

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB129

(Question Serial No. 2481)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme that rehabilitation strategies and re-integration programmes will be developed. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of young persons in custody aged under 21 and aged 21 to 25 in correctional institutions? How many of them have been imprisoned for committing illegal acts related to the "black-clad violence"? What is their average term of imprisonment?
2. Further to the above questions, it is learnt that the Department has formulated a number of programmes such as the "Project PATH" to assist young offenders who have committed illegal acts related to the black-clad violence. What were the number of participants and the effectiveness of such programmes last year? Will they be enhanced and extended in the coming year? What are the resources and measures involved?
3. How many people were prosecuted for committing illegal acts related to the "black-clad violence" in the past 2 years? Among them, how many have been put on remand and how many have become wanted persons after jumping bail?
4. For young offenders who have been remanded for committing illegal acts related to the "black-clad violence", have any programmes or measures such as arrangements for further studies been rolled out to help them reflect on themselves or study while on remand, so that they can take this opportunity to re-establish correct values?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. As at 3 March 2023, 479 persons in custody (PICs) are aged under 21, while 944 PICs are aged between 21 and 25. Among them, 66 and 221 PICs were involved in offences related to the "black-clad violence" respectively. Their terms of imprisonment range from 3 months to 7 years and 9 months. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain statistics on the average term of imprisonment of these PICs.

2. Since the outbreak of the “black-clad violence” in 2019, a large number of radical people involved in serious offences have been admitted to correctional institutions. In order to help them re-establish correct values, CSD has launched the “Project PATH”. From late 2021 to 28 February 2023, a total of 839 PICs joined the programme on a voluntary basis, including 604 convicted persons involved in the “black-clad violence” (accounting for 74% of the convicted persons involved in the “black-clad violence” since the launch of the programme), and 235 PICs not involved in the “black-clad violence”. According to the observation and assessment made by correctional officers, the “Project PATH” has yielded satisfactory results with positive response. Participants felt deep remorse for their unlawful acts committed in the past and actively participated in the activities under the programme. In the coming year, CSD will proactively enhance the programme by organising more interesting and interactive activities including sharing by relevant PICs of their successful rehabilitation stories, so as to attract more PICs to join the programme. CSD will continue to establish close collaboration with community stakeholders to design diversified rehabilitation programmes, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness. CSD utilises the existing resources to implement the above programme.
3. In 2021 and 2022, the number of admissions of persons put on remand in correctional institutions for offences related to the “black-clad violence” were 518 and 373 respectively. CSD does not have information on “persons prosecuted” and “wanted persons who have jumped bail”.
4. CSD provides half-day compulsory education for all convicted young persons, while young remands may choose on their own to participate in educational classes at secondary school level in their institutions. Their sense of national identity could be enhanced through learning Chinese history. Meanwhile, through moral and civic education, education on the Basic Law and the National Security Law, etc., CSD helps them re-establish correct values and strengthen their law-abiding awareness.

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