

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, today visited Nam Cheong 220, the first transitional housing project adopting the modular integrated construction (MiC) method in Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po. She also visited two families there to learn about their lives.

Construction works of Nam Cheong 220 started in December last year and completed in August this year. The housing block, using construction components prefabricated in factories for assembly on site, consists of a four-storey building which provides 89 one-to-three-person flats to accommodate about 160 people. As of now, most of the residents have already moved in.

The project, with the land lent by Henderson Land Development Company Limited, is coordinated by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs). The Community Care Fund subsidised the procurement and set-up of the modular housing units; the Charities Trust under the Hong Kong Jockey Club funded the operation; relevant professional teams gave advice and supervised the works; and the Government provided support in terms of policy and construction techniques. The project was completed with collaborative efforts, achieving a tripartite partnership of the community, the business sector and the Government.

Mrs Lam visited two families who had recently moved to the units of Nam Cheong 220 from aged buildings nearby. She was pleased to learn that they were satisfied with the improvement of their living environment and the alleviation of their rent burden. Both families appreciated very much the efforts of the TWGHs in promoting the spirit of mutual help in Nam Cheong 220.

She said that transitional housing is a more immediate solution for low-income persons and families who have been waiting for public rental housing for more than three years and living in deplorable conditions with urgent housing needs.

In the Policy Address last year, Mrs Lam pledged to provide a total of 10,000 transitional housing units within the next three years. She further raised the target to 15,000 units early this year and increased the provision for transitional housing from \$2 billion to \$5 billion to assist and support non-governmental organisations in implementing transitional housing projects. The land identified so far is sufficient to provide 12,700 units.

She thanked all community groups, developers, professional/technical organisations and relevant public and private organisations which have participated in promoting transitional housing. She hoped that with concerted efforts of various sectors, more transitional housing projects would be rolled out soon.