

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

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

In the Budget, a total of \$830 million will be earmarked to the Buildings Department over a period of five years starting from 2006-07, for the purpose of removing over 180 000 unauthorised structures. In this regard, how would the Administration plan to utilize the provisions? And how would the Administration coordinate and tie in the work between the above project and the \$3 billion Building Management and Maintenance Scheme announced earlier by the Government and provided by the Hong Kong Housing Society in order to avoid overlapping of resources?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

We will make use of the \$830 million for :-

- (i) improving safety, maintenance and outlook of 5,000 buildings in five years;
- (ii) removing illegal rooftop structures from 1,310 single-staircase buildings in two years;
- (iii) clearing unauthorised building works (UBW) in 810 buildings in 3 years to facilitate owners and Owners Corporation (OC) to obtain third party risks insurance coverage;
- (iv) removing over 180,000 UBW in 5 years;
- (v) instigating 15,000 prosecutions and respond to 3,000 appeals in five years;
- (vi) conducting surveillance patrols and attending to 15,000 reports in five years to stop new UBW;
- (vii) issuing and registering 50,000 warning notices against UBW in five years as well as responding to 2,500 appeals against the warning notices; and
- (viii) registering statutory orders with Land Registry.

The objective of the \$3 billion “Building Management and Maintenance Scheme” (BMMS) implemented by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) is to provide financial and technical assistance to owners to improve the management and maintenance of their old properties. The BMMS covers four areas of work, namely, education and publicity; guidance and advice; incentive and assistance, as well as an interest-free loan.

The work of the Government and the HKHS are mutually supporting. Where the Government and HKHS collaborate in improving the conditions of targeted buildings, there will be a clear division of work between the two parties. While we will focus on carrying out inspection of buildings and law enforcement under the Buildings Ordinance (BO), the HKHS will provide technical support to owners on matters such as the formation of Owners Corporations, appointment of Authorized Persons and Contractors, co-ordination of loan applications and monitoring of the progress of repair and removal works.

The Government will continue to focus on law enforcement, to be complemented by HKHS’s provision of advice and facilitation to owners, so as to avoid any overlap in work and resources.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

6 April 2005

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