

S.A.M.P.

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647 families take up HOS flats offer 13-1

A total of 647 families who had to leave their homes because of the "faulty towers" scandal now own Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats.

They jumped the HOS waiting list because they had to be moved out quickly from 26 public housing blocks which will have to be demolished because they are built of sub-standard materials.

Most of the families will be moving to their new homes between March and May.

Of the families, 457 will move to Tin Ma Court in central Kowloon, 91 to Ching Wah Court on Tsing Yi island, 52 to Siu Hei Court in Tuen Mun and 39 to Sun Hing Garden in Taipo.

The remaining eight have opted to buy "resale" flats, a housing spokesman said.

He said that the 15,100 families who have had to move out of dangerous blocks have been offered a wide choice of alternative flats.

They were also given "green form" status in applying for HOS flats, which means they were exempt from restrictions on income limit

and property ownership.

These families were also given priority in flat selection on a par with Mark I and II tenants over other green form applicants, he said.

Acknowledging the inconvenience caused to these tenants, the spokesman said however it does give them the opportunity of moving from a high density environment to more spacious accommodation with modern facilities.

He cited as an example Tsz Man estate where half the population was now living at a density below 3.24 square metres per person.

"On moving to Chuk Yuen estate these families will occupy flats at a density between four and six square metres per person," he said.

The spokesman said that sufficient accommodation has been made available to enable families, especially those in the three Category I blocks, to move out as soon as possible.

"The quicker these blocks are vacated, the sooner they can be demolished and new blocks and enhanced facilities constructed," he said.