

**List of Concerns raised by members
at the first meeting of the Subcommittee on
Rehousing Arrangements for Residents Affected
by Clearance of Squatter Areas on 15 December 1999**

1. Unwanted/unpopular public rental housing (PRH) flats

Members were of the view that full use should be made of urban unwanted/unpopular PRH flats which had been rejected by applicants on the Waiting List (WL). Consideration should be given to offering these units to squatter clearerees as Interim Housing (IH). Members would like to be advised on the number of these unwanted flats, how long these have been left vacant, whether these units have been included in one of the three offers made to WL applicants, and whether these units have been offered to applicants at the lower end of WL who would not otherwise have a chance to be allocated a PRH flat in the near future.

2. Provision of new Interim Housing blocks

Members considered that the policy for providing new purpose-built IH blocks need to be reviewed. They pointed out that it was unfair that eligible WL applicants have to spend years waiting for the allocation of PRH units which were in some cases inferior to new IH units. Meanwhile, some residents of old PRH units would also prefer to live in new IH units. Members have asked the Administration to consider giving priority to WL applicants and tenants of old urban PRH units if they opted for these new IH units. As a result, a number of PRH units in the urban area could be freed for use either as IH or re-allocation. Members found the mixed provision of IH and PRH units within the same block an acceptable arrangement, as IH blocks have also been built adjacent to PRH blocks. Members considered that the proposed arrangement would fully utilize all available PRH units.

3. Refurbished units

Members considered that refurbished units which had been left vacant for a long time should also be offered to squatter clearerees as IH.

4. Trawling exercise at Shek Lei Estate

Members would like to have more information about the trawling exercise at Shek Lei Estate.

5. Block 23 of Tung Tau Estate

Members have requested the Administration to consider converting Block 23 of Tung Tau Estate to IH.

6. Rehousing policy for elderly residents affected by clearance of squatter areas

Given that the Administration had introduced a number of priority housing schemes for elderly WL applicants and those affected by redevelopment, members considered that the same arrangement should apply to elderly residents affected by clearance of squatter areas. Consideration should also be given to rehousing the 60 elderly families of Diamond Hill Squatter Area in urban area.

Legislative Council Secretariat

17 December 1999