

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

SB123

Question Serial No.

2809

Head : 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer : Commissioner of Correctional Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question :

Regarding the re-integration of rehabilitated offenders and the acceptance and support of the community, the assistance rendered by the Administration is very important. In this connection, will the Administration advise:

- (a) If there is any data available to show the proportions of rehabilitated offenders currently employed by individual government departments, including workers employed under outsourced contracts and contract staff, and the proportion of those employed by private enterprises?
- (b) If there is any specific measures to promote community acceptance of rehabilitated offenders in general, such as taking the lead to employ rehabilitated offenders by government departments and providing incentives to the business sector?
- (c) What is the plan of promoting community acceptance of and support for offender rehabilitation in the coming year? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not have information and data on the employment of rehabilitated persons by government departments and private enterprises.
- (b) It is the Government's policy to encourage employers to employ rehabilitated persons so as to help them start afresh. For CSD, the specific measures in place include providing prisoners with vocational training and education, employment counselling, as well as briefings on job seeking, interview skills and labour

legislation through the pre-release re-integration orientation course. Moreover, CSD will refer prisoners to relevant government departments or non-government organisations for follow-ups after release so as to help them seek employment and facilitate their re-integration into society.

- (c) In 2010-11, CSD will organise a new round of publicity activities appealing for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons. The major publicity activities under planning include:
- (i) Organising the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) to enhance public's understanding and acceptance of rehabilitated persons through activities like educational talks, student forum, "Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme" as well as visits to correctional institutions and the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum;
 - (ii) Commissioning of the public education centre at the new Lo Wu Correctional Complex for visit by the public;
 - (iii) Broadcasting of new Television and Radio Announcement of Public Interest;
 - (iv) Displaying of posters and giant wall banners;
 - (v) Organising non-government organisation forum;
 - (vi) Organising symposium on employment for rehabilitated persons;
 - (vii) Co-organising district-based publicity activities with District Fight Crime Committees;
 - (viii) Arranging visits to penal institutions for employers and professionals; and
 - (ix) Appointment of celebrities as Rehabilitation Ambassadors.

CSD has reserved \$1.65 million for the publicity activities in the 2010-11 Estimates. On manpower, apart from 15 part-time staff employed for the implementation of RPP, we will deploy existing manpower of the Department to implement other publicity activities for offender rehabilitation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> KWOK LEUNG MING </u>
Post Title	<u> Commissioner of Correctional Services </u>
Date	<u> 16 March 2010 </u>