

## Helper visited witch doctor before death

Chandra Wong  
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A Filipino domestic helper whose body was found in the sea off Tung Chung told a friend earlier she had been bewitched and had consulted a witch doctor about continuous headaches, an inquest heard yesterday.

Her friend also told the court she noticed a big change in Vicenta Flores after she returned from a trip home to the Philippines in February.

The 31-year-old maid was seen running barefoot out of her employer's house in Discovery Bay on the night of April 7. Her body was found four days later. She was last seen boarding a bus and alighting at the Tung Chung Bus terminal.

Flores told her friend, Consolacion Papio, that she believed she had been bewitched because she had continuous headaches. Ms Papio said Flores told her she had consulted a witch doctor to treat the headaches during her visit home.

Ms Papio noticed a remarkable change in her when she returned, and she even felt the woman was "out of her mind".

The court heard that police found a copy of a loan agreement between the maid and PrimeCredit in her room. PrimeCredit records showed Flores had taken out four loans between November 2005 and the same month last year. The loans ranged from HK\$26,000 to HK\$30,000.

Earlier hearings were told Flores had drowned, according to an autopsy report. The only foreign substance found in her body was a trace of a painkiller.

Police found a love letter asking for her forgiveness and a text message with biblical references to "last days" and "salvation", both from her boyfriend, Arnold Azusada, who lives in the Philippines.

Police also found a note that read "back to Christ", which was in an envelope addressed to her boyfriend.

The inquest continues today before Coroner Michael Chan Pik-kiu.

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