

2,000 squatters to get new homes

The Housing Department will clear the Hong Ning Road Licensed Area in Kun Tong and rehouse all the 2,000 residents in public housing in the coming financial year.

The department, in a written reply to the residents yesterday, said this licensed area is one of several scheduled to be cleared with the approval of the Housing Authority.

The reply was made after some residents and students petitioned the Housing Department in Middle Road twice in the past two weeks asking for electricity to be supplied to the area.

"We hope the letter will help the residents to understand why the department is not going to install power in the area," a department official said yesterday.

A spokesman for the department also revealed that a proposal has already been made to the authority to move all tenants in old licensed areas without proper electricity supplies into public housing in the next financial year.

The spokesman said that during the current financial year the Housing Department has moved 1,562 families, totalling 7,042 people from licensed areas into public housing.

He also revealed that 12 new licensed areas are in the construction programme for 1976-77 at a cost of \$15 million.

The majority will have part-built structures and individual water supply and all will have electricity, he added.