**Meeting of the Ethnic Minorities Forum**

**15 July 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

**30/F Conference Room, Southorn Centre, Wan Chai**

**Present**

**Home Affairs Department**

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| Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3) | Miss Dora Fu (Acting Chairperson) |
| Chief Executive Officer (3) | Mr K Y Cheng |
| Senior Executive Officer (RRU) (Acting) | Mr Ken Cheung (Secretary) |

**Government representatives**

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| Principal Assistant Secretary, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau | Mr D C Cheung |
| Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Chinese), Education Bureau | Mr Lo Pui-lam |
| Curriculum Development Officer (Chinese), Education Bureau | Ms Lee Yee-lai |
| Assistant Commissioner (Economics 2), Census and Statistics Department | Mr Osbert W Y Wang |
| Senior Statistician (Social 3), Census and Statistics Department | Dr Billy Y G Li |
| Assistant Secretary (Appointments), Civil Service Bureau | Miss Eunice Chan |
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| **Representatives of public authorities** |  |
| Senior Policy and Research Officer,  Equal Opportunities Commission | Ms Kitty Lam |
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| **Non-government Organisations** | |
| Caritas – Hong Kong | Mr Bill Lay |
| Christian Action | Ms Jennifer Kwong |
| Federation of Muslim Association in Hong Kong | Mr Khan Muhammad Malik, MH |
| Hong Kong Christian Service | Ms Karrie Chan |
| Hong Kong Community Network | Ms Cheung Ying-ying |
| Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society | Mr Chura Thapa  Ms Rana Tika |
| Hong Kong Nepalese Federation | Mr Deep Thapa |
| Hong Kong SKH Lady MacLehose Centre | Mr Jonathan Chan  Mr Lo Kai-chung |
| Hong Kong Unison Ltd. | Ms Annie Li |
| International Human Rights Forum Ltd. | Mr Syed Muhammad Naeem Asim |
| International Social Service – Hong Kong  Branch (ISS-HK) | Ms Adrielle M Panares, MH |
| Kirat Yakthung Chumlung Hong Kong | Mr Krishna Raj Limbu |
| Mission for Migrant Workers Ltd. | Mr Norman Carnay |
| Nepali Social Service Hong Kong | Mr M B Thapa |
| New Home Association | Ms Fu Yim-ting |
| Southern Democratic Alliance | Mr Saran Kumar Limbu |
| The Hong Kong Council of Social Service | Ms Lynn Law |
| The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong | Mr Uddin Saeed, BBS, MH |
| The India Association Hong Kong | Mr Mohan Chugani |
| The Pakistan Association of Hong Kong Ltd. | Mr Zaman Minhas Qamar |
| United Muslim Association of Hong Kong | Mr Syed Jamil Raghbi |
| Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service | Mr Jerry Li |

1. **Enhanced Chinese Learning and Teaching for Non-Chinese Speaking Students provided by Education Bureau**

1.1 At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr Lo of the Education Bureau (EDB) briefed attendees on EDB’s guiding principles and supporting measures to enhance Chinese learning and teaching for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students with a PowerPoint presentation.

1.2 Issues raised by attendees and the discussions were summarised below:

1. **Implementation of Learning Framework at schools**

1.2.1 Some attendees commented that more details on implementing the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (Learning Framework) should be provided as the new academic year 2014/15 would soon commence. An attendee opined that the learning targets should be set by EDB to spell out the learning expectations of EDB and provide guidance for teachers on the expected teaching levels. Mr Lo (EDB) explained that the small-step expected learning outcomes would be useful for teachers to know the learning progress and the next learning targets of NCS students.

1.2.2 An attendee viewed that schools rather than individual teachers should take the responsibility of assessing NCS students’ learning in relation to the Learning Framework. Mr Lo (EDB) responded that seminars had been organised for school management to facilitate discussion relating to the implementation of the Learning Framework, allocation of resources and teaching strategies. The Forum was informed that workshops would also be organised for teachers in the learning and teaching strategies of NCS students and to share their experience in teaching NCS students.

1.2.3 An attendee pointed out that the webpage for the Learning Framework, which provided supporting materials for teachers, was available in Chinese only. Mr Lo (EDB) replied that priority was first given to create the framework and relevant teaching materials in Chinese due to the tight time schedule. EDB would provide an English version in due course.

1. **Recognition of Applied Learning (Chinese) for NCS students**

1.2.4. Some attendees raised concerns about the recognition of the new subject “Applied Learning (Chinese)” for NCS students as EDB was still soliciting recognition from stakeholders such as post-secondary institutions, universities and employers. Mr Lo (EDB) said that the subject would be pegged to Qualification Framework Levels 1-3 and the qualification would also be recorded in the HKDSE. This would facilitate NCS students in job seeking. EDB was soliciting recognition of the subject for further studies and employment.

**(c)** **Conclusion**

1.2.5 The Chairperson concluded that all attendees had a common goal to provide assistance in enhancing Chinese learning of NCS students, and they were welcomed to submit views and suggestions to EDB.

1. **Survey on households with school children of South Asian ethnicities by Census and Statistics Department**

2.1 At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr Wang of the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) gave a presentation on the forthcoming survey on households with school children of South Asian ethnicities, which collect information on social, economic and other characteristics of the relevant households to support policy formulation.

* 1. Issues raised by attendees and the discussions were summarised below:

1. **Ethnicities to be included in the survey**

2.2.1 Some attendees queried the rationale of including only South Asian ethnicities in the survey and suggested extending the coverage to all ethnicities such as Thais, Africans and Filipinos. Mr Wang (C&SD) replied that the scope of the survey had been discussed at the meeting of the Special Needs Groups Task Force of the Commission on Poverty. He added that according to the 2011 Population Census, the South Asian population comprised the largest proportion among all ethnic minorities (EMs)in Hong Kong (32%), followed by the Southeast Asian population (15%). There were more than 60 000 South Asian EMs living in Hong Kong, representing an increase of 50% over the decade before.

1. **Timeline of the survey**

2.2.2 An attendee asked when the results of the survey would be released. Mr Wang (C&SD) responded that they sought to complete the enumeration stage within 2014. It is planned that the survey findings would be reported to the Commission on Poverty in late 2015.

**(c) Sampling method of the survey**

2.2.3 An attendee suggested that snowball sampling in surveying EMs would be more effective in collecting information from EMs. Mr Wang (C&SD) thanked members for their support of the survey and explained that the random probabilistic sample design adopted in the survey, which was similar to other surveys conducted by the Department, would ensure that the survey results would be representative.

**(d) Content of the survey**

2.2.4 An attendee requested to have a sight of the letter sent by C&SD to parents of EM students. Mr Wang (C&SD) agreed to send a sample letter to attendees for reference after the meeting. Another attendee enquired if the questions in the survey had been finalised and the possibilities of further refinements. Mr Wang (C&SD) responded that views from attendees would be welcomed and the draft data topic could be provided after the meeting.

*[Post-meeting note:* *On 23 July 2014, the Secretariat provided attendees with documents regarding the survey, which included a sample letter to schools principals, a sample letter to parents and sample reply slips by C&SD for their reference. Draft data topics for conducting the pilot test were also given to attendees for their reference.]*

**3.**  **The Work of Civil Service Bureau on employment of EMs in the civil service**

* 1. At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Eunice Chan of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB)briefed attendees about the current policies and supporting measures on employment of EMs in the civil service.

3.2 Issues raised by attendees and the discussions were summarised below:

1. **Acceptance arrangements of public examination results**

3.2.1 An attendee enquired about the acceptance arrangements of Chinese language results in different non-local public examinations, such as United Kingdom International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), for the purpose of civil service appointments. Miss Chan (CSB) replied that guidelines had been issued to bureaux and departments to ensure compliance with and consistent application of the acceptance arrangements in all civil service recruitment exercises. Miss Chan (CSB) undertook to provide attendees with relevant information after the meeting.

*[Post-meeting note:* *On 20 August 2014, the Secretariat provided attendees with supplementary information regarding the relevant non-local examinations.]*

1. **Measures to employ EMs in civil service**

3.2.2 An attendee asked about the existing mechanism for bureaux and departments to stipulate the language proficiency requirements (LPRs) of respective grades in the civil service. Miss Chan (CSB) responded that under the prevailing guidelines issued by CSB to all bureaux and departments, individual civil service grade management should ensure that the LPRs specified would be relevant to and commensurate with the satisfactory performance of the duties of the grades concerned. This arrangement was in line with the Code of Practice on Employment issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission under the Race Discrimination Ordinance. CSB would work with bureaux and departments to review the LPRs of individual civil service grades from time to time and make suitable adjustments where the operational needs of the grades justified.

3.2.3 An attendee suggested that CSB should encourage bureaux and departments which had close day-to-day contact with EMs to employ EM staff as far as possible. Miss Chan (CSB) replied that some departments had employed EMs to meet specific operational needs. For example, EDB had employed EMs as teaching staff in government schools with EM students.

3.2.4 Some attendees enquired on information such as the ethnicities, years of service and income of EMs in the civil service. Miss Chan (CSB) said that CSB conducted a survey, on a voluntary and anonymous basis, in 2013 to gauge the racial profile of the civil service and agreed to provide members with the relevant information after the meeting.

*[Post-meeting note:* *On 20 August 2014, the Secretariat provided attendees with supplementary information regarding the relevant survey.]*

1. **Any Other Business**
2. **Employment of EM staff in Home Affairs Department (HAD)**

4.1 The Chairperson informed attendees that HAD would soon conduct a recruitment exercise to employ EM staff on non-civil service contract terms, namely Publicity Officers and Publicity Assistants, to enhance support services for EMs.

1. **TV programmes on EMs in Hong Kong**

4.2 Mr Cheung (CMAB) briefed attendees that CMAB was working with Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a 10-episode TV programmes titled “Hong Kong My Home”. The series aimed at helping local population understand more about EMs in Hong Kong and that the programmes would be broadcasted shortly.

4.3 For the date of next meeting, attendees would be duly informed nearer the time.

Home Affairs Department

December 2014