

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

SB165

Question Serial No.

0949

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: Please provide, by nationality, the number of non-local residents serving sentences in Hong Kong in the past 5 years.

For 2012-13, what is the estimated expenditure of the Administration on managing non-local residents serving sentences in Hong Kong? What are the management measures involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: In the past 5 years, the breakdown by number of non-local persons in custody (excluding remands) serving sentences in Hong Kong is as follows:

Year	No. of non-local persons in custody serving sentences in Hong Kong								Total
	Region/Nationality								
	Mainland China	Vietnam	Indonesia	Philippines	Pakistan	Malaysia	Taiwan	Others	
2007	2 276	447	89	97	81	43	29	236	3 298
2008	2 249	402	117	77	93	38	36	251	3 263
2009	1 633	304	93	90	53	36	62	280	2 551
2010	1 531	230	122	75	87	57	72	330	2 504
2011	1 062	158	114	106	97	53	50	358	1 998

All persons in custody receive the same treatment irrespective of their nationality or ethnicity. As the Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not manage or prepare the related estimates for persons in custody on the basis of their nationality or ethnicity, the estimates of expenditure on management of non-local persons in custody serving sentences in Hong Kong are not available.

Currently, the measures and services provided by CSD to support non-local or ethnic minority persons in custody include:

- (i) A steering committee has been set up by the Department to formulate a departmental equal opportunity policy and related guidelines in order to enhance the awareness of correctional staff on racial equality, monitor the relevant measures and procedures of correctional institutions, and ensure full compliance of the policy objectives in the Department. Besides, the Department will continue to ensure, through recruit training

and in-service training programmes, that correctional staff have a thorough understanding of the provisions in the Race Discrimination Ordinance and measures concerned;

- (ii) A copy of “Information Booklets for Prisoners/Remands”, printed in more than 20 languages, is issued to all persons in custody upon admission to help them understand their rights and the discipline requirements of correctional institutions. A “Multi-languages Phrasebook for Emergency” is also available in various correctional institutions for use by persons in custody when needed;
- (iii) The Department respects the different cultures and special needs of persons in custody of different ethnicities. Persons in custody are generally assigned with a diet which consists of rice as the staple food. However, persons in custody may apply for a change of diet for religious or other reasons. Besides, the Department also respects the religious freedom of persons in custody of different ethnicities. Various services including visits, education, counselling and religious worship are provided for them by the Correctional Services Chaplain, prison chaplains and different religious organisations;
- (iv) Cantonese self-learning kits are available for loan by non-local or ethnic minority persons in custody in order to enhance their ability to speak and understand Cantonese. Volunteers of the CSD Rehabilitation Volunteer Group also organise Cantonese classes for non-local or ethnic minority persons in custody in different correctional institutions to assist them to adapt to the institutional life. If necessary, correctional staff may employ interpreters or seek the help of Language Centres and Interpretation Hotline operated by non-government organizations (NGO);
- (v) More books in languages other than Chinese and English are added to the library in the correctional institutions for loan by non-local or ethnic minority persons in custody;
- (vi) The Department has cooperated with NGOs to provide non-local or ethnic minority persons in custody with counselling services. For those local ethnic minority persons in custody who need assistance and are willing to accept referral service after discharge, the Department will refer their cases to relevant NGOs for providing support services on access to the required social services and adaptation to the life in Hong Kong upon discharge.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 28 February 2012