

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0085)

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

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-2022, the Government states that it will “follow up the one-off special operation to inspect the conditions of common means of escape of domestic and composite buildings aged 60 or above conducted in 2020 and take appropriate enforcement actions in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance (BO) to ensure fire and building safety”. Under this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the manpower and resources allocated to execute this policy initiative; the target and latest progress of this one-off special operation and the number of “3-nil” buildings that had been inspected;
- (b) whether the Government would step up its assistance for “3-nil” buildings and expedite its works for these buildings; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (a) In November 2020, the Buildings Department (BD) launched a one-off special operation to inspect the conditions of common means of escape of domestic and composite buildings aged 60 or above and take appropriate enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) to ensure fire and building safety. The inspection was generally completed on 31 December 2020. Based on the inspection findings and according to the enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs), BD is in the process of issuing removal orders under the BO to the owners concerned in an orderly manner, requiring removal of the UBWs or rectification of the irregularities.

This one-off special operation is carried out by professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division as part of their overall duties through redeployment and re-prioritisation of work. BD is unable to

provide a breakdown of the manpower and resources solely for this special operation. BD has not compiled statistics on the number of “3-nil” buildings inspected under the operation.

- (b) The owners of old buildings (whether they are “3-nil” buildings or not) may encounter difficulties in coordinating the removal or rectification works. After issuing the removal orders, BD will arrange its in-house Social Services Teams to provide assistance to those owners and occupants in need, including assisting them to apply for financial assistance schemes (in particular building rehabilitation assistance schemes administered by the Urban Renewal Authority) where applicable, referral to relevant departments, etc.

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