



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, January 16, 1973

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FIRST DIVIDEND TO MING TAK BANK CREDITORS

Arrangements For Payment Completed

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Arrangements for the payment of a first dividend to creditors of the Ming Tak Bank have now been finalised, Mr. W. Hume, the Official Receiver and Trustee, announced today.

Mr. Hume recalled that in his latest circular letter to creditors dated November 30, 1972 he said that he proposed to pay a first dividend of not less than 20 per cent to all unsecured creditors before the next Chinese New Year provided the necessary arrangements could be made in time.

"Creditors will be pleased to learn", Mr. Hume said, "that it will in fact be possible to pay a dividend of 25 per cent."

"However, although almost all depositors will be paid before Chinese New Year, it will unfortunately not be possible to pay some other creditors until about the end of February," he added.

Mr. Hume explained that the creditors who will be paid before Chinese New Year are those depositors, whether on current, savings, deposit, fixed deposit or other account, who can produce their account books or deposit receipts (except for a comparatively small number to whom it has been necessary to send proofs of debt for completion), and also the holders of gift coupons who can produce the coupons.

The dates and times of payment will be notified in the Government Gazette and advertised in the public notices columns of several newspapers on Friday, January 19.

/Arrangements, .....

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Arrangements, he said, will be made for paying other creditors after Chinese New Year. A separate notice regarding these arrangements will be published later.

Mr. Hume explained that each depositor and gift coupon holder should attend on the appropriate day and time for his account, bringing with him his Identity Card, Pass-Book, Deposit Receipt, Bank Statement, gift coupon, or other evidence of his claim, and also his signature chop, if he uses one.

If anyone has lost or mislaid his Pass-Book, Deposit Receipt or gift coupon he should NOT attend. Arrangements for dealing with such cases will be published later.

Authorised Representative

If a depositor or gift coupon holder is unable to attend in person, he can authorise payment to his representative by completing a form of Authority for Payment of Dividend.

Copies of the form will be available during normal office hours from today onwards at the Official Receiver's Office, Sutherland House, 10th floor, 3 Chater Road, and at the Registrar General's Department, Central Government Offices, West Wing, 6th floor.

Arrangements for payment to depositors or holders of gift coupons who are unable to attend in person or by duly authorised representative at the specified dates and times for their accounts will be announced later.

Creditors are strongly advised to have nothing to do with any unauthorised person, and in particular NOT to hand over their documents to anyone other than the authorised staff inside the offices referred to above.

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#### DOWNWARD TREND IN BIRTHS REVERSED

1972 Figure Shows Rise For The First Time Since 1963

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The total number of births registered in 1972 was 79,053, a slight increase over the 1971 figure of 76,818.

This was revealed today by the Registrar General, Mr. W. Hume.

Although the increase was only 2,235, or about 3 per cent up on the 1971 figure, it was significant in that it reversed the downward trend noted in each year since 1963, when a record figure of 115,263 births was registered.

A total of 19,910 births was registered on Hong Kong Island, 48,354 in Kowloon and 10,789 in the New Territories, being 4.46 per cent up, 3.65 per cent up and 2.86 per cent down respectively as compared with the preceding year.

The crude birth rate also rose to 19.39 per thousand of population as compared with 18.99 in 1971 and 19.65 in 1970. This is the first increase since 1960, when the rate was 37.1.

In issuing these figures, Mr. Hume emphasized that they were in respect of registered births only.

There were always a number of births every year which were not registered by the parents at the time, with the result that while the figures for registered births show trends, they do not give a completely accurate picture.

The total registered births comprised 77,076 Chinese (39,731 male and 37,345 female) and 1,977 non-Chinese (1,049 male and 928 female).

/The number .....

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The number of deaths registered in 1972 was 21,145, an increase of 892 as compared with 1971. The crude death rate was also slightly up at 5.19 per thousand of population, compared with 5.01 for 1971.

Of the total deaths, 20,857 (11,709 male and 9,146 female and 2 unknown sex) were Chinese and 288 (201 male and 87 female) were non-Chinese.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 1,380 or 17.46 per thousand registered births as against 1,410 or 18.36 per thousand registered births in 1971.

The number of deaths of infants under one week of age was 740 or 9.36 per thousand registered births as against 722 or 9.40 per thousand registered births in 1971.

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CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE ASSIZES

Church Services, Speeches, Guard Of Honour

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The first Assizes of the Supreme Court for this year will be held on Thursday, January 18. Following the practice of previous years, there will be two church services, one in St. John's Cathedral and the other in St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road.

The service in St. John's Cathedral will begin at 9.30 a.m. during which there will be a sermon by the Rev. Hedley Bunton.

In St. Joseph's Church the service will consist of a Mass starting at 9.30 a.m. which will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Francis Hsu, and the sermon will be preached by Rev. Fr. M. McLoughlin, S.J.

Both church services are open to members of the public.

After the two church services, which should conclude at about 10.10 a.m., there will be an inspection by the Chief Justice of a Guard of Honour. The Guard will take up a position on Chater Road between the Supreme Court building and the Cenotaph, and will be supplied by this year by the 1st Battalion, 2nd (KED) Gurkha Rifles accompanied by the Staff Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas (2nd Gurkha Rifles).

After the inspection the Chief Justice and others will proceed into Court where addresses will be delivered.

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Note to Editors: .....

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PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

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Note to Editors: The first Assizes of the Supreme Court for this year will be held on Thursday, January 18.

Press representatives covering the ceremony at the Cenotaph are asked to assemble at Chater Road outside the northeast corner of the Supreme Court Building not later than 10 a.m.

Officers from the Government Information Services will be on hand to assist them.

There will be limited space for reporters in the central court room and no photographs will be allowed within the court buildings.

Copies of the Chief Justice's speech, in English and Chinese, will be available for collection from the Press Room, Government Information Services, after the ceremony.

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ABERDEEN TUNNEL FEASIBILITY STUDY  
Consultants' Report Expected In May

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The Government is studying the feasibility of building a road tunnel linking Happy Valley and Wong Chuk Hang.

The need for a high-capacity north-south road link, proposed by the Long Term Road Study, has become apparent as a result of the rapid housing and industrial development in the Aberdeen and Wah Fu areas and the increasing degree of recreational interest in the southern coast of Hong Kong Island.

The study is being carried out by consulting engineers who are expected to submit their report to the Government in May.

The report will include suggested alignments, structural details, proposed construction methods, and an estimate of the cost of both the tunnel and the necessary road connections at either end.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said: "The brief to the consultants calls for the provision of dual two-lane carriageways, connecting in the north to the Cross Harbour Tunnel and Waterfront Road; via an extension to the Canal Road Flyover, and in the south to the existing Wong Chuk Hang Road by means of a grade separated interchange."

"As part of the Consultants' investigations a detailed ground investigation contract has been let and is now underway," he added.

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MORE SPORTS FACILITIES FOR CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS

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A fully equipped recreation ground will be built in Cheung Chau this Summer to supply additional sports facilities for the residents of the island.

A mini-soccer pitch, a basketball/volleyball court, a 300-meter running track, jump pits and a children's playground are included in the scheme.

All these facilities will be provided with floodlighting to enable maximum usage at all hours.

Mobile spectator stands will be used in the ground so that they can be moved to whichever field is in use. There is also a permanent stand at the basketball/volleyball court.

Situated in a valley, the site is bounded by Sports Road, Kwun Yam Wan Road, Fa Peng Road and an access road.

All existing plants on the construction site will be retained to preserve the natural surroundings.

Estimated to cost about \$2 million, the recreation ground is due for completion in 1974.

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REGISTRATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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There were 335 registered trade unions in Hong Kong at the end of last year.

Of these, 277 were employees' unions, 46 employers' unions and 12 mixed unions.

According to statistics issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, three employees' unions were removed from and one was added to the register kept by the department during the last quarter of 1972.

The three trade unions removed from the register were the Hong Kong Cross-Harbour Tunnel Workers General Union, the Society of Civil Servants, Ministry of Defence Section, Hong Kong Branch, and the Association of Government Supervisors and Radio Officers. The one added to the register was the Hong Kong and Kowloon Electronics Industry Employees' General Union.

Four applications for registration were also received during the quarter.

The Registrar reported that in the same period, 57 applications for registration of alterations of rules by trade unions were approved and four employees' unions and two employers' associations were warned for failing to submit their applications for registration of alterations to their rules within the statutory period of 30 days.

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LAST MONTH'S WEATHER WAS FAIRLY NORMAL

Christmas Was Warmer Than Usual

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Apart from being slightly more cloudy than usual, December 1972 was a fairly normal month, according to the Royal Observatory.

At the beginning of the month, the south China coastal areas were under the influence of a continental northeasterly airstream and the weather in Hong Kong was generally sunny and dry.

Temperatures during the first two days were slightly below normal; but as the northeasterly airstream weakened, winds in Hong Kong turned to easterly and much warmer weather was experienced.

From December 4 to 7, the daily mean temperature was above 20°C, while the highest temperature of the month, 25.2°C, was recorded on December 7.

However, a cold front passed south across Hong Kong the same evening and resulted in slightly cooler weather the next day.

Fine and mild conditions prevailed in Hong Kong from December 9 to 11.

Meanwhile the seasonal continental anticyclone north of the Tibetan Plateau intensified and spread southeastwards.

A marked surge of the winter monsoon reached Hong Kong during the morning of December 12 and necessitated the hoisting of the Strong Monsoon Signal at 4.30 a.m.

Strong gusty northerly winds persisted until the next morning when the Strong Monsoon Signal was lowered at 11.10 a.m.

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During the display of the Signal the following maximum gusts were recorded:-

Royal Observatory	33 knots
Hong Kong Airport	43 knots
Cape Collinson	48 knots
Cheung Chau Island	53 knots
Waglan Island	46 knots
Tate's Cairn	56 knots

Some rain fell on December 12 and the weather remained dull and cold during the next two days.

Milder and more humid weather was experienced from December 15 to 19.

An easterly surge arrived on December 20 bringing some rain, and the weather continued cloudy with patches of light rain until the morning of December 22.

The weather during the Christmas holidays was mainly fine with sunny periods every day and was relatively warmer than usual.

On December 27 a cold front formed across south China and moved southwards as the anticyclone over northwest China intensified rapidly.

The cold front passed through Hong Kong on December 28, causing a sharp fall in temperature. The minimum temperature of the month, 8.8°C, was recorded on the early morning of December 30.

The Strong Monsoon Signal was again displayed from 3.10 a.m. on December 29 to 6.00 a.m. on December 30. The weather remained overcast until the end of the month.

During the month four tropical cyclones were reported over the western Pacific, the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

/Typhoon .....

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Typhoon SALLY moved west-northwestwards across Malaysia on December 4 and a tropical storm over the Bay of Bengal affected southern India on December 5.

Typhoon THERESE moved across the southern Philippines on a northwesterly track on December 4 and crossed the coast of South Vietnam on December 10.

Tropical Storm VIOLET formed over the Pacific near the Marshall Islands on December 12 and dissipated in the vicinity of the Caroline Islands seven days later.

No aircraft were diverted due to weather during the month. No thunderstorm or heavy rain warnings were issued. Fire hazard warnings were issued as follows:-

December	1-2	Red
December	2-5	Yellow
December	5-7	Yellow
December	7-9	Red
December	12-14	Red
December	14-18	Yellow
December	19-20	Yellow
December	29-31	Yellow

The month's .....

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The month's figures and departures from normal were:

Sunshine	133.6 hours;	39.0 hours below normal
Rainfall	15.0 mm;	9.9 mm below normal
Cloudiness	66%	11% above normal
Relative Humidity	72%;	2% above normal
Mean Maximum Temperature	20.8°C;	0.7°C above normal
Mean Temperature	17.8°C;	0.5°C above normal
Mean Minimum Temperature	15.5°C;	0.6°C above normal
Mean Dew Point	12.4°C;	0.5°C above normal
Total Evaporation	109.3 mm;	17.6 mm below normal

Maximum Temperature of 25.2°C was recorded on December 7.

Minimum Temperature of 8.8°C was recorded on December 30.

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#### LAST SQUATTER CLEARANCE IN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD

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The last squatter clearance connected with the Lung Cheung Road extension scheme started today at Yuen Ling Village, Diamond Hill.

The 1,880 people involved in the clearance have all moved to their new homes in Lam Tin or Sau Mau Ping Estate.

Of the 330 huts, about 100 were demolished today. It is expected that another three days will be required to pull down the rest.

Forty-five shop operators have been allocated units in resettlement flatted factories in Kwun Tong. Apart from resettlement, the shop operators and cultivators were given cash compensation, totalling more than \$400,000.

A Resettlement Department spokesman today stressed that no one would be made homeless as a result of the clearance.

Work is well underway on some of the eleven separate projects forming the \$140 million Lung Cheung Road extension scheme.

When the highway is completed in 1975, the entire route across the northern part of Kowloon will merge with the Kwai Chung Coastal Road.

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#### DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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The Governor, after taking into consideration the advice of the Executive Council, has decided that the death sentence passed on September 21, 1972 on Lai Kuen should be commuted to a term of 15 years imprisonment.

Lai Kuen was found guilty of the murder of Mui Suk-fung.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.