

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)038

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0559

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

There are over 800,000 unauthorized building works in Hong Kong. However, the target set by the Buildings Department to remove unauthorized building works is only around 1,000 a year. Will the Administration set aside more resources in the 2004-05 Estimates to accelerate the removal of unauthorized building works?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2001, it was estimated that there were 800,000 unauthorized building works (UBW) throughout the territory. To tackle the problem Government has implemented, since April 2001, a Comprehensive Strategy for Building Safety and Timely Maintenance (the Strategy). Under the Strategy promulgated in 2001, Buildings Department conducts blitz operations with a view to clearing 150,000 to 300,000 UBW in the next 5 to 7 years. The department has already cleared some 108,000 UBW since the implementation of the Strategy.

The number of buildings targetted for removal of UBW by the Buildings Department (BD) is 1,000 per year. The department will remove 38,000 UBW in 2004.

In 2004-05, an additional provision of \$68.2 million has been made for BD to accelerate the removal of UBW together with other enforcement duties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004