

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

DEVB(PL)108

Question Serial No.

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

2012

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the targets for existing buildings in the Programme, will the Government explain:

- (a) why the “buildings targeted for clearance of unauthorised building works” has been reduced from an actual number of 1 202 in 2009 to the plan of only 200 in 2010? Does this mean that the Department will substantially reduce its enforcement action for building safety and removal of unauthorised building works?
- (b) why the actual number of “single-staircase buildings improved under rooftop structure clearance operations” in 2009 is 130 while there is not any data for 2010? Does it mean that the Department will not conduct any clearance operations to remove illegal rooftop structures in the future?
- (c) whether the reduction in the targets of the Department is related to inadequate manpower or a substantial reduction of non-civil service contract staff?

Asked by : Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply :

- (a) The Buildings Department (BD) launched, in 2001 and 2006 respectively, two five-year enforcement programmes to remove unauthorised building works (UBWs) and to improve building safety in Hong Kong. As stated in the Controlling Officer's Report, the target set in 2006 for improving the safety and appearance of 5 000 buildings in five years has been achieved at large by the end of 2009. The UBWs remaining outstanding will be cleared. To sustain the momentum and promotion of awareness of the need to remove UBWs and to clear the outstanding cases, a further 200 buildings will be selected for the clearance operation of UBWs in 2010.

