## EVERPRIDE BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LTD: IS THE DEATH KNELL SOUNDING FOR THIS DUD COMPANY ?

Weird and not-so-wonderful things continue to take place at publicly listed <u>Everpride Biopharmaceutical</u> <u>Company Ltd ()</u> (Code: 8019, The Growth Enterprise Market [The GEM] of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) – and senior Management is keeping mum about certain, rather very queer situations within the company.

Last Tuesday-week, Everpride Pharmaceutical (Hongkong) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Everpride Biopharmaceutical Company Ltd, was sued in the District Court of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for about \$HK73,650.00.

The Plaintiff to this Action is Quality Investment Ltd, the corporate landlord for the Principal Place of Business in the HKSAR of the parent company, to wit:

Suite Number 5, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sino Plaza, Numbers 256-257, Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay, The HKSAR.

Quality Investment is alleging that Everpride Pharmaceutical (Hongkong) Ltd owes it rent money, going back to November 2005.

This is the eighth time since January 2004 that Quality Investment has sued this wholly owned subsidiary and, always, it has been for alleged non-payment of rent.

But the matter of finding it difficult to pay rent in respect of its HKSAR offices is the least of the parent company's worries, it would appear, because the company is, literally, starving for cash – and the Chairman has stated this in the 2004 Annual Report, which was released in the first half of the 2004 Financial Year.

Chairman Chung Chi Mang said, inter alia:

'The Group generally finances its operations through internally-generated cash flows and banking facilities provided by its principal bankers. As at 31 December 2004, the Group had cash and cash equivalents amounting to approximately RMB812,000\* (2003: RMB11,142,000). With the limited available resources and due to the fair operating results during the year, the Directors expected that the Group might depend on further financing from its shareholders and bankers to finance its business operations and to achieve its business objectives.'

\*RMB =  $\mathbf{R}$ en**m**in**b**i, the currency of the PRC: Renminbi1.00 = \$HK1.04

Since the publication of this missive, there has been no suggestion of a cash-raising exercise, probably because the company realises that there is little chance of a Rights Issue, being successful.

## I'm Gone, Thank You Very Much

On November 22, 2005, the company announced that Mr Lau Lai Chi () resigned as the Company Secretary, Qualified Accountant and Authorised Representative with immediate effect.

He was replaced by Mr Leung King Fai () on the same day: November 22, 2005.

No reason has ever been given for Mr Lau Lai Chi's resignation and the official company announcement did not contain a disclosure to the effect that this departed senior official did not have any grievance with the company or any member of the Board of Directors; and, that there was no matter that should be brought to the attention of shareholders/creditors, etc.

One may only speculate as to the meaning behind this non-disclosure.

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