

**Government responses to the request for meeting with residents affected
by Phase 1 of Public Housing Development at Wang Chau, Yuen Long
raised during the Public Works Subcommittee Meeting
on 18 February 2017**

During the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 18 February 2017, some Members mentioned that the Government should meet the residents affected by Phase 1 of the public housing development at Wang Chau, Yuen Long (Wang Chau Phase 1). After discussion among various departments involved, we would like to reply as follows:

Public Consultation

The Government would like to reiterate that in respect of the development of Wang Chau Phase 1, we have been following the established procedures, which include carrying out formal and public consultations according to the statutory procedures and mechanism. Between 2014 and 2015, the Government consulted the Ping Shan Rural Committee and Yuen Long District Council and carried out public consultation through the statutory rezoning procedures as required by the Town Planning Board. During the various stage of consultation, we have openly invited public views and formal representations, whereas the departments, according to their respective scopes of work, maintain communication with the affected parties at appropriate time so that the views of various sectors would be considered.

Land Resumption According to Established Legislation

According to the related legislation, the Government published the road works and sewage works for Wang Chau Phase 1 and the associated land resumption in the gazette on 30 October 2015. 159 objections were received subsequently including some submitted by people living in the area. The Lands Department (LandsD), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), Housing Department (HD) and Home Affairs Department (HAD) held 21 meetings with the objectors between 30 January and 23 May 2016 to understand and address their concerns as far as possible. Their concerns include compensation and rehousing arrangement for the affected residents and commercial operators, the exact dates of land resumption or clearance, the removal process of graves or urns and so on.

Continuous Communication with the Public

Since 30 October 2015, some of the residents affected by Wang Chau Phase 1 were much concerned about the rehousing arrangement and took the initiative to contact LandsD. Meanwhile, LandsD has also made contact with other affected residents. Up to mid-February 2017, LandsD has met over 50 households to explain the arrangement for rehousing and ex-gratia allowance.

LandsD is making arrangement for the gazettal of land resumption for the public housing development of Wang Chau Phase 1. After publication of the land resumption in the gazette, LandsD will continue to conduct detailed vetting of each registered resident in order to arrange rehousing and provide ex-gratia allowance for the eligible residents.

As for the local residents' request for meeting with relevant government departments, we are arranging representatives of LandsD, CEDD, HD and HAD to attend the meeting. We shall make an announcement when the detailed arrangement is fixed. We are looking forward to exchanging views with various interested parties at the meeting.

Transport and Housing Bureau
February 2017