

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB226**

**(Question Serial No. 2265)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ( )

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, the general public still has prejudice against rehabilitated persons. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What concrete plans will the Government adopt to help rehabilitated persons re-integrate into society?
2. What concrete plans will the Government adopt to reduce the prejudice of the general public against rehabilitated persons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Dennis (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

1. It is the Government's policy to provide assistance and chance for development for rehabilitated persons so as to enable them to make positive changes and re-integrate into society. Major measures adopted by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) include the following:
  - (i) providing vocational training and education for persons in custody;
  - (ii) providing pre-release counselling services that cater for the personal needs of persons in custody;
  - (iii) providing general information on social welfare services and notes on community facilities as well as briefings on job seeking, interview skills and labour legislation through the "Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course";
  - (iv) assisting rehabilitated persons in seeking employment through the "Caring Employers" network under the Pre-release Employment Service; and
  - (v) referring rehabilitated persons with welfare or rehabilitation needs to appropriate government departments or non-governmental organisations for post-release follow-ups to facilitate their re-integration into society.

2. In 2015-16, CSD will continue to organise a series of publicity activities with the theme of “Give Rehabilitated Offenders A Chance” to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons so as to reduce public prejudice against them. The following four community groups will be targets of the major publicity activities:

- (i) activities targeting at students and young people: promoting the “Rehabilitation Pioneer Project” through activities such as educational talks, student forums, arrangement for the youth to meet persons in custody under the “Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme” and “Green Haven Scheme”; organising extended training camps as well as visits to correctional institutions and the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum in order to enhance their understanding and acceptance of rehabilitated persons;
- (ii) activities targeting at the general public: promoting the message of supporting offender rehabilitation through broadcasting television and radio announcements in the public interest, displaying publicity posters and giant banners, etc.;
- (iii) activities targeting at district and community organisations: organising Non-governmental Organisation Forums and conducting district-based rehabilitation publicity activities in collaboration with the District Fight Crime Committees to strengthen cooperation and exchange between the Department and various organisations on rehabilitation services; and
- (iv) activities targeting at employers: arranging employers and professionals to visit correctional institutions to facilitate their understanding of the rehabilitation work of the Department.