

**For information
on 19 April 2010**

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities

Purpose

This paper updates the earlier paper on the four support services centres for ethnic minorities, issued to Members in February 2010, regarding the usage and latest developments of these centres.

The Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER) (paragraphs 7 and 8 of the earlier paper)

2. As at end March 2010, 14 language classes and 59 integration programmes have been held, with a total of over 2 900 participants.

3. On the interpretation and translation services, up to end March 2010, about 500 calls, on-site interpretations and translation requests have been handled.

“Harnessing Opportunities and Potentials for Ethnic Minorities” (HOPE) Support Service Centre (paragraph 10 of the earlier paper)

4. As at end March 2010, 44 language classes, 42 computer classes and 56 integration programmes (besides computer classes) have been conducted, with a total of about 2 350 participants.

Services for Harmonious Integration and Neighbourhood Empowerment (SHINE) (paragraph 12 of the earlier paper)

5. As at end March 2010, five language classes, two after-school tutorial classes and 40 other social integration and racial harmony programmes have been conducted, with over 1 800 participants.

Yuen Long Town Hall (YLTH) Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities (paragraph 14 of the earlier paper)

6. As at end March 2010, 21 language courses, 15 computer classes, seven tutorial classes and 111 other integration programmes have been organised either by the YLTH Centre alone or in cooperation with local organisations, with around 12 500 participants (out of which 6 800 were participants of mass programmes).

After-school tutorial classes for ethnic minority students (paragraph 15 of the earlier paper)

7. Under further sponsorship by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), three of the four centres (i.e. HOPE Centre, YLTH Support Service Centre and SHINE Centre) have commenced progressively from April 2010 provision of after-school tutorial classes for ethnic minority students. 25 classes on the Chinese Language, Mathematics and general homework tutorials are being provided in the second half of the 2009-10 school year, and 29 classes will be provided in the 2010-11 school year. These classes are held in the premises of the centres, non-designated schools or premises of community organisations.

Incorporation of other support services into the centres

8. As mentioned in paragraph 18 of the earlier paper, CMAB also provides various support services to ethnic minorities by funding different NGOs and in different districts, including community development teams and language classes. In this regard, operators of three of the four support service centres (namely, ISS-HK which operates the HOPE centre, Christian Action which operates the SHINE Centre, and YLTH which operates the YLTH Support Service Centre) have been providing practical Cantonese and English programmes for adults from the ethnic minority communities since 2000-01 and / or Community Development Teams for Ethnic Minorities at Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long since 2005 and 2006 respectively, under CMAB's sponsorship.

9. To streamline their operation and enable more flexible and efficient use and deployment of resources, we have agreed with the three organisations concerned to incorporate the language programmes and Community Development Teams into their respective support service centres. This would help provide better and more co-ordinated services to the ethnic minority community. The new arrangements are effective from April / May 2010.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
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