

Federation of Minority Schools [FMS]

List of Issues for Presentation during Legco Meeting of Education Panel

9-Jan-2006

There are Five Sections in this Presentation

Section A : Introduction to FMS

1. Set up by Minority educationalists
2. Registered under Society & Companies ordinances
3. Founding members are 7 private Minority Schools which are all registered with the government for past 5 to 14 years.
4. Serves about 1000 minority students
5. FMS member schools located in districts with high South Asian density according to July 2003 HAB survey of ethnic minorities.
6. Student body hails from 8 different minority sub groups.
7. Has 30 mainly minority teachers
8. FMS is chaired by a veteran crusader of minority causes Mr. Mohammad Alli Din. We are assisted by prominent figures like Hon Tsang Yok Sing of DAB and Mr. Mohammad Malik Khan of Pakistan Welfare Union.

Section B : Educational Issues of FMS

Statement of FMS

1. New requirement by EMB for qualifications of teachers. (EMB Circular No. 3/2004 of 15-Mar-2004)
 - (a) FMS supports it insofar as it intends to uplift standards of teachers
 - (b) FMS resents this circular because we lack financial resources to implement its dictates

2. FMS provides a useful service to complement government's efforts at upgrading the education of minority children. So government can assist us without imposing harsh conditions.
3. FMS safeguards H.K.'s reputation as a city offering equal opportunities to all. We help mitigate discrimination allegations against the government.
4. FMS understands psychology of minority children. Hence we are strategically positioned to improve academic and discipline standards of minority children.
5. FMS intends to do for Minority grassroots what ESF has done for Minority elite class.
6. FMS penetrates various niches in the minority market: from SWD dependents to kids of watchmen, retailers, bankers and diplomats.

Section C : Evidence of achievements:

A F.5 public exam results in 2005
(among ALL F5 minority students in Hong Kong)

1st Position holder in HK is an Indian student of CALIFORNIA SCHOOL*

3rd Position holder in HK is an Indian student of CALIFORNIA SCHOOL*

5th Position holder in HK is a Nepali student of CALIFORNIA SCHOOL*

(* a founding member school of FMS)

B Primary students of FMS are qualified to get government school places.

C FMS helps mature minority students to acquire university education. Our graduates can be found in banks, trading, Insurance and law firms.

Section D Future Prospects of Minority Children

(Source : A research Report on the Education of South Asians by HK Polytechnic University May 2005)

- 82% Minority children like HK life. Many want to develop their future in HK.
- 93% report their parents care about their educational performance.
- But 56.5% claim they are short changed by government.
- Roughly 30% claim Chinese teacher-bias.
- 32.5% believe serious breach of discipline resulting in drugs, bullying, etc...

FMS survey of Minority children indicates they understand the need for quality education to better their employment and personal prospects and those of their following generation. The majority believes our Schools can help them realize their dreams if not for the cost.

Section E Needs of FMS:

A. Government's assistance:

1. Affirmative Action program. Govt. can implement a 21st century bottom-up approach from scratch after consultation with registered minority organizations.
2. Waiving those sections of various ordinances that require substantial financial outlay to meet their requirements.
3. Subsidy for FMS to genuinely help the minority grassroots.

B. Legco Assistance

1. Appointing a permanent seat for FMS on the Education Panel of the Legco.
2. Setting up of EMLC (Ethnic Minority Legco Committee).

Thank you.

-End of Presentation-