

The Star

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## 10,000 say down with betting centre

PETITIONERS have submitted 10,000 signatures to the Government in protest against the plan for an off-course betting centre in Lower Wongtaisin Estate.

Seven representatives from 12 housing estates including Lower Wongtaisin petitioned the Government Secretariat's Home Affairs Branch to reiterate their objections.

They handed in 10,300 signatures and a petition letter to an official yesterday.

A spokesman for the group said they expected an answer from the department in two weeks or they would step up their action.

The group also challenged a figure released by the police that there were 32 cases of bookmaking

discovered in the district recently.

"A figure revealed by the police on the Wongtaisin area on April 25 said there were only six cases of illegal bookmaking," the spokesman said.

The group urged the Government to consider public opinion in the betting centre issue.

"There are too many off-course betting centres in the territory and their number should be freezed," he said.

The Wongtaisin residents started their campaign after a betting centre was proposed to be set up in the recently completed Lungfai House.

They formed a committee and carried out an opinion poll among the residents to support their discontention towards the plan.