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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 19

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SV-SB001****(Question Serial No. SV026)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of non-refoulement claimants pending screening who were arrested for committing sexual offences and rape cases during the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, DominicReply:

According to the Police's record, the numbers of non-ethnic Chinese persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mostly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences (including rape and indecent assault) are tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (January to February)
Shop theft	428	239	200	250	254	20
Miscellaneous thefts	170	139	58	98	134	13
Serious drug offences	200	207	86	112	92	10
Wounding and serious assault	173	115	59	92	90	8
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	111	80	49	38	50	1
Criminal damage	62	41	29	36	37	4
Burglary	33	22	17	36	22	1
Indecent assault	27	20	7	7	6	3
Rape	2	2	0	1	1	1
Others (Note 2)	336	285	152	264	243	16
Total	1 542	1 150	657	934	929	77

Note 1: "Serious immigration offences" include aiding and abetting illegal immigrants, arranging passage of unauthorised entrants to Hong Kong, using an identity card relating to another person, etc.

Note 2: “Others” include disorder/fighting in public places, forgery and coinage, possession of offensive weapon, robbery, pickpocketing, etc.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB002

(Question Serial No. SV027)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In order to draw on past experience to assess the social impact and financial burden that the handling of non-refoulement claims has on Hong Kong, please provide the following information regarding the port of first asylum policy previously adopted by Hong Kong to accept Vietnamese refugees: (1) the outstanding amount that still owed to Hong Kong by the International Refugee Organisation; and (2) the number of Vietnamese refugees who have settled here and become Hong Kong residents.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung

Reply:

(1) The outstanding advances owed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) stand at \$1,162 million. The Government has all along been urging the UNHCR to settle the amount at the earliest possible. Over the past years, we have repeatedly stated the HKSAR Government's position and conveyed the Hong Kong community's expectation of an early recovery of the outstanding advances through our letters to the Hong Kong Sub-office of the UNHCR, and our meetings and conference calls with the Representative of the UNHCR in China.

(2) The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol have never applied to Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government terminated the "Port of First Asylum Policy" for Vietnamese people arriving illegally in Hong Kong in January 1998, and thereafter implemented on 23 February 2000 the "Widened Local Resettlement Scheme" (WLRS) under which eligible Vietnamese Refugees (VRs) and Vietnamese Migrants (VMs) might apply for settlement in Hong Kong. Persons eligible to apply under the WLRS included:

- (a) all VRs who arrived in Hong Kong before 9 January 1998 and have not departed since then;
- (b) VMs (i.e. non-refugees) who meet all the criteria below:
 - (i) have been rejected by the Vietnamese Government as non-nationals;

- (ii) have not been accepted by other countries;
 - (iii) last arrived in Hong Kong before 9 January 1998 and have not departed Hong Kong since then; and
 - (iv) have not been determined by the Director of Immigration as refugees from Vietnam in China;
- (c) family members of (b) above who arrived in Hong Kong before 9 January 1998 and have not departed Hong Kong since then.

According to the latest information from the Immigration Department, about 1 400 VRs and eligible VMs have applied for and been granted permission to settle in Hong Kong under the WLRS.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB003

(Question Serial No. SV025)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the total number of police officers injured during the “black-clad violence” incidents across the territory in 2019 and their recovery progress. Please also advise whether all of these officers (including those who were assaulted while off duty) have been awarded compensation and commendation, or put under special work arrangements due to work-related injuries; if so, the total amount of compensation involved.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth

Reply:

In total, 629 police officers were injured as a result of handling the public order events related to “black-clad violence”. All of them have already resumed duty.

Police officers injured in the line of duty are entitled to compensation under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282) in light of their injuries. Due to the confidentiality constraint on some cases involving civil litigation, the Police Force cannot disclose the amount of compensation provided to police officers injured on duty.

The Force will make suitable work arrangements for the injured officers having regard to their health condition and recovery. Commendations will also be awarded as appropriate to individuals based on their performance in handling the incidents and related matters.

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