

P.L.M.?

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## 10,000 threaten legal action

About 10,000 shop and workshop owners of the Chuk Yuen Cottage Area are considering suing the Housing Department.

They say the department misled them into investing in businesses there and is now driving them out of the place.

They protested against inadequate compensation about two weeks ago, and they asked for shop space and compensation, besides the ex-gratia allowance promised them by the Housing Department.

They said they had not been offered shop space.

The 10,000 people who

operate in the cottage area were resettled there about 25 years ago because of fire or resumption of their land.

A spokesman for the Chuk Yuen Cottage Area Shop and Workshop Owners United Committee for Protection of Property, Mr Kwan Wai, yesterday named an Urban Councillor, Miss Maria Tam, as their possible legal representative.

However, Miss Tam said she had not yet met the group although she knew about the case.

Miss Tam added she will consider the merits of the case and then decide if she will take it up.

Meanwhile, another Urban Councillor, Mr Augustine Chung, is also helping to draft a letter of petition to the Government.

The letter will include demands for compensation at current market prices for each square foot of the land the shops and work shops are now occupying, and also a shop space for each of the shops and workshops in the cottage area.

Mr Kwan said the shop owners built their own premises, and some of the larger factories have \$2 million worth of equipment in them.

He said now that they are moving out at the end of March, most of them will have to close because rents in private factory buildings are just too high for them.

Mr Kwan added the Housing Department had not contacted them so far following their protest early this month.