

2,000 to take part  
in protest march

# Resite area residents threaten more action

RESIDENTS of the Hongning Road resite area yesterday threatened to take further action if the Secretary for Housing, Mr Ian Lightbody, fails to give them a firm answer to their demands for an electricity supply by 5 pm today.

A representative of

the residents, Mr Au Chiu, said 200 of them will petition the Housing Department within a few days and as a further step, they will mobilise the whole 2,000 residents to protest against the authorities.

The residents presented a protest letter and three-and-a-half pairs of spectacles to Mr Lightbody last Monday and gave him one week to answer

their demand.

They renewed their plea for a power supply three weeks ago after settling there since 1972. They had twice petitioned the Housing Department and had given the authorities protest letters and three-and-a-half candles, symbolising the three-and-a-half years they had been living without power.

On January 7, the Government told them that the Hongning Road resite area is one of the areas to be proposed for clearance in the next financial year. It costs \$300,000 and takes about six months to complete installation work. The authorities felt that it is not feasible to carry out the project in view of the large sum required and of plans to use the site for other purposes.

But, the residents were dissatisfied with the answer and argued that it was only a delaying tactic showing indifference to their welfare.

Mr Au said though the area would be turned over in a year's time, they would have to continue living in the dark for the coming 12 months.

He said the Government should at least provide them with temporary power supply which would not require much money.

"Although the Housing Department estimates that it needs \$300,000 to carry out a power project," Mr Au said, "it will be worth every cent if the site will be re-used as a resite area after we move out."

Five resident representatives will meet the Housing Department staff in the television programme Needle Point tomorrow night to argue the issue.

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