

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities

Introduction

At the meeting on 19 April 2010, members were briefed on the operation of the four support service centres for ethnic minorities funded by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). The Administration was requested to provide a list of non-designated schools with non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students in which after-school tutorial classes were provided to these students, and information on the number of ethnic minority participants attending language classes and work-related programmes in these support service centres. This paper provides the relevant information.

After-school tutorial classes

2. The non-designated schools in which after-school tutorial classes are provided by three of the support service centres are Shun Tak Fraternal Association Yung Yau College, Lam Tsuen Public Wong Fuk Luen Memorial School, Tung Tak School and Chung Sing Benevolent Society Mrs Aw Boon Haw Secondary School. Apart from these schools, after-school tutorial classes are also provided by the support service centres at the venues of the respective centres and premises of other community organisations, including religious centres and community centres in housing estates in various districts. These venues are located in different districts throughout the territory to suit the convenience of NCS students. The tutorial classes are open for enrollment to all NCS students, irrespective of the location of their own schools. As at end May 2010, students from 45 schools, including 31 non-designated schools, have enrolled in the classes.

3. These after-school tutorial classes provided by the support service centres are on top of the support measures which have been put in place by the Education Bureau. To enhance the after-school support for NCS students, upon further injection into the Language Fund in the 2010-11 financial year, the Education Bureau will implement the Project of After-school Extended Chinese Learning for non-designated schools with NCS students for a period of three years from the 2010/11 to 2012/13 school years. Non-designated schools were informed of the implementation details and invited to participate in the Project in late June 2010. Successful applicant schools will be provided with funding to reinforce the learning of the Chinese Language by NCS students through various modes of after-school extended Chinese learning, with a view to facilitating their adaptation to the local curriculum and enhancing their understanding of and sense of belonging to the local community for better integration into the wider community. This Project will serve to complement the Chinese Language Learning Support Centres, which are being operated mainly in the designated schools, for supporting NCS students' after-school Chinese learning. This will allow time for the Chinese Language Learning Support Centres to expand their existing services to enhance their support to NCS students from both designated schools and non-designated schools.

Attendance in language classes and other work-related programmes in the support service centres

4. The four support service centres for ethnic minorities came into operation progressively from May to September 2009. They have been operating language classes (which are separate from the after-school tutorial classes for NCS students) and other work-related programmes including computer classes, employment workshops and talks on labour laws. The number of ethnic minority participants attending such language classes and other work-related programmes as at the end of May 2010 is at Annex.

**Number of ethnic minority participants
attending language classes and other work-related programmes
of the support service centres for ethnic minorities
(as at end of May 2010)***

Centres	Number of participants in language classes	Number of participants in other work-related programmes **
Hong Kong Christian Service CHEER Centre	330	420
International Social Service-Hong Kong Branch HOPE Centre	1,000	600
Yuen Long Town Hall (YLTH) Support Service Centre	550	320
Christian Action SHINE Centre	150	70
Total	2,030	1,410

* Due to the different focus in service provision and different clientele of the centres, and that the centres came into operation at different times, there are variations in the figures among centres. For example, the HOPE centre was the first centre which commenced operation in May 2009, and due to its popularity among foreign domestic helpers, a number of language classes and work-related programmes were held to meet their needs. On the other hand, the SHINE centre (coming into operation in August 2009) focused more on women and youth support groups and cross-cultural activities / interest classes which are not work-related.

** Including computer classes, employment workshops and labour law talks