

## Message by Mr D W PESCOD, JP Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)



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The Housing Authority (HA) is committed to provide quality homes for low-income families with housing needs. We oversee various projects at all stages of work, including the planning and construction of new buildings and the maintenance of occupied premises. As a caring organisation, the HA has long been fostering a safety culture in all areas of work. We firmly believe that the promotion of a safety culture at all tiers and the provision of a safe and healthy workplace should go hand in hand with the construction of quality housing and the provision of effective management services.

Meeting the public's demand for public housing has become increasingly challenging. We will produce 79,000 new public rental housing flats over the five years from 2012/13 and at least 100,000 units over the five years starting from 2018. For the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS), we are going to provide some 17,000 HOS flats over the four years starting from 2016/17. Despite the growth in housing production, the HA, embracing "Caring", "Customer-focused", "Creative" and "Committed" as our core-values as part of objectives, take resolute action to raise quality standards in all areas, most notably, of course including site safety. We promote best practices through the adoption of sophisticated and creative workflow, new technology, modern plant and equipment. We streamline the work process and at the same time strive holistically to enhance construction management. At all times we insist that safety be accorded top priority in all of the measures adopted.

Our objective is "ZERO incident". With our continuous efforts over the years, we have achieved a high standard of performance in safety on all construction sites under the HA. In 2012, the accident rate on the HA's sites was 7.4 and 4.8 per 1 000 workers for new works and maintenance works respectively. It was far below the overall accident rate of 44.3 per 1 000 workers for the whole construction industry. But even this is not good enough. In face of the enormous pressure in increasing and expedite housing production, we are working ever harder to achieve an objective of "ZERO incident". We do so by taking proactive measures to promote the highest standard of health and safety on our sites. Bearing in mind the motto "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", we are fully committed to take pre-emptive measures where necessary. We will continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders in the industry.

Today, the HA and the Occupational Safety and Health Council have once again co-organised the Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts. We have invited experts to share with us their insight and experience regarding site operation practices, implementation models, training and development, and, more importantly, the best approach to the review of performance.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the supporting organisations, guest speakers as well as participants from the industry for their enthusiastic support, which has helped make this forum a success for the seventh consecutive year. With concerted efforts, we can foster a safety culture in the construction, maintenance and management of public housing estates.



**Key to Safety**  
安全的鑰匙

I Act with a Caring Heart  
從心出發·坐言起行  
**ZERO** 零事故  
Incident

建造安全為至上 你我同心護職安  
Let's join hands to safeguard construction safety