

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

Head: 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13 under this Programme, the Administration indicates that a large scale operation will be launched for removal of unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in the said initiative, the type of structures expected to be demolished and the districts involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The Buildings Department will set up a dedicated section for implementing an enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) in April 2012. Forty-one professional, technical and clerical staff will be allocated to this dedicated section in 2012-13.

The enhanced enforcement strategy includes a large scale operation (LSO) for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety which are the first round target for priority enforcement action, a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement actions against other UBWs in NTEHs which constitute imminent danger, or are newly erected or found under construction.

As the LSO is part of the overall responsibility of the dedicated section for a full range of work in relation to the enhanced enforcement strategy, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the total expenditure for this LSO alone.

The LSO is scheduled for launch in April 2012 and will cover all districts of the New Territories. The first round targets mainly include village houses of four storeys or more, houses built without a Certificate of Exemption issued by the Lands Department or the approval and consent of the Building Authority, enclosed rooftop structures covering more than 50% of the roofed-over area of the building concerned and unauthorised projections/structures attached to UBWs, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai _____

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings _____

Date _____ 27.2.2012 _____