

Scamp 16 JULY 85

10-year tenants¹³⁴ urged to speak up

People who have been tenants of public housing estates for more than 10 years have been urged to clarify their income status with the Housing Authority.

Otherwise, the Housing Authority may classify them as being well-off tenants.

The chairman of the Committee on Housing Subsidy, Mr F.K. Hu, said this yesterday after touring Wanchai District.

Tenants should inform the Housing Authority six months before new rents are introduced.

The authority has said it intends raising the rents of better-off tenants and a Green Paper on the new policy is to be published at the end of the month.

The proposal is that better-off public housing tenants of more than 10 years' standing will have their rents doubled.

"It is the responsibility of the tenants themselves to prove they are not the better-off ones," Mr Hu said.

The Housing Authority will not do the job for them, he stressed.

At present, the monthly income limits for public housing applicants range from \$2,700 for a single person to \$7,000 for a family of 10 or more.

If average family income exceeds by 1½ times the limit imposed on waiting list applicants, they will be classified as better-off tenants.

Mr Hu stressed that tenants giving false information would be deprived of the right to live in their flats.

They might also be prosecuted under the Public Housing Ordinance, he said.

The proposed rental policy aims to encourage wealthier tenants to buy their own homes.

The policy is expected to be implemented in the middle of next year after consultation with the district boards, mutual-aid committees, residents' associations and other organisations.

Commenting on the development of Wanchai District,

Mr Hu said that it was important for traffic facilities to keep pace with development.

He noted that urban development was needed for Wanchai West, the older part of the district.

Mr Hu was one three Umelco members who visited Wanchai. Mrs Selina Chow and Mr Yeung Pokwan were also present.

They were accompanied by the chairman of Wanchai District Board, Mrs Peggy Lam, the District Officer, Mr Roger Garcia, the district board members and other senior government officials.