

8 June 2000

The Honourable Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP

Chairman of the Bills Committee

By Fax & By Post

on the Urban Renewal Authority Bill

Legislative Council

8 Jackson Road

Central

HONG KONG

Dear Mr Ho,

**Bills Committee on the
Urban Renewal Authority Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 30 May 2000. The Chief Executive has asked me to reply to your letter on his behalf.

The Government has made a commitment that no one affected by the resumption of land for redevelopment projects of the future Urban Renewal Authority (URA) would be made homeless. We would ensure that there are sufficient rehousing resources to accommodate people affected by URA projects. Both the Housing Authority and the Housing Society have now agreed to be rehousing agents for the URA.

The Housing Society is prepared to reserve 20% of its annual quota of public rental housing units for the URA for the purpose of rehousing affected tenants on compassionate grounds at the discretion of the URA. We believe that these reserved units should be sufficient to deal with compassionate cases.

The Bills Committee on the Urban Renewal Authority Bill has suggested that the Housing Authority should also allocate 20% of its annual quota for the purpose of rehousing affected tenants on compassionate grounds at the discretion of the URA. The Secretary for Housing has agreed to raise this matter with the Housing Authority.

The setting up of the Urban Renewal Authority is essential to the early implementation of the urban renewal programme, which comprises 200 priority projects, nine urban renewal target areas and all the uncompleted projects of the Land Development Corporation, and will bring much needed improvement to the living conditions of people in the old urban districts. We hope Honourable Members will give favourable consideration and support to the Urban Renewal Authority Bill, so that it can be passed into law and the projects implemented as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Richard Yuen)

Private Secretary to Chief Executive

c.c. Secretary for Planning and Lands
Secretary for Housing