

300,000 sign rates protest petition: Chow tells meeting

MORE THAN 300,000 people have signed the Colony-wide petition against the proposed rates increase in the past three weeks.

Announcing this yesterday the petition organiser, Urban Councillor Edmund Chow, told a mass meeting organised by the Civic Association that more than 300 community organisations are supporting the fight against the proposed rates rise.

More than 200 representatives from various groups attended rally and they urged the Government to reconsider its rates policy.

They accused the Government of having arbitrarily raised the rateable values of local properties without taking into consideration the real needs of the community.

Chow urged the public to support the battle against the proposed rates increase because the Government is empowered to adjust rateable values every year under present legislation.

The Urban Councillor also said the Government had set up a smoke screen by promising a cut in the levy on rates because the dramatic increase on rateable values was uncalled for in the first place.

Chow also disclosed that the Civic Association is going to send a petition to the Governor in a bid to urge him to consider the real needs of the public in drafting the rate policy.

Chow also said more street polls will be set up to enable the public to sign before the petition closes at the end of the month.

Chow further said the association will conduct a survey in a bid to obtain a true picture of public reaction to the rates issue.

More than 15 representatives attending the rally expressed their views during the meeting and the Government was heavily attacked.