

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

SB216

Question Serial No.

1514

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 view of the problem of ageing facilities encountered in many penal institutions, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the problem of ageing facilities in penal institutions?
2. the specific short-term and long-term solutions?
3. the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

1. Among the 29 correctional facilities, 10 have been in operation for 40 years or more by 2013. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) deploys resources every year for maintenance of buildings and facilities with various ageing problems. Besides, considerable limits are posed to the provision of rehabilitation services in the institutions that are relatively old or converted from buildings for other purposes because there is a lack of the facilities serving the rehabilitation needs of the modern days (such as classrooms and activity rooms).
2. The CSD has been adopting different measures to improve and replace the ageing facilities. In terms of short-term solution, the Department will regularly inspect and maintain the buildings and facilities and, having regard to the needs of individual institutions, carry out minor improvement or upgrading works. In terms of long-term solution, the CSD will plan and implement redevelopment or partial redevelopment projects of correctional institutions in accordance with actual needs.
3. In 2011-12, the total maintenance cost of the 29 correctional facilities was around \$193 million, of which \$132 million (about 68%) was incurred by the 10 correctional institutions in operation for 40 years or more. The major redevelopment projects in recent years include:
 - (i) The redeveloped Lo Wu Correctional Institution came into operation in 2010. The project cost was \$1,525 million;
 - (ii) The partial redevelopment project of Tai Lam Centre for Women commenced in mid-2012 and is expected to be completed at the end of 2016. The estimated project cost is around \$947 million.

The Department will continue to consider redevelopment plans for other penal institutions and implement upgrading works according to the actual needs.

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

Date: 26.3.2013