

J. R. M. P.

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## 3,500 illegals a day line up for ID cards

About 20,000 illegal immigrants have gone to the Victoria Barracks immigration office in the past three months to apply for identity cards.

During the same period, 32,000 legal immigrants applied at the office for identity cards, re-entry visas or extension of stay.

The daily turnout now is 3,500 compared with 4,500 in late May when the office began operation.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said:

"The situation is better now as the influx of refugees has dropped.

"And we now have staff double the number in late May in addition to the allocation of two more blocks for us."

The office can now handle about 5,000 cases — 800 cases of registration for identity cards and 4,000 of re-entry visas and extension of stay.

This compares with 2,000 in May.

"Our workload is very much related to the seriousness of the influx of immigrants," the spokesman said.