again, we reiterate our collective concern that we have been deprived for 17 years of the increments that we might expect as a result of inflation, in contradistinction to the regular increases granted to both the private and Government sector employees.**

We re-emphasize our commitment and dedication in each of our professional capacities to continue to serve the Government of the HKSAR for the betterment of Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,

Part-time interpreters  
P.O.Box 495, Tuen Mun Post Office,  
Tuen Mun, N.T

(Enclosed is the list of interpreters with their signatures in support of this letter)

cc:

1. His Excellency Jasper Tsang Yok Sing, GBS.JP  
President, Legislative Council, HKSAR. Fax: 2877 9600
2. His Excellency Geoffrey Ma, Chief Justice of HKSAR.
3. The Judiciary Administrator's Office..
4. Part-time interpreters office,  
Judiciary Language Section HKSAR
5. Registered Senior Interpreters' Committee

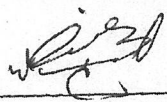
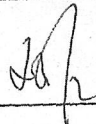


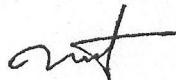

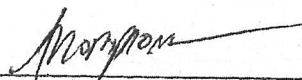
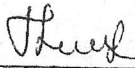



Remuneration for interpreters under various jurisdictions- information compiled online

Country	Existing numeration for Interpreters as per country's currency	Accreditation Required	Source of information
Australia	\$168 per 90 minutes, each additional 30 minutes \$55; per day \$725 (week days); Per day \$1164 (weekend); travel cost paid; different rate paid for telephone interpreting.	Interpreters with National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) professional accreditation	<a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help-with-translating/">http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help-with-translating/</a> <a href="http://ausit.org/AUSIT/Find_a_Service/Find_an_Interpreter.aspx">http://ausit.org/AUSIT/Find_a_Service/Find_an_Interpreter.aspx</a>
Canada	\$30 per hr with minimum 3 hrs payment guaranteed. For more than 3.5 hrs, minimum 6 hrs is paid. Travel mileage, accommodation and food allowance paid. No insurance.	Accredited by Ministry of Attorney General: Should pass bilingual tests, attend seminar and pass written test on court room procedures and interpreting ethics; clearance with the Canadian police	<a href="http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/interpreters/faqs.asp#15">http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/interpreters/faqs.asp#15</a>
United States	Certified and qualified Interpreters: \$388 full day, \$ 210 half day; over time \$55 per hour thereafter;	Certified interpreters have passed the Administrative Office certification examination – only available in few languages. Other language interpreters are	<a href="http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/UnderstandingtheFederalCourts/DistrictCourts/CourtInterpreters">http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/UnderstandingtheFederalCourts/DistrictCourts/CourtInterpreters</a>

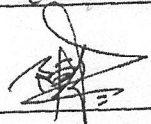
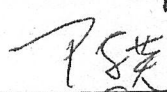
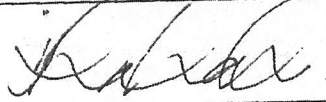
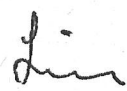
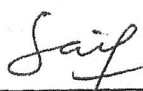
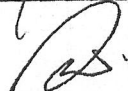
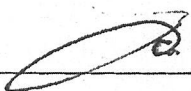

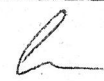


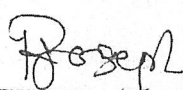

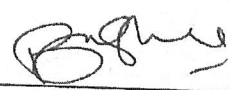

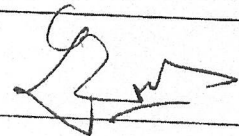



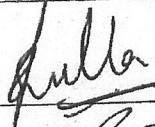
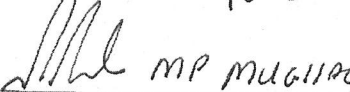

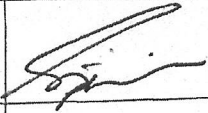
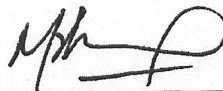
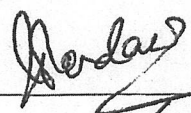
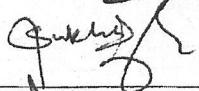

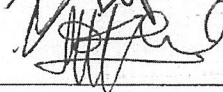





	Skilled language Interpreters (non-certified) : \$ 187 per day, \$ 103 half day, \$ 32 per hr there after.	assessed case by case on whether they are professionally qualified or linguistically skilled.	/ContractInterpretersFees.aspx	
United Kingdom	Guaranteed minimum fee (normally two or three hours' work); Typical hourly rates range from £30 to £40, rising to £60 for very experienced interpreters. Travelling cost reimbursed.	Language skill, graduate. Required to be register in National Register of Public Service Interpreter (NRPSI) and pass Metropolitan Police Test (to work in the police)	<a href="http://www.prospects.ac.uk/interpreter_salary.htm">http://www.prospects.ac.uk/interpreter_salary.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.apciinterpreters.org.uk/apci_interpreters_committee.aspx">http://www.apciinterpreters.org.uk/apci_interpreters_committee.aspx</a>	
New Zealand	\$25 per hr and computed on hourly basis thereafter.	Unavailable. Some documents show that NAATI accredited interpreters with formal education are preferred.	<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1974/0124/latest/whole.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1974/0124/latest/whole.html</a>	
Singapore	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	
Taiwan	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	
Hong Kong	<p>\$500 minimum 2 hrs and computed on a half hr basis thereafter to be paid by the judiciary and other gov. departments.</p> <p>Usual practice working with private bodies: Half day \$1000; full day \$2000; individual fees</p>	<p>Present requirement: Graduate in any discipline; pass the written and oral assessment test by the Part-time Interpreters' Unit, Judiciary. Registration subject to the completion of probation.</p> <p>The registration list is circulated to other gov. departments for their use.</p>		

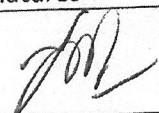
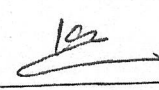
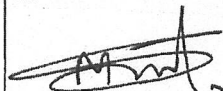
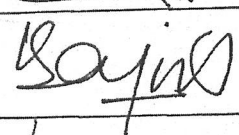
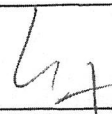
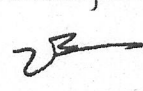


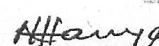
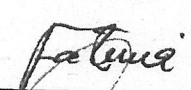
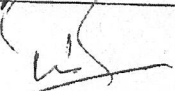
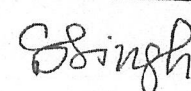
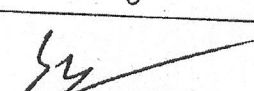
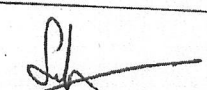
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K. Keshav Devandas Reg. No. A-082	Hindi, Urdu, Gujarathi, Marathi	A 082	
CROSSMAN, KETTY	FRENCH - ITALIAN	119	
Shareefa Jalal	Tamil.	B273.	
JALAL, M. S. A. HAMEED	Tamil	B293	
SAE LIM PO LIN	Thai	032	
SCHARSIG, ROSALINA	INDONESIAN	C144	
CHAW MAI KAW	INDONESIAN	088	
MARIA INDER POUL SINGH	PUNJABI-HINDI	B116	
Cam So Yuet	VIETNAM	A96	
B. KAW	Thai	201.	
Muhammad Afzal	URDU - PUNJABI		
Ujju Manting	Spanish	73	
VANAJI PRASAD Kulkarni	Thai	B167	
IQBAL TAIR	URDU - PUNJABI		
A/180 保冠華	HAKKA - PUEANGHUA CHAU CHOW	A/180	
KHEMLANI, S. B. C-126	HINDI-SINDHI	C-126	

Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
NADEEM AMAR	URDU/PUNJABI	C145	
CHOW MAN CHEN	HAINAN	A230	Chen.
CHENG MAN KEZ	HAI NAN	B235	
THADANI SUNIL LAL	HINDI	—	
LEO NGAR SUN	HAKKA	A296	
HAMZA NOORUL HINAYA	TAMIL & SINHALA	C009	Alhanya
GHATCHARTPARNCHAI FORNPAT	THAI	B249	
LEE SUN NGO	Hmong	B265	
Portonnier Kim HS	Korean	C-101	Portonier
THOMPSON ARISA	THAI	C120	
NAR-OORIR TSOLMON	MONGOLIAN	—	
NG WAI CHUN	PEISHAN	B263	
HO YUET YING	HAKKA	A239	
SO KING TO	FRENCH/LINGALA	B032	



Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
CHAN SAU LAN 陳香蘭	INDONESIAN	C06P	
CHOW YING 陳英	VIETNAMESE & MINNAN CHINESE & PUNJABI	B089	
SHAHAB MUHAMMED JAVEL	Urdu/Punjabi	C045	
LIU WA YING	VIETNAMESE	A19	
SAIFUR, REHMAN	URDU	024	
HENG, LYDIA WIDAYA	INDONESIAN	C091	
YOU SHAN TENG	INDONESIAN	A018	
KITAPHANICH NITAYA	THAI	B231	
陳 梅 芳 AM EENA	English	046	
KHANDAK OR RANA BUTT.	BENGALI		
MOHAMMAD SAEED	URDU PUNJABI	B052	
Rauojay Joseph.	Beng.		
TEODORA A GANIAD	Tagalog	A295	
Bushra Khaliq	Urdu/Punjabi		
Dian	Indonesian		
Lin wating	Vietnamese	A114	
林 卓 穎	Minnan.	B276	






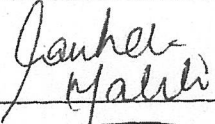
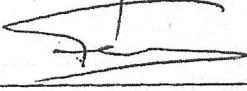
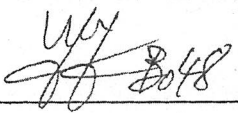
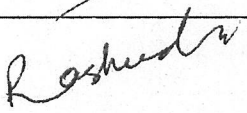
Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
Susan Ravi Julla	Hindi	C094	
 MP MUGHA	URDU, HINDI PUNJABI	136	
USOQWU, BENJAMIN ENOKA	LAGBO	C135	
SABINA FATIMA	BENGALI	B280	Arbina Latimer
NEENA PUSHKARNA	HINDI, URDU, PUNJABI	C048	
WIRIADI, YOLANDA	INDONESIAN	C097	
SINGH SUKHBIR	HINDI, PUNJABI	C142	
CHOPRA, ANULAM	HINDI, PUNJABI	C147	
Lucian Mashobe	Swahili	C151	
CHOKH RUTH	Spanish		
SHAMMI AKTER	BENGALI		
Ranjay Joseph -	Bengali/Hindi		Joseph
Chatchodpanchai gompot	Thai	B249	
Lo Kuk Fong	Sipi.		
GAMIAO TEODORA A.	TAGALOG/ ILOCANO	A 295	

Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
MISHRA JAIDEEP	HINDI DUNDEBI		
KALASINGHE PULASTIKA	sinhala		
SAGGU, MAJHEET SINGH	PUNJABI HINDI	C138	
SAJID KHALIL	Urdu, Punjabi		
TANG VIRGINIA	FILIPINO [TAGALOG]	B254	
CHONG YUK CHUN	INDONESIAN	C150	
TUFAIL MOHAMMAD	Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi	C079	
RAI VYSHALI	Nepali/ Hindi	B284	
HAMZA NOORUL HINAYA	SINHALA AND TAMIL	C009	
BIRI FATIMA	VIETNAMESE	B015	
VAYALIL SADANANDAN BAIJU PRASEED	MALAYALAM		
SINGH SHAKUNTALA	HINDI/URDU	B081	
SHAD MUHAMMAD KHANZAD	Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Pashto DINKEO	030	
SATHI HANSON	BENGALI		

Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
DIN, NORMELITA B.	FILIPINO LANGUAGE	B145	
Harry Donatus Horn	Nigerian Igbo	C179	
KHANZADA NOREEN	Urdu Pushto	C044	Noreen Khan
Sun Yuk Spring	Nepali	B155	
WEARING SMITH, Maria	TAGALOG / G. G. ILONGGO	77	
alecram2@netuigabv.com Besley, Marula c.	Filipino language	A70	
MIGWI BEATRICE	SWAHILI KIKUYU languages	C152	
Rai, Anand	Nepali	-	
Ajith Samarasekera (Sam #)	Sinhala Language SRI Lanka	116	
ALAMANI, Iena	Indonesian language	015	
KAWUMA, Leticia A. G.	Tagalog and Ilocano language	A291	
CHAN MUI KAN	Indonesian	046	
MOMONGAN, CONSUELO R.	Cebuano AND Tagalog	-	
POON YUET KWAI	VIET NAM	A202	





Name	Language	Registration No.	Signatures
GURUNG Sargi	Nepali	C038	
GURUNG Bikas	NEPALI	230	
Karma Jivan	Nepali	C092	
Hajera Khatoon	Bengali	C130	
GURUNG SARALA	NEPALI	C080	
Malik, Gauher Naz	Urdu/Punjabi	C112	
Gemma MURILLO	SPANISH	C128	
YOGO YAYUMA	FRENCH (SPANISH) LINGALA	B048	
<del>KHAN, MUHAMMAD ALI</del>	<del>URDU &amp; PUNJABI</del>	<del>NA</del>	<del>M. A. Khan</del>
<del>KILA, CHRISTIAN MM</del>	<del>FRENCH-LINGALA - SWAHILI</del>	<del>NA</del>	<del>Kila</del>
NASREEN	URDU/Punjabi	N.A	
TRAN THI THUY	Vietnamese/English	013	