THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Memorandum for the Management and Operations Committee

Requests for Splitting from Households
Affected by Redevelopment Operations

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the eligibility criteria on requests for splitting from households affected by redevelopment operations and the measures taken to guard against possible abuse.

BACKGROUND

2. In the rehousing process, redevelopment tenants may put up different requests, including splitting of household members. The request for splitting is normally not entertained in view of our limited rehousing resources.

3. As the Comprehensive Redevelopment Programme (CRP) will continue until 2005 with another 100,000 households to be affected, the Department has recently conducted a review on splitting cases arising from redevelopment operations with measures to discourage such requests.
ANALYSIS OF SPLITTING CASES

4. In the review, the request for splitting from 13 redevelopment operations completed during the one-year period from January 1996 to February 1997 was examined. The average percentage of splitting cases was 6.2% or 964 cases as against the 15,468 households involved. Majority of these cases were originated from households with extended families originally occupying two or more rooms within the same estate. The percentages in former Resettlement estates were higher than those in Former Government Low Cost Housing estates because -

(a) extended families were rehoused under one tenancy as a result of squatter clearance operations carried out in the past;

(b) letting of double rooms was common due to their small size; and

(c) the policy of the former Resettlement Department, which was only tightened up in 1975, allowed the addition of daughters-in-law and sons-in-law and their off-springs into the tenancy more freely; additional rooms were allocated to these households for overcrowding relief, resulting in situations of extended families occupying two or more units.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FAMILY SPLITTING

5. The current criteria on family splitting are -

(a) existence of deep-rooted disharmony among family members;

(b) different family origin or separate family nucleus with different household setting and cooking arrangements;

(c) existence of insurmountable social barrier or non-existence of family cohesion among different nucleus; and

(d) unavoidable conflicts among family members upon merging of different nucleus if their requests for splitting are to be rejected.
6. All genuine cases for splitting are approved at Senior Housing Manager (SHM) level. Doubtful cases are resolved at case conferences held in the form of Redevelopment Monitoring Meetings co-chaired by the District SHM and SHM/Redevelopment.

7. Under the new Advance Allocation Scheme, only splinter households with original separate screening numbers or application numbers are allowed to participate in flat selection; others are only allowed to select refurbished flats at a later stage.

INFORMATION

8. This paper is issued for Members’ information.

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