

**Speech by the Chairman the Hon. Rosanna WONG Yick-ming  
at the meeting of the Housing Authority held on 13.4.2000**

Dear Colleagues and Members,

Before moving on to the next agenda item, I would like to share with you some of my personal feelings. I remember that when I talked about housing quality some one year ago at the HA meeting, the issue did not draw much public concern. It is not until recent months that housing quality has become a hot topic of discussion in the community. All of a sudden, the community have set their eyes closely on everything related to housing quality from the system, the operation, the Department's supervision to the culture of the industry. Even the Government finds it necessary to conduct a comprehensive review on the matter and set up the Construction Industry Review Committee to look into the whole problem in a more comprehensive way.

As for the Housing Authority, the recent spate of incidents hurt our feelings and call for our immediate concern. They have all the more highlighted the imminence of reform. It is not only my personal wish to see the reform kick off. What is more, reform is the common goal and wish of the community and an important task of all the business partners in the construction industry.

While reform cannot be achieved overnight, we have taken an important step to transform our 'determination' into 'action'. The consultative - Partnering for Change' drew enthusiastic response from various sectors of the community and we have come up with 50 viable recommendations after careful consolidation of the feedback. It is no easy task for us to overcome all sort of difficulties and take courage to take the first step to move the reform forward.

This reform is one which calls for the participation of all business partners in the industry. It is pragmatic, serious and all-embracing with long-term and short-term initiatives tailored to meet both internal and external needs. We will carry it through to the end. The collection of feedback and criticism is only a prelude to the reform. Now we have come to the best part of

the show.

As I have said before, now is the golden opportunity and the most critical moment for reform. I believe that you all share my wish to build mutual trust and partnership with the industry players in order to carry through the recommendations for reform and bring about a quantum improvement to the quality of public housing.