

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-DEVB(PL)12****(Question Serial No. S0105)**

Head: (91) Lands Department

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

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Thomas CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As a follow-up on Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)175, my further questions are as follows:

- (1) What is the number of occupants in various districts who have registered under the Squatter Occupants Voluntary Registration Scheme (the Scheme) since its implementation in November 2018?
- (2) Would the Government undertake that staff of the Lands Department will not examine whether unauthorised alterations have been made to the surveyed squatter structures while conducting site inspections in the light of the Scheme, so that the occupants can rest assured to join the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (1) Since the commencement of the one-off Squatter Occupants Voluntary Registration Scheme in November 2018, the number of applications received by districts under the Scheme up to end of February 2019 is tabulated below:

District	No. of applications received up to end of February 2019
Eastern	2
Southern	3
Islands	4
North	34
Sai Kung	1
Sha Tin	11
Tai Po	16

District	No. of applications received up to end of February 2019
Kwun Tong	3
Wong Tai Sin	1
Kwai Tsing	2
Tsuen Wan	9
Tuen Mun	19
Yuen Long	52
Total	157

- (2) The purpose of the one-off Squatter Occupants Voluntary Registration Scheme is to complement the implementation of the revised compensation and rehousing arrangements announced by the Government in May 2018 for clearerees affected by the land resumption and clearance for government development projects. Under the revised compensation and rehousing arrangements, domestic occupants residing in surveyed squatter structures registered for non-domestic uses in the 1982 Squatter Control Survey (SCS) may still be considered for compensation and rehousing arrangements upon land resumption and clearance for government development projects in future, subject to meeting the relevant eligibility criteria, provided that they have been registered under the Squatter Occupants Voluntary Registration Scheme. The Scheme is a voluntary registration exercise for occupants and is undertaken by the Clearance Unit of the Lands Department (LandsD) separated from the routine squatter control inspection and enforcement actions on squatter structures undertaken by the Squatter Control Office of LandsD.

Under the prevailing squatter control policy, surveyed squatter structures are tolerated provided that their location, dimensions, building materials and use remain the same as recorded in the 1982 SCS record. Squatter structures that are found in breach, be it through routine patrols or complaints received by the Squatter Control Office of LandsD, will be subject to squatter control enforcement actions by the Office in accordance with the established enforcement mechanism and priorities. Notwithstanding this, a change to the use of the squatter structures for residential purposes by the occupants who have applied for the Scheme and satisfied its registration criteria will not constitute a breach leading to cancellation of survey records of their squatter structures or demolition of these squatter structures as enforcement actions. It should be noted that such a structure may still be subject to enforcement for other breaches under the current squatter control policy in accordance with the established enforcement mechanism and priorities.

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