



HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Sunday, 3rd October 1976

HOUSING AUTHORITY ENGAGED IN LARGEST SINGLE
REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN THE WORLD

The Housing Authority is engaged in the "world's largest single scheme" to redevelop its oldest estates - the Mark I and Mark II blocks erected between 1954 and 1964.

These estates, of which there are 12 accommodating close to half a million people, were mostly built to house victims of disasters, such as the Shek Kip Mei squatter fire of 1953, or squatters cleared from land required for development.

Space within them was originally allocated on a basis of 24 square feet per adult, but overcrowding below this standard is common. They have communal toilets and washrooms.

With redevelopment, which includes both converting back-to-back flats into larger self-contained units and also demolishing blocks to make way for building new ones, families will be able to enjoy increased living areas.

Redevelopment work is at present going on at four estates - Shek Kip Mei, where it began in October 1972, Tai Hang Tung, Chai Wan West and Tai Wo Hau - and will be extended to others as part of the Housing Authority's 10-year housing programme. Over the next 10 - 15 years, about \$1,800 million will be devoted to redevelopment, including the construction of new reception estates.

At Shek Kip Mei, 19 of the original 29 blocks are being modernised; the remaining blocks will be demolished and the sites used to construct high-rise domestic blocks, community facilities and a commercial complex.

To date, as a result of conversion work, improved accommodation for more than 6,000 people has already been provided at Shek Kip Mei, including flats for one and two person households, who account for about 12 per cent of all households in the old estates. Rehousing operations involving the movement of 6,500 persons from three blocks have recently been completed after a year's patient endeavour. The majority of the families concerned have been rehoused at Upper Pak Tin Estate; this brings the total number of people rehoused since 1972 to about 28,000.

Subsequent phases of redevelopment in this area, the next of which is to be completed by mid-1978, will provide homes for a further 27,000 people. It is expected that the whole scheme, costing \$206 million, will be finished in five years.

At Tai Hang Tung, the first phase of redevelopment began last year on a site opposite the old estate and is due to be completed by mid-1977. It comprises three domestic blocks for 6,400 persons, a commercial complex and multi-storey garage. Later phases, to be completed by 1979/80, will provide housing for a further 7,000 persons. Eventually, the redeveloped estate will accommodate about 29,000.

New self-contained accommodation for 22,000 persons, a major commercial complex, schools and recreation areas will be provided through the redevelopment of Chai Wan West Estate which got under way with a scheme to rehouse residents of two blocks last March. About three quarters of the households in the two old blocks have now been rehoused in the second phase of Hing Wah Estate.

The latest redevelopment operation, begun only three months ago, is taking place at Tai Wo Hau where 803 families are in the process of being rehoused so that the two blocks they are now living in can be demolished to make way for eventual rebuilding. After some initial problems the rehousing operation is now going smoothly with half of the families having already moved to alternative accommodation.

A spokesman for the Housing Authority described the redevelopment scheme, under which 500,000 people will eventually move into greatly improved accommodation, as the largest in the world.