

(Translation)

The Alliance of Housing Department Staff Unions

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Mr Tony Miller, Director of Housing
Hong Kong Special Administration Region of
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Recently, the Department has held a series of briefings on the Phased Transfer of EMM Services and the Voluntary Departure Scheme and this causes great anxieties to those staff who wish to stay in the Department.

The SAR Government and the Housing Authority (HA) have emphasized in the publicity that PST will be based on the arrangements under the Voluntary Departure Scheme. However, the scope of service transfer for the first two years has been decided while the PST programme has not taken into account the number and types of staff opting for voluntary departure. This clearly shows that the SAR Government and HA have no sincerity at all to achieve greater PSI gradually by way of voluntary departure. They aim to disguise their motive to use forced redundancy as the last resort and, in particular, to mislead civil servants of other departments. Moreover, the Secretary for Housing Mr Dominic WONG and the Chairman of the HA Task Force Mr CHAN Bing-woon also threatened to use forced redundancy as the last resort. We are very angry and anxious about this.

To reassure staff opting to stay and let them continue to provide quality service to the public, the Alliance of Housing Department Staff Unions strongly requests the SAR Government to guarantee in writing that staff opting to stay can continue to work in the government until retirement. The Alliance considers that it is the right of HD staff and permanent and pensionable civil servants to work in the Government until retirement. Given the annual production of a large number of flats, there will be adequate workload for staff. We cannot see why HA should not guarantee continual employment of staff. As Head of the Department, the Director of Housing should understand how the 9 200 staff feel about the new policy and secure a stable working environment for those who opt to stay. We strongly demand that the Director, on behalf of staff and the SAR Government (as a responsible government), urge HA in its meeting today to act as a responsible "board of directors". HA should decide on the scale and pace of greater PSI having regard to the actual subscription to voluntary departure and natural wastage of staff. Most of the staff are being upset. We hope that the Director will, on behalf of HD staff, request the Government to guarantee by letter not to implement forced redundancy. The Alliance believes that the success of such request hinges very

much on your sentiments, commitment and attitude towards your staff.

LAM Man-cheuk
Convenor of the Alliance of Housing Department Staff Unions

c.c. The Secretary for Civil Service, Mr LAM Woon-kwong
The Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic WONG
The Chairman and all Members of the Housing Authority