

Press in September 1996

<i>Press September 18, 1996</i>	
Headline:	<i>Eligibility for Rent Assistance Relaxed</i>
Content:	<p>The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority :</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for public housing tenants to receive rent assistance is now further relaxed to benefit more families.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Housing Authority's Management and Operations Committee (MOC), Mr Chan Kam-man, today (Wednesday) said that the revised Rent Assistance Scheme (RAS) should be welcomed by tenants.</p> <p>"Under the revised scheme, tenants with rent-to-income ratio (RIR) exceeding 25 per cent or income below 50 per cent of the waiting list income limit are only required to pay half the rent," Mr Chan said.</p> <p>"Households with an income between 50 and 60 per cent of the waiting list income limit and at the same time a rent-income ratio exceeding 15 per cent may also pay half the rent," he added.</p> <p>As in the past, beneficiaries will be granted one-half rent reduction up to two years. A household who continues to receive rent assistance after two years may be required, subject to availability, to transfer to a flat with lower rent in the same district.</p> <p>On transfer, a domestic removal allowance and one month rent free period will be granted. Elderly households and households with disabled members are exempted from the requirement to move.</p> <p>Mr Chan said the scheme, first introduced in 1992 and revised in October 1995, aimed to help tenants with temporary financial difficulties by giving them rent reduction.</p> <p>"Tenants with long term financial difficulties may apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Allowance (CSSA) which includes cash assistance and a rent allowance covering the full amount of rent payable," he noted.</p> <p>"In addition to existing publicity materials, the Housing Department will step up publicity on the RAS through television and radio announcements."</p> <p>End/Wednesday, September 18, 1996</p>

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