

政制及內地事務局
政府總部



香港下亞厘畢道

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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3 January 2011

The Honourable TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Chairman of Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central

Dear Mr TAM,

Policies on and support services for ethnic minorities
Division of responsibilities

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 October 2010, members noted the measures announced in the 2010-11 Policy Address concerning the services to help ethnic minorities integrate into the community. A member requested the Administration to explain the division of work among government bureaux and departments in the implementation of policies and provision of support services concerning ethnic minorities. This letter provides the relevant information.

Support services for ethnic minorities

Various government departments have been providing a range of services to help ethnic minorities integrate into our society. Among such services, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been funding four non-government organizations (NGOs) to operate four support service centres for ethnic minorities to provide various learning classes, counseling, integration programmes and

centralised interpretation services (by one of the centres). CMAB has also been funding around ten NGOs to provide specific support services such as language classes and community support teams. These support services have been enhanced in the light of experience. For example, earlier this year, we provided additional funding for the support service centres to provide after school tutorial classes to ethnic minority students.

As announced in the 2010-11 Policy Address, the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PSHA) will lead a dedicated team, to be established under the Home Affairs Department (HAD), to step up and coordinate efforts in the provision of support services to new arrivals from the Mainland and ethnic minorities. The team will monitor closely their service needs and difficulties in daily life, so as to ensure that the support services can meet their needs. The team will also enhance collaboration with NGOs and district organizations to facilitate their integration into the local community.

To take forward this initiative, the relevant funding and manpower resources for the provision of support services for ethnic minorities currently under CMAB will be transferred to HAD. After the transfer, the dedicated team will oversee the provision of these support services. It will closely monitor the needs of ethnic minorities and further enhance the services as necessary.

Policies relevant to ethnic minorities

After the transfer mentioned in paragraphs 3 to 4 above, CMAB will continue to be responsible for the overall policy on equal opportunities on the ground of race as well as the Race Discrimination Ordinance, housekeeping the Equal Opportunities Commission, coordinating Hong Kong's compliance with the reporting requirements under the relevant international human rights treaties and overseeing the implementation of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality among concerned bureaux, departments and public authorities to promote racial equality and ensure equal access to public services.

A number of bureaux/departments also handle policy areas which are relevant to ethnic minorities. These include areas such as education for non-Chinese speaking students and language proficiency requirements of civil service recruitment. These bureaux/departments will continue to deal with the respective policy issues.

CMAB will work together with HAD and other relevant bureaux/departments to facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hubert LAW', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of a short diagonal line that points downwards and to the right.

(Hubert LAW)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs