

<i>Press January 4, 1996</i>	
Headline :	<i>Old Housing Blocks to be mainstream of interim housing (Issued on behalf of the Housing Authority)</i>
Content :	<p>The Housing Authority today (Thursday) endorsed proposals to turn more old housing blocks into interim housing to meet the demand for temporary accommodation in the long run. At a meeting of the Authority, members agreed that new and improved forms of interim housing should be identified for households involved in clearances who are not yet eligible for permanent rental housing, in line with the gradual phasing out of the tr"From the land use and management point of view, the most cost-effective way of meeting the demand for interim housing is to make use of old housing blocks which are structurally sound but somewhat inferior in quality and facilities compared to present—"The first of such interim housing at Block 12 of Kwai Shing East Estate has been very popular among clearees, prompting the Authority to decide that this should be the prime supply of interim housing in future," he noted. "When deciding which blocks to use, a primary consideration is that, as far as possible, retention of the old blocks should not be at the expense of the production of new flats. "Other than the use of old blocks, members also agreed to experiment with a new form of interim housing using prefabricated building system in Sha Kok Mei, Sai Kung. "The system is quick to assemble and provides a high quality of finishes," the spokesman said, noting that the units are all self-contained, with individual bathrooms and kitchen. "It also provides the flexibility necessary to meet the demands of different household size mixes by adjusting the internal partitions, while up to 90 per cent of the component parts may be recovered and re-used on another site upon removal. "The project at Sha Kok Mei is estimated to cost around \$17.8 million and will be financed by the Authority's Development Fund. "In view of their higher costs, prefabricated structures will only be used as a fallback and stop-gap measure when other types of interim housing are not available," the spokesman stressed. Over 20,000 units will be needed between now and 2001 to rehouse the large numbers of squatter and other clearees who are not yet eligible for public rental housing. Meanwhile, members also agreed that management of the traditional THAs should be upgraded to improve the living conditions of the residents there. More guards will be employed to keep out trespassors, coupled with stepped-up efforts to improve the overall hygienic and environmental conditions there. End Thursday, January 4, 1996</p>