

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB169**

**(Question Serial No. 2508)**

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:

Since a large number of young people have been arrested, prosecuted or sentenced for taking part in the riots against the 2019 extradition amendment bill, will the Correctional Services Department implement correctional work targeting these young persons in custody to assist them in obtaining a correct understanding of the rule of law, so as to reduce the chance of re-offending?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.:179)

Reply:

In managing and rehabilitating young persons in custody (PICs) with extreme thinking and radical behaviour, including those imprisoned for taking part in events opposing the proposed legislative amendments in 2019, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will make enhanced efforts based on the principles of “correction” and “education”. Apart from ensuring that they strictly observe the institutional discipline, a number of appropriate rehabilitation programmes have also been formulated having regard to their criminogenic mindset and distorted values, so as to assist them to turn over a new leaf and develop positive values.

The Psychological Services Section of CSD is actively establishing the “Youth Lab” in Pik Uk Correctional Institution to provide specialised services for young PICs. The Youth Lab aims to assist young PICs to undergo psychological rehabilitation and rebuilding, learn about themselves, think from multiple perspectives, rectify their criminogenic mindset and behaviours, and enhance their resilience in order to better prepare them for life after release.

With regard to education, apart from basic education programmes, CSD’s Education Unit provides history and civic education to young PICs which help instil positive values into them. For example, various educational activities under “Understanding history is the beginning of knowledge” have been launched, including scholar talks, Virtual Reality (VR) history learning activities, learning history through e-sports activities, and history and culture

workshops, etc. These activities aim to assist young PICs to learn history in an interesting way through a diversified mode of learning, enhance their sense of national identity, help them reflect on the meaning of life, and guide them back on the right track. Besides, to be in line with the curriculum reform, subjects such as Junior Secondary Chinese History are provided, and values education is strengthened, including moral and civic education, Basic Law education and National Security Law education, etc. to enable young PICs to acquire knowledge about the newly-enacted law so as to further enhance their law-abiding awareness.

In addition, CSD is planning to set up a specialised psychological service centre, the Change Lab, in the community to provide community-based psychological counselling for young PICs after release, and assist young people under a supervision order to build confidence and resilience so that they can overcome difficulties, resist temptations and break the cycle of crime.

In respect of community collaboration, CSD and the Hong Kong Police Force have jointly launched the “Walk with YOUth Programme”. Capitalising on the valuable experience and unique strengths of both departments in crime prevention and offender rehabilitation, volunteers from CSD and the Police work hand in hand to organise a series of vibrant and sedentary activities for young PICs to help them establish correct values and rebuild a positive life, thereby enhancing their anti-crime awareness and reducing the recidivism rate. Before the Lunar New Year, an activity entitled “Walk with YOUth, Reunion with Families” was organised in Pik Uk Correctional Institution where volunteers and young PICs made glutinous rice balls together which symbolised “family reunion”. Volunteers travelled around the whole territory to distribute the glutinous rice balls and greeting cards prepared by young PICs to their families on the same day, in a bid to strengthen the ties between young PICs and their families since it would be easier for them to re-integrate into society after release if they have family support. CSD is proactively planning to collaborate with other community stakeholders to organise more anti-crime and rehabilitation activities for young PICs in the future with a view to assisting them to get back onto the right path.

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