

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)362****(Question Serial No. 5814)**

Head: (91) Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms Bernadette LINN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the squatter policy, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many squatter clearance operations (clearance operations) in total were taken by the Government in each of the past three financial years? How many residents were involved each time? Please provide the information in the following table:

Year	Date of clearance operation	District	Number of squatter structures cleared	Number of residents involved
2014-15	DDMMYYYY	So-and-so Village	M	X
	DDMMYYYY	So-and-so Village near So-and-so Road	N	Y

2. In respect of the above clearance operations, how many cases fall within "programmed development clearances" and "emergency clearances"?
3. How long before a clearance operation will a notice be issued in general under the existing policy? What was the interval between the issue of notices and the clearance operations taken in each of the above operations?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

1. The number of structures cleared and the number of residents involved in the clearance for development projects and emergency clearance in the past three years are as follows -

Year	District	Number of squatter structures cleared	Number of residents involved
2014	Southern	7	0
	Kowloon City	12	0
	Kwun Tong	11	6
	Kwai Tsing	10	4
	North	681	461
	Sai Kung	18	2
	Sha Tin	49	0
	Tai Po	601	144
	Tuen Mun	44	4
	Yuen Long	11	0
2015	Central and Western	2	0
	Kwai Tsing	11	0
	North	573	255
	Sha Tin	85	23
	Tai Po	173	4
	Tuen Mun	1 065	326
	Yuen Long	78	1
2016	Southern	1	4
	Kwun Tong	16	0
	Islands	10	0
	North	126	296
	Sai Kung	191	42
	Sha Tin	25	0
	Tai Po	44	3
	Tuen Mun	112	443
	Yuen Long	159	0

2. The above clearance operations involved a total of 67 exercises, of which 66 were “programmed development clearances”, i.e. clearances conducted to support development projects, while one was an emergency clearance.

3. The notice period for land clearance depends on a number of factors, including the statutory procedures and requirements, the scale of the projects concerned, the number of occupiers involved, and discussion with the affected land owners and occupiers on compensation and rehousing. For the above clearance operations completed in 2016, the average time from posting of pre-clearance survey notice to the completion of the clearance was about 38 months.

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