

Public Accounts Committee
Public Hearing on
Director of Audit's Report No. 67, Chapter 1
Hong Kong Housing Authority:
Maintenance and Safety-related Improvements of
Public Rental Housing Flats

Opening Remarks by the Secretary for Transport and Housing
(10 December 2016)

Chairman,

The Housing Department (HD) is the executive arm of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) and is tasked to implement the policies determined by the HA. The HD is managing around 756,000 public rental housing (PRH) flats in 215 estates to meet the housing needs of low-income families that cannot afford private accommodation. To ensure a safe and pleasant living environment for the tenants, as well as to improve the sustainability of the PRH estates, the HD has introduced various maintenance and improvement programmes over the years.

2. From the perspective of the housing stock of the HA, proper maintenance and improvement works can keep our housing stock sustainable and also maintain its property value. Hence, regular review of the effectiveness of the maintenance and improvement works is very

important.

3. I welcome the audit review of the maintenance and safety-related improvement of PRH flats of the HA conducted by the Audit Commission. I want to express my appreciation for their professional manner in which this exercise was carried out and the opportunity the HD has been given to respond to the findings and to clarify many points ahead of the finalization of the Report. We generally agree with the observations and comments made by the Audit Commission. Most of the recommendations have either been implemented or will be taken on board as appropriate. We will continue to review the maintenance and safety-related improvement works for PRH estates for further enhancement.

4. Chairman: I together with the Director of Housing and his colleagues will be pleased to answer Members' queries. Before answering Members' queries, I would like to invite Mr. Stanley YING, Director of Housing, to have some initial response to the recent public concerns on the issues raised in the Audit Report.

Thank you.

(296 words, 2 minutes)

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