

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)044

Question Serial No.

0087

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the buildings targeted for clearance of unauthorised building works, the actual figure in 2007 exceeded the target figure by more than half. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) Why was the actual figure much higher than the target figure?
- (2) Whether consideration will be given to increasing manpower and other resources to cope with the increased workload?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The workload of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement actions against unauthorised building works (UBWs) as captured in the "actual figures" depends on a number of variable factors, including the number of unauthorised structures existing in the buildings targeted for enforcement action as well as the readiness of and time taken by building owners to comply with the statutory orders. With the aim to removing the target number of 40 000 UBWs in a year, the BD will suitably adjust the number of buildings targeted for enforcement action, taking into account actual circumstances. The BD has been provided with adequate resources to adopt a multi-pronged approach in handling UBWs, including immediate removal of dangerous and new UBWs, annual large-scale operations to remove existing UBWs, and enhancing the public's awareness of problems of UBWs and their responsibilities as owners through publicity and education programmes. We will constantly monitor the progress of our operation in removing UBWs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai _____

Post Title Director of Buildings _____

Date 18 March 2008 _____