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Sources: SCMP

Title: A cramped life can be expensive

Have you walked through any subways in Hong Kong and discovered a group of homeless people? Well, I did. In Hong Kong, there are 200,000 people living in subdivided flats. Then, what's the point mentioning homeless people?

From: Miss Karen C

As the article said, the rising rent of subdivided flats is really savage and unreasonable. The vast majority of grass root citizens only earn \$34.5 an hour. Basically they can't keep up with the inflation. Regardless to safety living conditions, ventilation, subdivided flats are worst. How come they are so expensive with \$6000 rents a month? That's why people are forced to move out and sleep on the streets. Isn't it ironic? In a place where economic development is on the top of the list, there are people who have no roof over their heads!

I consider that our government should be put on the blame. They impose high land prices which lifted the housing price even more. Apart from that, the landlords are also one of the reasons why land prices and costs of buildings are so high. So, if we are going to tackle the problem, what are we going to do? Even the government used 6 years to do nothing but just built several private housing estates!

Maybe, you will desperately think that there's no immediate solution. But let me tell you finally. There's a ray of light.

Before the situation gets out of head, we need to grapple with the problem and take actions immediately. That's why 'light houses' appeared. What are 'light houses'? They are abandoned buildings and schools for at least 50 years in Hong Kong. There had been volunteers redecorating the buildings and provide low renting flats for grass root citizens to move in. When it regards to its safety, living condition, anti-fire facilities are far better than those in caged homes. The people struggling in 'jails' can finally have a breath of the fresh air.

But how to tackle housing problem in the long run? The fundamental point is what the government decides. Lowering land prices and housing rents, stop landlords from building limited amount of flats and limit the price of lands. These are the only way to remedies the housing problem in Hong Kong.