

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

SB025

Question Serial No.

0146

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 :

At present, the occupancy rate of penal institutions in Hong Kong is still over 100%, and the Administration is still required to continue improving the environment of penal institutions. As the Administration is now financially healthy, would the Administration consider investing more resources in this respect ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Correctional Services Department has been implementing a series of measures and considering various ways to address the problems of outdated penal facilities and overcrowding in some of our penal institutions. The old Lai Chi Kok staff married quarters blocks have been converted into a new female institution, namely the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution. Opened in July 2006, the new institution provides 650 penal places, 438 for reprovisioning the Victoria Prison and 212 being additional places. The expenditure incurred is \$239.1 million. Other ongoing projects in 2007-08 include:

- (a) An extension block is being added to the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre to provide 144 additional penal places. The project is scheduled for completion in early 2008 and is estimated to cost \$13.8 million.
- (b) The functions of the Lai King Training Centre (LKTC) and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution will be swapped to rationalize the utilization of their penal places and to relieve overcrowding at young female penal institutions. The conversion works at LKTC, i.e. the first phase of the project, are scheduled for completion in early 2008 at an estimated cost of \$13 million.
- (c) The Lo Wu Correctional Institution redevelopment project will commence in mid-2007. The three new correctional institutions there will provide 1 400 penal places (including 1 218 additional places) and are expected to commence operation in early 2010. The Approved Project Estimate of the project is \$1,376.3 million.

CSD will continue to monitor the situation, and consider other redevelopment possibilities to address the problems of outdated facilities and overcrowding in our penal institutions. Meanwhile, the Department is carrying out upgrading works at the existing penal institutions. These works include installation of CCTV and electronic security systems, upgrading of electricity supply systems, and improvement to workshop facilities, etc. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$35 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>          KWOK LEUNG MING          </u>
Post Title	<u>          Commissioner of Correctional Services          </u>
Date	<u>          14 March 2007          </u>