

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)335

(Question Serial No. 5471)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 69):

According to the Administration, the provision for 2014-15 is \$66.3 million higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14, which is mainly for enhancing enforcement relating to building safety, including enforcement against unauthorised building works, large scale operations against sub-divided flats, and processing of building plans. Will the Administration advise this Committee of the details of enhancing enforcement this year as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The additional provision of \$66.3 million is mainly for the creation of 215 new civil service posts and 202 of these posts are to be converted from existing non-civil service contract positions in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2014-15. Out of these 215 new civil service posts, 193 posts comprising 58 professional staff, 110 technical staff and 25 supporting staff will be engaged for enhancing BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme, including strengthening the enforcement actions against domestic sub-divided cubicles in industrial buildings and implementing the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme. The remaining 22 posts will be assigned in strengthening services in the approval of building plans and related applications for private development projects (five posts, comprising two professional staff, two technical staff and one supporting staff) and the Joint Office formed by BD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to tackle reports on water seepage through a "one-stop" approach (17 posts, comprising two professional staff, 12 technical staff and three supporting staff).

Apart from responding to reports on unauthorised building works (UBWs) from members of the public and government departments, BD has been conducting large scale operations (LSOs) for removal of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes, LSOs on rectification of irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats and LSOs for removal of unauthorised signboards. The enforcement action against UBWs and the conduct of the LSOs are carried out by the existing resources of 576 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division, and the Minor

Works and Signboard Control Section of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme.