

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB189

(Question Serial No. 2264)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding persons in custody and rehabilitated offenders, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, the Government will organise publicity and education activities to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders. What are the specific measures? What are the establishment and expenditure involved?
2. As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, the Government will provide market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for persons in custody. What are the specific measures? What are the establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 166)

Reply:

1. In 2019-20, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will earmark about \$1.21 million to organise publicity and public education activities to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons. The activities will be organised with the following 4 community groups as targets:
 - (a) Activities targeting students and young people: CSD implements the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project with the objective to convey the messages of leading a law-abiding, drug-free life and supporting offender rehabilitation through a wide range of activities. The activities include educational talks, the Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme in which young people are arranged to meet with persons in custody (PICs), the Green Haven Scheme, visits to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, extended training camps, student

forums, drama and music performances of the Creation and Rehabilitation Programme, the Reflective Path Programme with simulated imprisonment experience, and the Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders Programme, etc.;

- (b) Activities targeting the general public: Through broadcasting television and radio announcements of public interest, displaying publicity posters and giant banners, organising certificate presentation ceremonies, holding exhibitions in the Hong Kong Flower Show and the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo etc., PICs' competence and their determination in and outcomes of pursuing self-advancement and rehabilitation are demonstrated to the general public;
- (c) Activities targeting employers: Institutional visits for employers and business organisations, etc., will be arranged and employers will be invited to attend certificate presentation ceremonies of vocational training courses, to facilitate their better understanding of the rehabilitation work, including the vocational training courses of CSD; and
- (d) Activities targeting district and community organisations: CSD will organise the "Non-governmental Organisation Forum" to strengthen the cooperation and exchange between the Department and non-governmental organisations on rehabilitation services. Besides, CSD will conduct district-based rehabilitation publicity activities in collaboration with the District Fight Crime Committees, and continue to arrange institutional visits for local communities or organisations to facilitate their better understanding of the rehabilitation work of the Department.

At present, there are 14 staff on establishment responsible for implementing the various programmes under the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project. As for the implementation of other community publicity programmes, it is part of the work of the Rehabilitation Unit.

2. In 2019-20, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, CSD will continue to work with various training bodies (such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council) to provide lawfully residing adult PICs who are due for discharge within 3 to 24 months and eligible for employment with more than 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis. These courses cover a wide range of industries, such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. There will also be new courses such as Virtual Reality Welding, Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management as well as Car Beauty. Eligible adult PICs could enrol in these courses on a voluntary basis and sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provides mandatory half-day education and half-day vocational training to guide them to better understand future directions and

develop interests, so that they may choose to further study or work after release. In 2019-20, CSD will provide young PICs with 20 vocational training courses covering the construction, business and service industries. New elements like Installation of Smart Home System as well as Interior Design and 3D Rendering will be added. Arrangements will also be made to facilitate the trainees to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies, such as the certification examinations of the City and Guilds and the intermediate trade tests of the Construction Industry Council, and take certificate courses offered by various training bodies.

In addition to subsidised courses provided by various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board and the Construction Industry Council, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$28.99 million in 2019-20, including the expenses for 22 staff on establishment and provision of vocational training courses. Furthermore, CSD will continue to co-operate with various training bodies which provide employment follow-up service to keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons for further improving its vocational training programmes provided for PICs.

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