## Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(H)-004

**Question Serial** 

0457

Head: 62 Subhead 000 - Clearance and Squatter Control

Programme: 6201 - Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance

and Squatter Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

(Housing)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: While the housing production reduces, the financial provision

decreases by only 1.8%. What are the respective percentages of staff salaries and job-related allowances in the operational

expenses (i.e. \$378 m) under Subhead 000?

.

Asked by: HON. Albert HO Chun-yan

Reply: There is no direct relationship between housing production by

the Housing Authority and squatter clearance and control activities funded by the Government under Head 62. Reduced housing production concerns the Home Ownership Scheme only. Sufficient number of public rental flats will continue to be produced to meet the Government's pledge of maintaining the average waiting time at three years. On the other hand, funding under Head 62 is still necessary to enable the Housing Department to continue with squatter clearance and control activities and rehousing occupants of unauthorized rooftop structures upon Buildings Department's enforcement action. Reduction of expenditure by 1.8% to be achieved under this Head is aimed to meet the Government-wide efficiency

savings initiative.

About 81% of the estimated expenditure under Subhead 000 for clearance and squatter control are staff costs. The remainders are operating expenses.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C. M. LEUNG
	Permanent Secretary for Housing
Post Title	Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	20 March 2003