

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB171

(Question Serial No. 0682)

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:

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, publicity and education activities will be organised to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders. What are the specific measures? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will earmark about \$1.175 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 target participants:

- (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, the Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders Programme and Mission in Prison, etc. Mission in Prison is a new programme launched in 2021, based on the concept of resolving room challenges with elements of role-playing, problem-solving and team-building, which aims to enhance the participants' understanding of the actual duties of correctional officers and enable them to observe the custodial environment and prison life from another perspective so as to inspire them to reflect on the consequences of committing crimes;
- (b) Activities targeting the general public: Social media (e.g. Facebook page and YouTube

channel, etc) are used to foster closer ties with the public and release information. 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 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. Besides, outdoor electronic screens are installed in appropriate correctional facilities to enhance publicity effect;

- (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 16 staff on establishment dedicated to 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 Section.

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