

19.0

SCMP 24/5/97

# 200 poised to get permits

NG KANG-CHUNG

Two hundred Shenzhen residents at the top of the waiting list for one-way permits can expect to move here within days of the handover.

Officers estimate the applicants could obtain their permits in about six weeks from now, given that Guangdong is allocated 100 of the 150 daily quota for entrants.

Of the 100 places, 38 are for mainland children of Hong Kong parents; 28 are for reunion of spouses; while the rest are for elderly and those coming to claim heritage.

A Shenzhen municipal government spokesman said a successful applicant would be notified at least two weeks

before the permit was issued. The permit is valid for up to a year.

The spokesman said there were at least 6,000 applicants in Shenzhen.

The points system, hastily launched on Tuesday after it was announced on May 6, dictates the order of mainlanders' arrival in Hong Kong.

Wives coming to reunite with husbands will be given preference. Those separated for 14 years or more will be dealt with first.

The first in the Shenzhen queue is Lau Chen Yuzhen, 63, who has been separated from her Hong Kong husband for nearly 50 years. But she cannot bring her sons, who are in their 20s, as only one son or daughter under 14 can come with a parent.