



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1977

MARRIAGE STATISTICS FOR 1976

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THE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN 1976 REACHED A NEW RECORD TOTAL OF 39,700, BEING 2,066 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 37,634 IN 1974, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR. P. JACOBS, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TOTAL INCLUDED 4,098 MARRIAGES BETWEEN PARTIES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED OTHERWISE THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE, AS COMPARED WITH 5,487 MARRIAGES OF THIS CATEGORY IN 1975. EXCLUDING THESE 'REMARRIAGES', THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED MARRIAGES INCREASED BY 4,897 FROM 30,705 TO 35,602.

THE NEW RECORD MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT LUNAR YEAR, WHICH BEGAN ON JANUARY 31, 1976, IS A PARTICULARLY AUSPICIOUS YEAR FOR MARRIAGES AMONGST THE CHINESE BECAUSE IT IS THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON AND HAS TWO FIRST DAYS OF SPRING (LAP CHUN), WHEREAS THE PRECEDING LUNAR YEAR WAS A BLIND YEAR, THAT IS TO SAY, A YEAR IN WHICH THERE WAS NO FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

ANOTHER MAJOR FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCREASE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION, WHICH HAS A GROWING NUMBER OF PERSONS WITHIN THE MORE POPULAR AGE GROUPS FOR MARRIAGE (21 TO 24 FOR WOMEN AND 25 TO 29 FOR MEN).

THE NUMBER OF CHURCH MARRIAGES IN 1976 ALSO REACHED A NEW RECORD TOTAL OF 2,928 AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 2,413 IN 1975. MOST OF THE REGISTERED MARRIAGES WERE, AS USUAL, CELEBRATED AT THE MARRIAGE REGISTRIES. THE TOTAL OF SUCH MARRIAGES WAS 36,772, BEING 2,993 MORE THAN THE 1975 FIGURE.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, REGISTERED MARRIAGES CONTINUED TO INCREASE, WITH A TOTAL OF 8,240 MARRIAGES CELEBRATED, UP BY 1,330 OR 19.25 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 6,910 IN 1975. THERE ARE NOW FOUR FULL-TIME REGISTRIES AND FOUR PART-TIME REGISTRIES OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TWO PRINCIPAL MARRIAGE REGISTRIES AT THE CITY HALL AND THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES REMAINED THE MOST POPULAR REGISTRIES, WITH 36.98 PER CENT OF ALL REGISTRY MARRIAGES CELEBRATED THERE. ANOTHER POPULAR REGISTRY WAS THE SAN PO KONG REGISTRY, WHERE 6,292 MARRIAGES TOOK PLACE DURING THE YEAR.

THE CITY HALL MARRIAGE REGISTRY CONTINUED TO OPERATE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS DURING THE YEAR AND A TOTAL OF 559 SUNDAY MORNING MARRIAGES WERE PERFORMED. IN MANY CASES, SUNDAY WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO BE A LUCKY DAY ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE CALENDAR= IN OTHERS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF CONVENIENCE FOR WORK OR OTHER REASONS.

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F.S.D. TO BEGIN AREA INSPECTION THIS WEEK

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A LARGE SCALE INSPECTION ON PREMISES IN WONG CHUK HANG, ABERDEEN, ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (JANUARY 19 AND 20) TO IMPROVE FIRE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE PUBLIC.

THIS IS THE FIRST AREA TO BE VISITED SINCE THE SCHEME ON AREA INSPECTION WAS ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

IN THE PAST, FIRE OFFICERS USUALLY CARRIED OUT SURPRISE CHECKS ON BUILDINGS. HOWEVER, UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS THE DATE WHEN A CERTAIN AREA IS TO BE INSPECTED WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE. ADDITIONALLY FIRE OFFICERS WILL MAKE STREET BROADCASTS TO THIS EFFECT IN THE DESIGNATED AREA FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS BEFORE THE INSPECTION.

+THIS PURPOSE IS TO MAKE EVERYONE IN THE AREA AWARE OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT AND TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PREMISES, BE IT A RESTAURANT, A WORKPLACE, A HOME OR A BUILDING, WILL MEET WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW WITH REGARD TO FIRE SAFETY,+ SAID A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN.

DURING THE INSPECTION, FIRE OFFICERS WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE MEANS OF ESCAPE AND FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS TO SEE THAT THEY ARE FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS, PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND CLEARLY SEEN.

+LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE FOUND CONTRAVENING THE FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS,+ HE WARNED.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY HAD A PART TO PLAY TO ENSURE FIRE SAFETY.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT FIRE FIGHTING AND ESCAPE FACILITIES MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, NOT ONLY ON THE INSPECTION DAYS,+ HE ADDED.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

OFFICERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE MAKING STREET BROADCASTS ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING INSPECTIONS IN WONG CHUK HANG AREA TOMORROW (MONDAY) AND ON TUESDAY. THEY WILL LEAVE ABERDEEN FIRE STATION AT ABOUT 9.30 A.M. EACH DAY. ANY PUBLICITY YOU CAN GIVE TO THE AREA INSPECTION WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE AT PING CHAU
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS AT PING CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE FOR RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE LIVING NEARBY FOR THREE DAYS FROM JANUARY 24.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN OR WARDS OF 11 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DAILY.

ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS.

THEY SHOULD REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION 1978
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THE SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD, MR. CHEUNG KANG-CHING, TODAY REMINDED SCHOOLS WISHING TO ENTER FORM V OR MIDDLE V CANDIDATES AND +ENGLISH ONLY+ CANDIDATES, BOTH FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO SIT FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION 1978, TO SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS TO HIM NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1.

+SCHOOLS WISHING TO ENTER CANDIDATES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SHORTHAND, TYPEWRITING, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, POTTERY, PHYSICS, DOMESTIC SUBJECT (COOKERY AND NEEDLEWORK), DRESSMAKING, WOODWORK, METALWORK, PRACTICAL ELECTRICITY, TECHNICAL DRAWING, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD ALSO MAKE APPLICATION BY THE SAME DATE,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

THE ADDRESS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD IS CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11TH FLOOR, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE 1978 CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY.

ENGLISH AND CHINESE HANDBOOKS OF REGULATIONS AND SYLLABUSES FOR THE EXAMINATION ARE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG.

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THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT ON TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE THE NEW OWNER IS NOW REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF THIRD PARTY INSURANCE TAKEN OUT IN HIS NAME.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PREVIOUSLY PEOPLE BUYING SECOND-HAND VEHICLES WERE ALLOWED TO PRODUCE THE INSURANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE SELLER WHEN APPLYING FOR THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THE VEHICLE.

+AS THE LAW HAS NOW BEEN AMENDED,+ HE SAID, +THIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FROM NOW ON.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED MOTORISTS BUYING SECOND-HAND VEHICLES TO TAKE OUT THIRD PARTY INSURANCE BEFORE APPROACHING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THE VEHICLE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED PEOPLE INTENDING TO BUY SECOND-HAND VEHICLES TO CHECK WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IF THE VEHICLE HAD ANY FIXED PENALTIES OUTSTANDING.

HE SAID: +THE INTENDING PURCHASER CAN SAFEGUARD HIMSELF BY OBTAINING FREE OF CHARGE A CERTIFICATE OF CLEARANCE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT. THIS CERTIFICATE, VALID FOR 72 HOURS, CERTIFIES THAT THE VEHICLE IS FREE OF FIXED PENALTY TICKETS AT THE TIME OF ISSUE.+

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS CERTIFICATE WOULD PROTECT THE PURCHASER AGAINST COURT ORDERS RELATING TO ANY OUTSTANDING FIXED PENALTY TICKETS IF OWNERSHIP IS TRANSFERRED WITHIN 72 HOURS.

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