

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Rights and interests of ethnic minorities”
moved by Hon Fred LI Wah-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 11 July 2007**

Motion as amended by Hon CHOY So-yuk

“That, as the Administration has failed to provide the necessary support and protection for some 300 000 ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, and many of them have encountered difficulties on various fronts, creating barriers to their development and integration into the Hong Kong community, this Council urges the Administration to adopt measures to protect the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, including:

- (a) on the education front, allocating additional resources to increase the number of designated schools in various districts which admit more non-Chinese speaking primary and secondary students and to provide appropriate support to the schools concerned and, at the same time, offering a curriculum and public examination for the subject of Chinese Language which are suitable for students of ethnic minorities, so that such students who are not proficient in Chinese can have equal opportunities to further their studies in schools, especially universities, and in employment;
- (b) in respect of young people of ethnic minorities, allocating additional resources to strengthen social services for young people of ethnic minorities, and assisting those who are beyond school age to complete secondary and vocational education;
- (c) on the employment front, conducting vocational training courses and trade tests in English or the languages of ethnic minorities according to their needs, relaxing the entry requirement in respect of Chinese proficiency in the recruitment of staff by the Government and public sector organizations, and arranging for suitable posts to be filled by ethnic minorities as far as practicable, and also providing information on job vacancies in both Chinese and English and setting up a dedicated employment counter by the Labour Department to assist ethnic minorities visiting the Department in seeking employment and making enquiries about labour laws as well as workers’ rights and interests;
- (d) on the public services front, providing free interpretation service for ethnic minorities using public services, such as public healthcare, social and employment services, etc;

- (e) on the religion and culture fronts, providing venues and other facilities in the districts in which a larger number of ethnic minorities resided in for conducting religious and cultural activities and, at the same time, enhancing civic education to promote public understanding of and respect for the cultures of ethnic minorities;
- (f) appointing ethnic minorities with ability to public organizations or advisory bodies, such as the Equal Opportunities Commission, so as to reflect the aspirations of ethnic minorities;
- (g) ensuring, by means of comprehensive legislation and complementary measures, that ethnic minorities are not discriminated against; and
- (h) setting up a comprehensive database to collect, in a systematic and focused manner, data relating to ethnic minorities in such areas as employment, education, use of public services, religion and culture, with a view to understanding their needs and thereby formulating a well-thought out policy to facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the Hong Kong community.”