

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB019

Question Serial No.

0196

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No & title) :

Programme : (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

In 2007, the occupancy rate of the prisons stood at 103%, which was five percentage points lower than the 108.2% in 2006. It is estimated that the occupancy rate in 2008 will rise to 104.7%. What are the reasons? What are the actual progress of and expenditure involved in the redevelopment and expansion of correctional institutions to relieve the overcrowding situation in prisons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The expected increase in prison occupancy rate from 102.8 % in 2007 to 104.7% in 2008 is due to the expected increase in the prison population, taking into account the up-to-date estimates on arrest and prosecution provided mainly by the Hong Kong Police Force and the Immigration Department.

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) has been implementing a series of measures to address the overcrowding problem. These measures include:

- (a) construction of an extension block at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to provide 144 additional penal places for prisoners on remand. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2008 at an estimated cost of \$13.8 million;
- (b) more rational utilisation of penal places by converting Lai King Training Centre (LKTC) into a penal facility for young female offenders to relieve overcrowding at Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution. The conversion works at LKTC are scheduled for completion in mid-2008 at an estimated cost of \$9.95 million; and

- (c) redevelopment of Lo Wu Correctional Institution into three new correctional institutions to provide 1 400 penal places. Construction works commenced in April 2007 and the project is scheduled for completion by early 2010 at an estimated cost of \$1,376.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> KWOK LEUNG MING </u>
Post Title	<u> Commissioner of Correctional Services </u>
Date	<u> 25 March 2008 </u>