

# Housing and the poverty trap remain a top priority

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, in his January 2015 Legco address, emphasised housing was the most critical of all livelihood issues and the government was determined to avert the supply-demand imbalance progressively.

The government's long-term housing strategy would be based on a multi-pronged approach to meet different types of housing needs. For the 10-year period 2015-16/2024-25, the aim was to provide 200,000 public rental housing units and about 90,000 subsidised sale flats.

During this period, interchangeability of public rental housing and subsidised sale flats would allow flexibility to meet changing demand patterns that will be reviewed from time to time. Our association supported the government's 10-year plan and further suggested the proportion of subsidised sale flats to public rental units should be progressively increased from 40:60 to 50:50.

We also proposed that the government should pursue private sector participation to provide a wider range of subsidised home-ownership schemes.

Our association welcomes proposals by Our Hong Kong Foundation to make home ownership more affordable, and to address the thorny issue of land supply.

The proposals by the foundation — founded by Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's first chief executive — primarily have to do with reforming the premium payment system to make subsidised home-ownership available to more people.

In his January address, the chief executive had indicated the government would seek to improve the home-ownership housing ladder by developing different forms of subsidised sale flats to meet various needs. The government should study which of the foundation's proposals could be used to enhance the 10-year housing strategy.

The government should be equally concerned about the Commission on Poverty's recent summit progress report. As mentioned in your editorial ("Hong Kong has made a promising start to the war on poverty but there's much that needs to be done", October 21), "Thanks to hefty government handouts and subsidies, some 360,000 people were lifted out of poverty last year... the challenge is getting bigger".

Our association urges the chief executive in his January 2016 Legco address to launch a five-year plan to lift about 1.3 million Hong Kong citizens out of the poverty trap through a holistic approach of subsidised housing, deserving family welfare subsidies and quality vocational and professional education for our young people, leading to better job opportunities.

Hilton Cheong-Leen, president, Frederick Lynn, chairman,  
Hong Kong Civic Association

## 房屋與減貧 仍為首要務

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行政長官梁振英在 2015 年 1 月發表的施政報告裡，強調房屋是所有民生問題裡最受關注的一環，政府亦會致力循序漸進扭轉房屋供求失衡的現象。

政府的長遠房屋策略建基於以多管齊下的方法去滿足不同類型的房屋需求。2015/16 至 2025/26 的十年內，目標是提供 200,000 個公屋單位和 90,000 個資助出售單位。

在這時期內將會不時檢討房屋的供應模式，而公共房屋和資助出售單位的可轉換性正好靈活應對變化不斷的情況。本協會支持政府的十年計劃，更建議資助出售單位和公屋單位的比例應逐漸由 40:60 增至 50:50。

本會亦建議政府應尋求私人發展商的參與，提供更多類型的資助房屋置業計劃。

本會支持團結香港基金會的建議，置業應為市民所能負擔，棘手的土地供應問題亦應解決。

由香港首任行政長官董建華創立的基金會建議，應放寬補地價政策，令更多人受惠得到資助而置業。

在他的 1 月施政報告裡，行政長官表示政府有必要積極探討發展各種類型的資助出售單位以滿足不同需求，從而改善市民購置居所的途徑。政府應研究基金會的建議，擇其善者，為十年房屋策略增添力量。

政府也應同樣關注扶貧委員會高峰會的工作報告。正如 貴報 2015 年 10 月 21 日社評「香港減貧之戰開始不錯，但要做的仍多」所言，「多得政府大手筆派糖和資助，去年 360,000 人脫貧…挑戰愈來愈大。」

本會籲請行政長官在他 2016 年 1 月的施政報告裡推出一個五年計劃，從宏觀著手，提供資助房屋、有需要家庭的福利津貼，以及優質專業及職業教育以助年輕人取得更好的工作機會，以令 1.3 百萬位香港市民脫離貧窮。

香港公民協會會長張有興、主席林國華