

# 100,000 receive winter rent increase notice

MORE than 100,000 families living in temporary housing areas are protesting a Government decision to raise their rents in December.

And banners have already been put up in a number of THAs, including Ngauchiwan, depicting their discontent.

~~The Hong Kong Peoples' Council on Public Housing Policy~~ will call upon representatives from various organisations to put their heads together and work out the best action to overturn the decision.

The residents were notified on Friday about the December rent increase.

Each family in urban THAs, including Tsunwan and Shatin, will have to pay 20 cents more for each square foot they occupy. The present rate is 50 cents per square foot.

Other THA residents will have to pay 60 cents per square foot - 10 cents on top of the present rate.

The families will also have to pay fees for facilities like kitchen, bathing room and toilet - \$7.50 a month for urban THA residents and \$6.50 for the rest. These facilities are presently provided without charge.

Council chairman Lau Wai-yin hit out at the move

## Residents hit with facility expenses

by  
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last night, saying that "the increase is not justified".

He said the increase is too high in terms of percentage, though the actual amount is not.

He put forward four grievances the THA families had:

- Residents are never told about the financial situation, even when there are surpluses;
- The management is rather poor, and that charge on the facilities is not justified;
- The Housing Department has failed to consult the residents about the rent increase; and
- The charge for facilities is unreasonable because all families do not have them, according to the construction plan of the THAs.

Mr Lau said about 20 representatives from all types of public housing will meet within days. He warned of tough actions but refused to discuss details.

He said the recent pay revision for Housing Department officials is not justified because they failed to improve the living conditions of residents living in public flats.