

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

SB221

Question Serial No.

4650

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:

The Correctional Services Department will pursue the in-situ partial redevelopment of Tai Lam Centre for Women in the coming year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the current situation of Tai Lam Centre for Women?
2. the details of the partial redevelopment plan?
3. the funding required?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

1. Tai Lam Centre for Women (TLCW), of which the design capacity is 263, is the only maximum security institution for female offenders under the Correctional Services Department (CSD). Serious overcrowding is a long standing problem in TLCW. The commissioning of Lo Wu Correctional Institution in mid-2010 has relieved the overcrowding problem in TLCW. However, for security reasons, remands and Category A prisoners (those sentenced to imprisonment of 12 years or above) in TLCW cannot be transferred to other female institutions with lower level of security. In 2011 and 2012, the average daily penal population at TLCW was 359 and 321 respectively, representing a respective occupation rate of 137% and 122%. Overcrowding is most serious in the hospital, remand unit and Category A prisoner unit of the institution. As such, there is a pressing need to redevelop TLCW to increase its capacity.

TLCW was converted from a former government staff quarters and has been in operation for 44 years. Most of its core facilities are outdated and ageing. Their standard can hardly meet the current requirements of custodial work and rehabilitation services of the Department. For example, there is a lack of activity rooms for organising rehabilitation activities. Besides, supporting facilities which are conducive to learning and rehabilitation of persons in custody are also insufficient (such as library, computer rooms and classrooms). Furthermore, the existing medical, nursing and health facilities can only provide basic services, which do not meet the standard nowadays.

It is therefore necessary for the CSD to pursue partial redevelopment of TLCW in order to alleviate its overcrowding problem and enhance its facilities.

2. Funding for the partial redevelopment project of TLCW was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in July 2012 and the works have already commenced in August. The project on the in-situ redevelopment and addition of facilities will be carried out in two phases and is expected to be completed at the end of 2016. After redevelopment, the number of penal places of TLCW will

increase from 263 to 371. TLCW will maintain full operation during the redevelopment period. Details of the works are as follows:

Phase 1

- (a) construction of a new complex block to house the following facilities –
- (i) a hospital unit with 60 beds for general patients in the institution (3 wards with 20 beds each) and 10 pairs of bedstead of maternity and baby. There will also be an out-patient clinic, a dental treatment room, a dispensary, an x-ray room, and other supporting facilities;
 - (ii) a rehabilitation unit including a counselling room for inmates, an activity room, a religious service room, a parent-child centre, a multi-media learning centre-cum-classroom, a library and other supporting facilities;
 - (iii) a Category A prisoner unit including 44 cells, day rooms, workshops, a dining hall and other supporting facilities;

Phase 2

- (b) demolition of the existing hospital block and a dormitory block to make way for construction of a new block providing 240 penal places for remands. The major facilities to be provided at the new remand block will include day rooms, dining halls, workshops, a religious service room, a library and other supporting facilities; and
- (c) demolition of the existing block accommodating the communication room, reception office, gate lodge and visit room and in-situ reprovisioning of these facilities in a new multi-purpose block to be constructed.

3. The estimated cost of the partial redevelopment project of TLCW is about \$947 million.

Name in block letters: SIN YAT KIN

Post Title: Commissioner of Correctional Services

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