

**WHAT WOULD JIMMY LANDAU HAVE SAID ABOUT THIS ?**



When the British ruled the roost in (old) Hongkong, as it was known until July 1, 1997, Jimmy's Kitchen was an icon of the 416 square miles, with its Founder, Mr Jimmy Landau, usually on tap to guarantee the quality of the food and of the service.

Today, however, Jimmy's Kitchen is a far cry from its famous past.

Mr Jimmy Landau is long dead, having turned over the little restaurant empire that he founded to his offspring, Mr David Landau, who, sadly, knew too little about the hospitality industry and so, as it is said, the first generation founds the enterprise and the second generation loses it.

While the menu at Jimmy's Kitchen of today still includes old favourites, such as Chicken Madras, Lamb Madras, custards, and dishes with nostalgic names that date back to the height of the British-Indian Empire, neither the food nor the service is a patch on their old self.

Yes, many things have changed in the little enclave, at the foot of the might Middle Kingdom – and not all for the best, it seems.

The 75-year-old restaurant (it was founded in 1928), the oldest, free-standing restaurant in existence in the territory, today, may well be in financial trouble because, for the first time in many a moon, it has been sued for, allegedly, not paying its rent at its Central outlet.

In fact, **TARGET** cannot remember this chain of 3 restaurants, all of which trade under the name or style of Jimmy's Kitchen, being sued for alleged non-payment of rent at one of its 3 outlets – or for anything else, for that matter.

Globe Century Development Ltd recently sued Jimmy's Kitchen Ltd for \$HK500,000, that amount of money, being the alleged unpaid rent on its property, situated at the Ground Floor, South China Building, Wyndham Street, Central Hongkong, for the previous 2 months.

When a landlord sues a tenant of the stature of Jimmy's Kitchen, it is unlikely to be an administrative mistake on the part of the restaurant's bookkeeper – especially for a restaurant that has been frequented by the moneyed population of Hongkong for so many decades.

But there you have it.

It is, no doubt, a sign of the times for the territory, now a part of the People's Republic of China, the territory's name, having been changed to the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with the assumption of sovereignty by the PRC Government.

On an aside, according to **TOLFIN** (**TARGET**'s Computerised Online Financial Intelligence Service and Credit-Checking Provider), the property, in which Jimmy's Kitchen is presently operating in Central Hongkong, was sold to Globe Century Development Ltd on or about January 1998 for about \$HK54 million.

Restaurants come and go in the HKSAR, almost as quickly as the frequency of summer typhoons, but Jimmy's Kitchen had been able to withstand some of the toughest times, during the past 75 years.

It was, at one time, the favourite Saturday luncheon haunt for some of the most opulent ethnic Indian merchants of the territory, who used to park there for many hours, with one venerable Indian wallah after another, holding court with his sycophants and retinue, while he pontificated on the state of affairs of Asia's economy and how Indian traders might benefit from it.

But, as with the wealth of the HKSAR, the ethnic Indian trader has become part of the smelly artificial leather armchairs that, today, adorn this once proud restaurant, located in the heart of Central Hongkong.

Recently, the Secretary of Jimmy's Kitchen Ltd and Jimmy's Kitchen (Kowloon) Ltd, Lew and Barr Services Ltd, resigned, the company's resignation, being effective as of April 11, 2003.

No replacement Secretary has, as at today's date, been filed in The Companies Registry, **TOLFIN**'s records indicate.

In August, last year, all of the Directors of Jimmy's Kitchen Ltd resigned, and JK Directors Ltd and Badilla Ltd, both entities, being companies, domiciled in the British Virgin Islands, replaced them. JK Directors and Badilla are, also, shown to be Directors of Jimmy's Kitchen (Kowloon) Ltd.

As for the shareholding structure, it appears to be:

<u><b>Jimmy's Kitchen Ltd</b></u>		<u><b>Jimmy's Kitchen (Kowloon) Ltd</b></u>	
Bowman Top Ltd	10 percent	Badilla Ltd	50 percent
Jeroboam Investments Ltd	90 percent	Jimmy's Kitchen Holdings Ltd	50 percent

That changes are afoot at Jimmy's Kitchen appear to be an undeniable fact, but the rationale for the changes is yet to be made public by those who are orchestrating them.

**TARGET** visited the Central eatery, last Tuesday, and discovered that it was about 60 percent empty between the hours of 1 pm and 2 pm.

This should have been the busiest time for this European-type of restaurant, but it was not at all busy.

The 110-seater restaurant appears to have inadequate air-conditioning, today, or it is turned extremely low in order to save money.

It is only too apparent that the restaurant is 'tired' as was ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

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