

HB 9/2/1/114 (TC 33/2001)

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17 January 2002

Miss Becky Yu
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear

**LegCo Panel on Housing :
Meeting on 5 November 2001**

At the captioned meeting of the LegCo Panel on Housing, Secretary for Housing briefed Members on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2001. During the session, Members asked for more information on the 50,000 housing assistance opportunities.

At the 2001 Policy Address exercise, the Government reaffirmed its housing policy target of providing 50,000 housing assistance opportunities a year to meet long term demand from the low income group who cannot afford other types of housing. This includes public rental housing flats, rental allowances, subsidised home ownership flats and home ownership loans.

Out of this total, we provide, through the Housing Authority, sufficient rental flats to reduce the waiting time for public rental housing to an average of three years by the end of 2003 and maintain it at that level thereafter, as well as to meet other commitments. Over the next ten years, this amounts to an average of about 23,000 new units a year.

The Government also pledged to examine in 2002 the feasibility of a pilot scheme to provide rental allowances to eligible non-elderly households as an alternative means of providing public rental flats.

We provide the balance of the 50,000 housing assistance opportunities in the form of home ownership assistance, which includes subsidised home ownership flats, i.e. flats built under Home Ownership Scheme and other similar schemes, and home ownership loans. They help to satisfy demand for home ownership.

The Government and Housing Authority are currently reviewing some long term issues relating to the provision of housing assistance opportunities including the long term mix between the provision of subsidised home ownership flats and loans and the feasibility of the provision of rental allowances to partially replace the provision of public rental units.

(Ms. L.K. LAM)
for Secretary for Housing

c.c. Director of Housing (Attn : Mr Marco WU) 2762 1110