

14-3/95/05/19

**SPEECH BY MR MATTHIAS YAO CHIH,  
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE AND  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AT THE LAUNCH OF  
HDB'S ON-LINE INFORMATION ON FLATS FOR SELECTION,  
AT HDB BUKIT MERAH OFFICE, 19 MAY 1995 AT 9.30 AM**

86% of our population live in HDB flats. About 100,000 applicants are waiting for new flats. Information on the number of flats available for selection and where they are is very important to a large number of people. HDB has to meet the challenge of providing timely, accurate and comprehensive information to help the public make better decisions on their choice of flats.

2 HDB has already made much effort in this direction. It uses Homelink, INTv and Teleview to provide information on the conditions for buying flats and average sale prices of flats. Today, HDB makes a further improvement by bringing vital information into the homes of the flat applicants through INTv.

3 Applicants who are close to being invited to select a flat usually keep a very close watch on the flats that have not been taken up by earlier applicants. Some of them monitor such information daily for a few days before turning up at the appointed time for selection. In the past, they have to come all the way to HDB Centre for the information. This was very inconvenient, but they had no alternative. From today, the information they need will be available in the comfort of their homes. They no longer need to come to HDB Centre to get the information. They will be able to see on the INTv pages which flats are still available for selection. The pages will be updated whenever a flat has been selected and becomes unavailable.

4 HDB has also installed 16 television sets at the Sales Unit to display the information. Those who are waiting for their turn for selection will be constantly updated on the latest status of each flat. With this information, they will be able to make faster and better decisions on which flats to select.

5 This new service will bring much greater convenience to flat applicants, reduce their anxiety, and cut down the processing time in the actual selection of flats. It is my pleasure to launch this new service.

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