

**HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**

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**DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN**

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Thursday, July 20, 1972

MID-YEAR POPULATION STATISTICS

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The estimated population of Hong Kong at the end of June was 4,077,400 -- an increase of only 13,000 over the 1971 end of year estimate.

The Census and Statistics Department said today that the smaller increase was due mainly to the number of people leaving Hong Kong during the first half of the year.

The spokesman said migration statistics showed a negative balance of 14,649 on the inward and outward movements in the past six months.

The total number of births -- 35,968 -- was also the second lowest for any half-year period since 1954. And, the spokesman says, it is evident that births will continue to remain at the present low level, both in numbers and as a rate per thousand of the population in the near future.

The number of deaths was 12,175 which appears to be high for a six-month period. In the previous half-yearly intervals the number of deaths has been in the vicinity of 10,000.

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MARINE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SECTION TO BE FORMED

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A Working Party comprising representatives of the shipping industry and Government departments is now drawing up a Code of Safe Working Practices concerning shipbuilding and ship-repairing activities.

The Code will comprise several sections, but it is intended to produce first those sections dealing with precautions relevant to fire and explosion prevention, and to distribute these amongst the industrial sector at an early stage.

When completed, the Code will form the basis of new legislation, which is already being given consideration.

A Marine Department spokesman said to ensure efficient control being exercised for operations associated with the repair, renovation and refitting of ships in Hong Kong waters, a new Industrial Safety Division within the Department would need to be formed.

The Marine Court of Inquiry into the "Seawise University" fire has recommended, inter alia, that the Director of Marine be given overall control for such operations, and this recommendation has already been accepted in principle by the Governor in Council.

The Court has also proposed that before the introduction of new legislation, no repairs of any kind should be carried out aboard a "dead ship" without permission from the Director of Marine.

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The spokesman said such a suggestion had merit so far as the provision could be achieved by a simple amendment to the relevant regulations, but to be effective, sufficient staff would be needed to ensure control being exercised.

Considering both the immediate and the longer term situations envisaged by the Court Report, he said implementation of the recommendations would depend on the introduction of the appropriate legislation and the recruitment of sufficient inspecting staff to undertake the additional responsibilities of ensuring adequate safe working conditions aboard vessels under construction or repair.

"These matters are being given a high degree of priority in order that the recommendations of the Marine Court of Inquiry will be implemented as soon as possible," the spokesman said.

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\$50,000 PAID IN SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

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A total of more than \$50,000 is being paid to a group of workers retrenched by an engineering company on Ap Lei Chau.

More than \$25,000 has been given to the workers and a similar amount will be paid at a later date already agreed to by the parties concerned.

The dispute arose over the retrenchment of 136 workers of the Elling Engineering Company Limited and was amicably settled with the help of the Labour Department.

Officers of the Labour Relations Service paid two visits to the company and conducted five joint meetings for the two parties.

Agreement was reached at a joint meeting on Tuesday (July 18).

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RAINSTORM CLOSED ROAD REOPENS

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A section of Barker Road in the peak district, which was closed to traffic following the rainstorms in mid-June, has been reopened to traffic.

The road had been blocked between house No. 27 and No. 31 while repairs were carried out.

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WORKS BY HONG KONG CHILDREN ON DISPLAY

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The progress of children's art in Hong Kong over the past decade can be seen in a special exhibition mounted at the City Hall as part of its 10th anniversary.

Entitled "A Decade of Children's Pictures", the works have been selected from the Children's Mural Competitions of the Hong Kong Festival and the Children's Art Exhibitions organised by the City Museum and Art Gallery during the past 10 years.

A spokesman for the Gallery has described the 250 pictures on display as "a world of dazzling originality and vibrant colours".

He explained that many changes have occurred in the world of art in Hong Kong, including the teaching of art, since the City Hall was opened.

Art courses nowadays are "freer" and "more stimulating" and children are guided to develop their natural capacity and creative instinct, he said.

The works on display not only reflect the achievement of one important aspect of art education in Hong Kong, but also help both the young and old to come to a better understanding of each other.

The exhibition is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until August 13 at the Exhibition Gallery on the seventh floor of the City Hall.

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SUMMER COURSE FOR MUSIC TEACHERS

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The Education Department will hold a summer course for serving music teachers.

A three-day course for 50 secondary school music teachers will begin on July 24 at Wah Yan College in Kowloon.

At the same time a three-day course for 168 primary school teachers in the New Territories will begin at the Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School in Tsuen Wan.

The programme includes a detailed examination of a proposed new secondary school syllabus, a discussion of problems related to class teaching, choir conducting and song accompaniment. Several inspectors from the Education Department and leading experts will speak at the seminars.

Apart from providing an opportunity for an exchange of views on mutual problems, the course will "revitalise" the teachers' experience and will help promote their greater understanding of creative music-making and appreciation.

It is the first time that secondary teachers have been included in the summer course and is in line with the recommendations of the Curriculum Development Council which has launched an extensive project to study curricula at all levels.

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NEW LICENCE FOR AP LEI CHAU FERRY SERVICE

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A new licence has been granted by the Government for the operation of a passenger ferry service between Ap Lei Chau and Aberdeen.

The successful tenderer was the Eastern Ferry Company. The licence will be effective for three years from August 1.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today that the service to be operated by the company will be the same as the existing one. The ferries will operate at a 5-minute frequency between 6 a.m. and midnight, with landing pontoons at either end.

The fare will continue to be 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children under the age of 12.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN SHAU KEI WAN

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Water supply to a number of premises in Shau Kei Wan, on Hong Kong Island, will be interrupted for five hours beginning from 1 a.m. on Saturday, July 22.

The temporary water stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test for waste detection in that area.

The area to be affected is bounded by Tai Cheong Street, Holy Cross Path, Tai On Street, Shing On Street, Shau Kei Wan Road and Sai Wan Ho Street, including Ma Shan Village, Au Pui Lung Village and Shing On Village.

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CROWN LAND AUCTION

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Three lots of crown land will be auctioned at the City Hall (Lecture Room, 8th floor) on Friday, August 11, at 2.30 p.m.

The biggest lot for sale, covering an area of 27,000 square feet, is off Chung Hom Kok Road and is for private residential purposes. The upset price is \$900,000.

Another lot at Chai Wan, to be used for industrial or godown purposes with an area of 14,870 square feet, has an upset price of \$750,000.

A small piece of land measuring 3,300 square feet in Sai Wan Ho Street, Shau Kei Wan for non-industrial use is the other lot to be offered. Its upset price is \$500,000.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from, and Sale Plans inspected at, the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), ground floor, Hong Kong; and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, 10th floor, Kowloon.

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MINIMUM PERIOD FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS  
FOR PASSPORTS AND ENTRY CERTIFICATES INCREASED

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The Director of Immigration announced today that due to considerable increase in the number of applications for British passports and Entry Certificates for Britain, changes have been made regarding the minimum period required for processing.

The minimum period is now 14 working days (i.e. about three weeks) in the case of Hong Kong British passports, and four working days (i.e. about one week) in the case of Entry Certificates.

Any inconvenience caused is regretted and people intending to travel should take these changes into account in planning their arrangements.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.