

# Most people apathetic - survey

# A Chinese governor is all right but . . .

*Answers news*

ABOUT 14 out of 100 people in Hongkong would like a prominent Chinese leader to be the next governor, while another 10 per cent prefer Sir Jack Cater.

Financial Secretary, Sir Philip Haddon-Cave was given a 7.4 per cent vote.

These were some of the findings of a Hongkong Standard survey in which 513 Hongkong residents from different strata of society were asked to give their preference for Hongkong's next governor.

However, 62.4 per cent of the interviewees declined to pick their choice. They said that their decisions would make no difference whatsoever in the final outcome.

"What's the use of picking our governor when we know very well that this man will be appointed by the British Government?" said a 20-year-old university student.

A 35-year-old expatriate housewife however said a prominent Chinese citizen should be eligible for the post although this was not

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the normal practice. A retired fisherman from Apleichau said, "As long as he serves the Hongkong people, any one can be the next governor."

Many of the people interviewed said they would endorse Sir Murray MacLehose to serve another term.

More than 45 per cent of the people interviewed said Hongkong should have a democratic government, 26 per cent disagreed and 28.2 per cent did not care.

A university student said, "In principle, democracy is welcome but whether it is practical here is anyone's guess."

"It's a colony, so it is impossible for Hongkong to become so democratic," a Form Four student said.

Another housewife just could not care. "I don't know what democracy is and I don't care as long as my husband has his job and the prices of commodities stay at the present level."

A labourer, however, expressed fears, that the introduction of a democratic government would force China to claim Hongkong.

"China would not approve if Hongkong practises democracy. I am

afraid she would suddenly claim Hongkong if the Government paves the way for autonomy," he said.

A middle-aged woman said, "Of course, every country should have a democratic government; Hongkong is no exception. But judging from the present political environment, I prefer no change."

On the people's needs and grievances, 38.2 per cent believed the Government took note of their views, 38.4 per cent said it did not, and 23.4 per cent were not interested.

A university student said, "I admit that the Government does not consider all the opinions of the people before a policy is made but it does bow to public pressure."

"I think the Government is giving more room for public involvement in local politics. The green paper on local administration is a good sign."

More people believed the Legislative Council was acting for the Government than for the people. At the same time, the majority conceded that the Urban Council was working in the interests of the people but deplored that its powers were insignificant.

The Urbco should get more powers to act since some members are elected. It can do more for the people. But Legco members are appointed by the Government; they would work for the Government," said one clerk.

More than half of those interviewed did not think the Government should change the present laws on homosexuality.

"I think Hongkong will follow in the steps of Britain one day but I am strongly against any change because this is a Chinese society," a 20-year-old typist said.

A 25-year-old air hostess said, "It is the traditional Chinese opinion that this kind of activity is abnormal and should not be sanctioned."

Thirty-one people out of 100 were indifferent. One said: "Only Britons are concerned about the laws but the Chinese do not care whether they are changed or not."

Surprisingly, 192 out of the 513 did not even know who, Mr A de O Sales, the chairman of the Urban Council was!

Some said: "I never heard of him." Others commented: "I think he is one of those big shots."

On the influx of illegal immigrants, 62.4 per cent said all of them should be sent back to China.

The Standard interviewed 513 people in the past few weeks. They

were from three age groups - 14 to 40, 41 to 60 and those above 61.

The groups comprised 124 students, 57 housewives, 156 lower income workers, 58 office workers and 118 teachers, professionals, executives and civil servants.

At least 258 of them have received secondary education, 143 have finished primary school and 58 were either receiving or have finished post-secondary education. Others studied overseas but some did not have any education.

The following questions were put to them:

Who would you like to be the next governor?

Answers: A. A prominent Chinese citizen like Sir Y.K. Kan (71 - 13.8 per cent). B. Sir Philip Haddon-Cave (38 - 7.4%). C. Sir Jack Cater (53 - 10.3%). D. Dennis Bray (25 - 4.9%) E. Huang Guo Feng (5 - 1%). F. Chang Ching Kuo (1 - 0.2%) G. Don't know (320 - 62.4%).

Do you believe Hongkong should have a democratic government?

Answers: A. Yes (235 - 45.8%). B. No (134 - 26%). C. Don't know (144 - 28.2%)

Do you believe the Government takes note of the views of the people of Hongkong?

Answers: A. Yes (196 - 38.2%). B. No (197 - 38.4%). C. Don't know (120 - 23.4%).

Do you believe the Government should change the laws on homosexuality?

Answers: A. Yes (92 - 17.9%). B. No (261 - 50.9%). C. Don't care (160 - 31.2%).

Do you trust the police?

Answers: A. Yes (282 - 55%). B. No (123 - 24%) C. Don't know (108 - 21%).

Do you think Legco and Urbco act for the people of Hongkong?

Answers: A. Yes (216 - 42.1%). B. No (116 - 22.6%). C. Don't care (181 - 35.3%).

Should all Chinese illegal immigrants be sent back?

Answers: A. Yes (320 - 62.4%). B. No (89 - 17.8%). C. Don't care (104 - 20.3%).

Should the Government allow Vietnamese refugees to seek shelter here?

Answers: A. Yes (127 - 24.8%). B. No (310 - 60.4%). C. Don't care (76 - 14.8%).

Should casinos be allowed in Hongkong as they are in Macao?

Answers: A. Yes (81 - 15.8%). B. No (343 - 66.9%). C. Don't care (89 - 17.3%).

Who is Margaret Thatcher?

Answers: A. I know (333 - 65%). B. Don't know (180 - 35%).

Who is A. de O. Sales?

Answers: A. I know (321 - 62.6%) B. Don't know (192 - 37.4%).