

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)262

(Question Serial No. 3433)

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 the provision for 2015-16 was \$83.4 million (7.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15, which was mainly due to the increased provision for enhancing enforcement relating to building safety, including enforcement against unauthorised building works, large scale operations against sub-divided flats, and filling of vacancies. In this connection, will the authorities inform this Committee of the details and nature of the work for enhancing enforcement relating to building safety as well as the expenditure and number of staff involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 72)

Reply:

The additional provision of \$83.4 million is mainly for the creation of 152 new civil service posts (145 of which are to be converted from existing non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions) and 30 new NCSC positions in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2015-16.

The 152 civil service posts comprise nine professional posts (Building Surveyor/Structural Engineer posts), 24 technical posts (Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural) posts), 110 clerical posts and nine posts of other grades. Among the 152 posts, three posts will be engaged in the handling of office relocation projects; 32 posts will be allocated to the Joint Offices set up by the BD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to tackle public reports on water seepage; and the remaining 117 posts will be deployed to various sections/units of the BD to strengthen the clerical and administrative support for their respective areas of work, including enforcement actions, plan processing, site monitoring and licensing matters. As regards the 30 NCSC positions, they comprise 18 technical and 12 supporting staff who will be deployed to enhance the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes.

In 2015-16, the BD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to enhance building safety. In particular, the BD will continue to take enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes; irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats; and unauthorised signboards in response to public

reports and through its large scale operations (LSOs). The enforcement action against UBWs and the conduct of LSOs will be carried out by 638 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division, and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of the BD in 2015-16 as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes.

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