

27 arrested after queue disruption

By LINDA YEUNG

POLICE detained 27 men for questioning yesterday in connection with an incident outside the Laguna City residential development on Tuesday.

The arrests followed an early morning raid at 52 addresses throughout the territory by officers of the Regional Crime Units, Kowloon and District Anti-Squads of Kwun Tong.

The men, aged between 17 and 47, were later released on bail ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 in their own recognisance.

On Tuesday, 1,000 men led by a self-proclaimed triad leader arrived in six coaches at the Laguna City site and tried to jump a queue of flat-buyers, some of whom had queued for three days.

The incident has led to pressure on the authorities and developers to change the "first come, first served" system of flat sales.

Yesterday, property developer Mr Cheng Yu-tung defended the system, saying that it was fair.

Mr David Mahoney, director of Swire Properties, said speculation could be discouraged by limiting buyers to one flat each.

"The only thing we can do is to limit flats to one person and in order to discourage speculation, prevent people from transferring flats prior to completion to help the genuine buyers."

He rejected a lottery scheme saying that people could submit more than one application.

Meanwhile, a Kwun Tong District Board member yesterday warned that future residents at Laguna City could be exposed to safety hazards.

Mr Chan Cheong said he was worried that Laguna residents might be living next to the Shell oil depot in Kwun Tong and be vulnerable to the same kind of danger experienced by residents in Tsing Yi last year.

He said he had learned that the Government had reached an agreement on relocation of the Shell depot in Kwun Tong to Tsing Yi Island by the end of next year or early 1992.

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