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Urgent by Fax : 2509 9055

1 March 2007

Clerk to Bills Committee on Race Discrimination Bill
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong

立法會 CB(2)1202/06-07(03)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2)1202/06-07(03)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Race Discrimination Bill

I refer to the Race Discrimination Bill which was presented to the Legislative Council on 13 December 2007 and would be examined by the Bills Committee on Race Discrimination Bill in more details. It is noted that a number of categories of acts proposed in the Bill have impacts and implications on the operations of education and training institutions in Hong Kong, and the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is one of these educational establishments listed in the Bill (Schedule 1).

I would be grateful if the Bills Committee will consider our comments as given in the attached letter of 23 February 2007, which has been sent to the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) last week.

Yours sincerely,


(Ms. Elvina Siu)

for Executive Director
Vocational Training Council

Encl. – Letter dated 23.2.2007 to the EMB
c.c. EMB (Attn. Mr. Edward Yu)

www.vtc.edu.hk

 Vocational
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急
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23 February 2007

Miss Charmaine Lee
Education and Manpower Bureau

Dear Miss Lee,

Race Discrimination Bill

Thanks for your letter of 7 February 2007 and the arrangement of a briefing session on 22 February 2007, which highlighted the areas of concerns and implications of the Bill on operations of the educational institutes in Hong Kong.

The Vocational Training Council (VTC) fully supports the spirit of the Bill and the provisions in general stated therein. More importantly, we must emphasize the need for inclusion of the following provisions or exceptions in the Bill –

- The exception for Medium of Instruction and arrangements regarding holidays in education and training bodies as prescribed under Clause 26(2);
- The special measures intended for bestowing benefits on ethnic minorities and promoting equal opportunities for them not being regarded as racial discrimination (Clause 49); and
- There should not be mandatory requirement for all service providers, including educational establishments to conduct their activities and business in all languages or any specified languages (Clause 58).

Yours sincerely,


(Miss Annie Ho)

for Executive Director
Vocational Training Council

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