

एकिकृत नेपाली समाज हङ्कङ

立法會 CB(2)1168/06-07(02)號文件
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To
The Chairman
Bill Committee on the Race Discrimination Bill
Legislative Council
HKSAR

Date : 22 February 2005

Subject: Our Concerns and Positions

As a social organization, Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society fully appreciates and supports the effort of HKSAR government to introduce and implement the Race Discrimination Bill in Hong Kong. We believe that the Government's respect and recognition to firmly uphold the principle of equality among the residents of Hong Kong, not withstanding the racial or ethnic background, promotes racial harmony in the society.

We also commit that, as a social group among the Nepalese minority community, we will try our best in informing and educating the people on this regard.

The bill, in our opinion and with some exceptions, covers wide areas of the sectors that may have the potentials of racial discrimination. However, there are still some areas, which have to be specified or covered.

1. Annex B, Clause 23 of bill notes that it does not cover the existing practices by some religious or racial groups to employ the individuals on their own choice. What about the employment in government organizations? Almost all the forms for the employment in government bodies require Chinese language passes in HKCEE or other local institutions. This provision leaves the minorities who are overseas educated in jeopardy. The government needs to clarify whether the existing practice on the employment in government bodies is made exceptions or will fall under the scrutiny of the bill.
2. As Annex B, Clause 55 of the Exception section of the bill, notes that the Bill does not cover the issues of Immigration Department to distinguish the citizens and non-citizens. In our knowledge, some of the ethnic minority people who wish to obtain the HKSAR passports, have to undergo the Chinese language tests or interviews. And if they can't show their proficiency in Chinese language they are often denied from obtaining the SAR passports. Is the 'distinctions' made by Immigration Department for

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the Chinese language proficiency to qualify for the SAR passports, is based on 'citizens or non-citizens' ? The Hong Kong government needs to specify whether the ethnic minorities holding the ROA in Hong Kong are 'Citizens or non-Citizens'.

We wish the speedy promulgation of the bill in order to safeguard the rights of the minority and local residents in Hong Kong.

Thank You



Bidhi Bahadur Thapa
Chairperson
Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society

