

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)075

(Question Serial No. 1098)

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The authorities stated that resources would be redeployed to clear the backlog of outstanding dangerous slope repair orders. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the respective amounts of backlog of outstanding dangerous slope repair orders of Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories in the past three years;
2. whether the authorities have analysed the main causes of the backlog of outstanding dangerous slope repair orders and formulated policies to address the matter; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
3. as some New Territories residents relayed to me that they often had difficulty in appointing authorized persons/registered structural engineers/registered geotechnical engineers, thus affecting the timely compliance of the dangerous slope repair orders, whether the authorities have received requests for assistance in similar circumstances from the public and rendered assistance to them; if so, of the details.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

1. Up to end-February 2015, the respective numbers of outstanding dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories are as follows –

District	Number of outstanding DHOs
Hong Kong Island	239
Kowloon	62
New Territories (including outlying Islands)	444

Total	745
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2. Some property owners have expressed difficulties in completing the slope remedial works and complying with the DHOs within the specified timeframe. The reasons quoted by them include, mainly, difficulties for multiple owners to coordinate the remedial works as well as disputes on the maintenance responsibilities and cost apportionment.

The Buildings Department (BD) has taken proactive action to encourage and assist property owners to comply with the DHOs. In particular, BD will continue to explain to them the risks associated with dangerous slopes and the procedures in complying with DHOs. BD will also, in collaboration with the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department and District Offices, offer advice on geotechnical matters and assistance in coordination among multiple owners respectively. Eligible owners may also apply for financial assistance under the assistance schemes administered by BD and relevant organisations.

3. BD does not keep statistics on inquiries in relation to difficulty in appointing authorized persons/registered structural engineers/registered geotechnical engineers for slope remedial works. To facilitate property owners in appointing the relevant professionals, lists of the relevant professionals are promulgated on BD's website (www.bd.gov.hk), with remarks on professionals who are interested in providing services in the maintenance and repair of slopes for easy reference.

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