

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

DEVB(PL)092

Question Serial No.

0905

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 New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) targeted for survey to identify unauthorised building works that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety for priority enforcement action, the Department has set a new target of 8 000 cases per year for 2013. Compared to the 2 400 NTEHs actually surveyed in 2012, how will the Department be able to meet the target? Has the Department assessed when the survey of all NTEHs will be completed?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Since 1 April 2012, the Buildings Department has set up a dedicated Village Houses Section comprising 41 professional, technical and clerical staff to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs). 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 (known as First Round Targets), a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention of the law 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.

In view of the substantial scale of the enforcement against the First Round Targets, the above LSO will be conducted in phases and in a systematic manner. As a start after the setting up of the dedicated Village Houses Section on 1 April 2012, one target village has been selected from each of the nine New Territories districts for a pilot village by village survey which involved 2 400 NTEHs. We have streamlined the modus operandi in the light of the pilot survey experience. It is assessed that the Village Houses Section will be able to meet the target of surveying 8 000 NTEHs in 2013 for identification of First Round Target UBWs.

Our target is to deal with all UBWs in NTEHs progressively and systematically. It is not possible to advise at this stage when the survey of all NTEHs will be completed.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 2.4.2013