

**Address by the Governor,  
Sir David Wilson, KCMG,  
at the opening of the 1987/88  
Session of the Legislative  
Council on 7 October 1987  
(extract on Housing)**

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56. Housing is another key part of our social infrastructure. I am pleased to record that the target, set in 1972, of housing 1.8 million people has now been exceeded. I have seen a good deal of this new housing on district visits, and very impressive it is. But we still have some way to go before we achieve our aim of providing adequate housing for the whole community at affordable prices. We must also take into account the fact that the pattern of demand for housing is changing. More and more people want to own their own homes or look for better quality housing. These aspirations are recognised in the Long Term Housing Strategy which was tabled in this Council in April.

57. The strategy aims to provide increased opportunities for home purchase, as well as additional rental accommodation and a comprehensive redevelopment programme for the older rental estates. It sets the target of providing homes for an additional one million

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families from the public and private sectors combined by 2001. On present estimates that would enable the whole of our population to be adequately housed by that date. In the public sector the amount of housing available for purchase rather than rental will increase from 18% this year to 27% in two years' time.

58. The Government have also been taking a detailed look at the organisation of the housing programme to meet new and future needs. The Housing Authority's terms of reference are to be expanded to enable it to monitor and direct an overall housing programme in partnership with the private sector. Financial arrangements for the Authority will also be revised to give it more flexibility and a new chairman will be appointed who will not be an official. The necessary legislation will be put to this Council in time for the new arrangements to be introduced at the beginning of the 1988-89 financial year.

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