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## \$25 million puts new life into 23-year-old estate

By Jeremy Lau

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THE \$25 million facelift for Ma Tau Wai Estate in Kowloon City was going smoothly, a Housing Department senior manager said yesterday.

Mr Cheng Chan-kay said the estate was more than 23 years old and needed extensive repairs.

He said improvements were being made to corridors, staircases, walls, the floors and the ceilings of balconies, kitchens, lavatories and living rooms.

He said the department had also installed showers and wash basins, and replaced doors.

Repairs to the five-block estate started in February and are expected to be finished by the end of next year.

Mr Cheng said work began on Hibiscus House in July and so far one-third of the 456 flats had been upgraded.

He admitted the work had disturbed some residents, but their co-operation had allowed the job to run smoothly.

"We have formed a residents' liaison group to tell people living there what items would be included in

the repair programme and how long the work would last," Mr Cheng said.

"Sure there are complaints, but they are mainly about broken glass and choked drains. So far we have only received about 10 complaints."

Mr Cheng added that it usually took 12 days to finish repairing a flat. The department had offered four temporary flats to any inconvenienced resident, but so far there had been no takers.

A Hibiscus House resident, Mr Zee Chang-ne, said he was happy with the standard of work done to his flat, and he had not felt inconvenienced.

Mr Zee and his family have been living in the estate for 15 years. He said the Housing Department had carried out minor repairs before.

However, one disgruntled resident said she would have made use of the temporary accommodation, if she had known where the flats were.

The facelift at Ma Tau Wai Estate was part of a \$1.9 billion territory-wide estate repair programme.