

13 GROUPS JOIN RENT RISE FIGHT

THIRTEEN community organisations have come out in support of residents in temporary housing areas in their fight against a Housing Department decision to raise their rents, many papers reported in news and pictorial coverage today.

The groups included the Hong Kong Public Housing Policy Council (HKPHPC), the Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union, the Society for Community

Organisation, the Christian Industrial Committee and other religious and residents' associations.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, the organisations said the public would lose confidence in the Government if their repeated pleas to the Government were ignored.

And this would in turn disturb Hong Kong's social stability, they said.

A spokesman for the HKPHPC cited the Star Ferry incident 14 years ago as an example.

The group urged the Government to freeze the rent rise decision until an agreement had been reached with the residents.

They called on the Government to make public its rent policy on temporary housing areas and to hold public hearings before pressing ahead with any new policy.