

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Sat. July 1,
✓ ~~Sunday, July 2,~~ 1972

MORE LIFE GUARDS AT BEACHES

More life-guards are being stationed this year at beaches and swimming pools controlled by the Urban Council Recreation and Amenities Select Committee.

This is part of an overall plan to improve services and is being done in conjunction with a swimming safety campaign.

The establishment of life-guards has been increased at bathing beaches from 196 to 273, or about 38 per cent; and from 59 to 70, or about 19 per cent at the five existing swimming pools.

The number of labourers at the beaches has also risen from 51 to 110 and from 30 to 49 at swimming pools.

Recruiting well-qualified life-guards has been made easier by an increased salary scale which now ranges from \$586-716. The old scale was \$472-531.

A number of selected beaches already have more life-guards on shift, and action is now being taken to fill all the vacancies as quickly as possible.

It is advisable to swim only at Urban Council gazetted beaches where there are life-saving facilities. Swimmers themselves, however, should also follow safety rules in order to guard against mishaps.

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The Senior Executive Officer (Swimming) of the USD Recreation and Amenities Division, Mr. M.C. Ho, pointed out that swimming had now become the most popular recreational activity during the summer. In fact, at a peak period last year, it was estimated that over 37,000 people were at Repulse Bay.

Because of this a swimmer in difficulty is relatively inconspicuous and he must therefore try to attract the attention of the life-guards, who, on the other hand, are conspicuous in their orange red uniforms.

Mr. Ho said that people who find themselves in difficulties must first of all keep calm and conserve their energy and breath. They must try to tread water or float on their back, and raise their arm for assistance. And he had a word of warning: never pretend to be in difficulties when you are not.

These rules and other safety instructions have been printed in handy leaflets and are distributed to students and swimmers.

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SUMMER PROGRAMME 1972

The Social Welfare Department summer programme this year involves more than 90,000 young people in 337 different activities.

Organised by the Group and Community Work Division the programme is designed to emphasise training, community service and outdoor activities.

Sub-divisions within the programme break it down into three distinct parts for smoother handling. One part, called the Central Programme, is being organised by the Department's Youth Work Unit for young people in general.

Another part, the Centre Programme, is meant for young people belonging to communities being served by the Department's community centres, such as the Wong Tai Sin and Princess Alexandra community centres.

The District Programme, the third and final part, involves the Department's District Community Officers and Wardens of the community and social centres working in close touch with representatives of voluntary groups in various District Youth Recreation Co-ordinating Committees.

All three programmes revolve around six common themes -- training, community service, outdoor groups, indoor groups, mass recreation, and community self-study.

Twenty-nine items have been devised to cover training. They include orientation courses for volunteers, youth leadership, seminars, forums, and career talks. The aim is to provide young people with opportunities to share their experiences, to acquire skills, and to develop leadership.

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In community service, 25 items are planned, including work camps, rural observation and service teams, forestry work camps, and services for the aged and handicapped. It is hoped that as a result of participation in these activities, young people will learn how to derive personal satisfaction from serving others.

About 120 items take into account indoor and outdoor group activities. They include whole weeks of organised "summer clubs," where members take part in indoor games, group songs, dances, and special interests such as judo and karate lessons.

For the outdoors, there are holiday camps, track camps, launch picnics, visits of observation, Army and Police camps held in conjunction with the Department, day trips, overnight hikes, and short-term courses on subjects such as canoeing and swimming.

Activities making up mass recreation include variety shows, competitions, youth balls and fun fairs.

Community self-study items cover visits to factories in Tsuen Wan, a project study at Kwun Tong, and in-depth looks at the communities in Tai Hang Tung and the Western District.

Mr. Law Chi-kin, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer, and Head of the Group and Community Work Division says: "We believe we have come up with a balanced and integrated programme for thousands of young people this summer.

"The main aim is to give participants group experience, develop their leadership potential, instil in them a sense of civic responsibility, and mobilise them in community service."

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PENALTY CHARGES FOR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS

Importers and exporters were today reminded of their obligation to lodge trade declarations and pay ad valorem charges, within 14 days of transacting business on all imports and exports other than those which are exempted.

A spokesman of the Commerce and Industry Department said prosecutions will be initiated against those who, without reasonable excuse, fail to lodge the necessary trade declarations.

Trade declarations submitted outside the prescribed period of 14 days will be liable, without any further notice, to penalty charges which rise after two months to a maximum of \$50 per declaration where the total value of articles specified does not exceed \$20,000.

Where this value exceeds \$20,000, the penalty charges rise after two months to a maximum of \$100 per declaration.

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Release time: 3.00 p.m.