

A fourth resident has joined the legal fray over Rennie's Mill, writes **Cliff Buddle**

Another writ in \$108b land dispute

A FOURTH ex-Rennie's Mill resident has issued a writ demanding the Government pay more than \$108 billion compensation over the clearance of the former Kuomintang stronghold.

Unlike three former residents who launched legal action on Tuesday, Tong Tim-nui is one of 82 villagers involved in a Rennie's Mill court victory in June.

The case ended triumphantly for the villagers, when Mr Justice Raymond Sears ruled the Government had treated the original residents of the Tseung Kwan O site unfairly.

In 1961, the villagers were promised they would never have to leave the site.

But government plans to build new housing estates have forced them to move out, vacating the site.

Mr Justice Sears ruled the group had been treated unfairly and was entitled to compensation, but made no decision



● Justice Raymond Sears backed residents in June.

on the sum. Mrs Tong's writ claims like one issued last week that the land is worth \$108.4 billion, and asks for the figure to be split between the 200 original families.

The document is set out in

similar terms to the one issued by Lee Hoi-man, Chan Sui-sun and Wu Wai-wan.

They had approached the Housing Authority in September, threatening to sue if compensation was not paid quickly.

In their writ, their surveyor valued the site at \$19,000 per square foot.

Meetings between representatives of the residents and the authority following the court ruling have failed to reach agreement on compensation, her writ adds.

Mrs Tong also claims compensation for the loss of buildings on the site and payment for decoration work.

Fellow residents last week distanced themselves from the trio who issued the initial writ, saying they were still negotiating with the Government.

Representative Lee Tinkiu said he had knowledge of the legal action and warned they had no right to represent other former residents involved in compensation talks.