

**List of concerns raised by members
at the second meeting on 10 January 2000**

1. Provision of Interim Housing (IH) in urban areas

Members are persistent in their request for the provision of IH in urban areas. They are concerned that squatter clearerees who have made their homes in the urban areas would have difficulty adjusting to the move to rural areas. They consider that a choice of allocation of urban IH units should be given to squatter clearerees. Members have stressed that since it is the Administration's decision to demolish the homes of those affected by squatter clearance, it should have the responsibility to rehouse them according to their needs.

2. Review of the 84/85 Squatter Occupancy Survey, the 923 policy and the comprehensive means test

Members are of the view that the Administration has been taking progressive steps in tightening the eligibility criteria for public rental housing (PRH) in respect of squatter clearerees. The 84/85 Squatter Occupancy Survey has already frozen the number of clearerees eligible for PRH. The further implementation of 923 policy and the introduction of the comprehensive means test in September 1998 have rendered a number of squatter clearerees ineligible for PRH. As a result of the changes in housing policy, some squatter clearerees who have been tolerating unacceptable living conditions for years in the hope of rehousing to PRH would find themselves ineligible because they are not able to pass the comprehensive means test. Members consider that the comprehensive means test has actually encouraged applicants on the Waiting List to spend or dispose of their savings in an attempt to regain their eligibility for PRH. They have urged the Administration to review the existing policy on rehousing criteria for squatter clearerees.

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 January 2000