

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)046

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) : 000 –
Operational
expenses

Question Serial No.

0169

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The estimate for 2004-2005 under Subhead 000 is \$749,539,000, representing an increase of 12.7% over the estimate for 2003-2004, under which the provision for general departmental expenses increased by \$44,107,000 (25.7%). Please give details regarding the above.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

The increased financial provision of \$44,107,000 in general departmental expenses over the revised estimate for 2003-04 will be used for the following purposes :-

- (a) \$9.1 million for stepping up action on drainage defects in private buildings and unauthorised building works (UBW) clearance in rear lanes and black spots, as part of government's initiative to improve environmental hygiene;
- (b) \$31.3 million for clearing outstanding removal orders;
- (c) \$3.0 million for publicising the proposed minor works control regime and promotion of building safety; and
- (d) \$0.7 million for enhancement of computer systems.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	25.3.2004