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Headline: Open Ballot for More Rehousing Operations

Content:

The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority:

A pilot scheme allowing tenants affected by the Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme (CRP) to select their flats according to priority lists drawn out in an open ballot will be extended to other rehousing operations.

This was endorsed by the Housing Authority 愚 Management and Operations Committee (MOC) today (Saturday), after the Committee had evaluated the outcome of the pilot scheme tried out in January 1996 in Chai Wan redevelopment Phase 2.

The MOC Chairman, Mr Chan Kam-man, said that the new scheme would be implemented in all future CRP operations and clearances of temporary housing and squatter areas to increase the transparency and shorten the period of flat allocation.

However, in cases of emergency or when the scale of operation is so small that the traditional batch allocation system will be more efficient, the new scheme will not be used,?he added.

Under the pilot scheme carried out in Chai Wan redevelopment Phase 2, flat selection could be completed in 10 days. The rehousing process was shortened by five months and the completion date of rehousing could be brought forward from January 1997 to August 1996.

New flats in the main reception estates could be handed over to tenants almost immediately upon takeover and the site occupied by the blocks could then be recovered earlier for new development.

The pilot scheme had an additional advantage over the traditional batch system in that tenants might choose a flat freely from all available flats listed out according to their priority.

The scheme also showed a very high acceptance rate as 255 of the 271 tenants participating in the open ballot had selected their flats, giving an acceptance rate of 94 per cent.

This was much higher than the 63 per cent acceptance rate under the traditional batch allocation system.

The higher acceptance rate helps avoid making abortive rehousing offers, improve efficiency and reduce frustration of both tenants and staff,?Mr Chan said.

He also noted that an opinion survey conducted immediately after the flat selection showed that 95 per cent of the interviewees found the scheme acceptable.

To facilitate flat selection by CRP tenants, a regional centre in Tsui Ping Estate will open in 1996. In the longer term, a centre will be set up in the new office of the

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Saturday, May 11, 1996

Back