

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2214/13-14  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the eighteenth meeting  
held on Friday, 25 April 2014, at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon TANG Ka-piu
- Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

**Public Officers : Item I  
attending**

Ms Lydia LAM Sui-ping  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Manpower)  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mrs. Tonia LEUNG SO Suk-ching  
Assistant Commissioner (Employment Services)  
Labour Department

Miss Dora FU Ha-man, JP  
Assistant Director (3)  
Home Affairs Department

**Attendance by : Item I  
invitation**

Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral  
Centre for Workers (Kowloon)  

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Mr LI Ka-shu  
Program Officer

Hong Kong Unison Limited

Miss Annie LI  
Campaign Officer

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Miss Lynn LAW  
Officer

Justice Centre Hong Kong

Ms Victoria Wisniewski Otero  
Advocacy Officer

Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs

Ms Abbas Sairah  
Assistant Programme Worker

A.I.M. Group

Mr Mohd Nawaz  
Representative

Equal Access to Government services Concern Group  
for Hong Kong Ethnic Minority

Mrs Tamang Sujata

Hidden Women Art Craft Studio

Mrs Shaheen Begum

HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre

Mr Jonathan CHAN Ching-wa  
Senior Service Co-ordinator

Khatme-Nubuwwat Movement HK

Mr Jimmy Nasab Khan  
Representative

India Association

Mr Kavi Khiytani

International Human Right Forum

Mr Syed Asim  
Chairman

Pakistan Women Association of HK

Ms Shazia Gulfareed  
General Secretary

Jammu Kashmir Association (HK)

Mr Rehan Gulfareed  
Vice President

Hong Kong Christian Service

Ms CHAN Chung-ho  
Chief Supervisor

Yan Oi Tong Community Centre

Mr Daniel MA Ho-kwan  
Chief Supervisor

Miss CHEUNG Sze-wing

Nepali Union Church

Mr Raju Baraily

Mr POON Wing-Lok

Labour Party

Mr C.M. LAM  
Representative

Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

Mr LAW Yuk-kai  
Director

Pakistani Students Association Hong Kong

Dr Muhammad Anwar-Ul-Haq

Miss Sangita Datta

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Kay CHU  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

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**I. Measures to support ethnic minorities in relation to employment and integration into the community**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1312/13-14(01) to (09), CB(2)1408/13-14(01) to (02) and CB(2)1468/13-14(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to relay its following concerns to the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and provide a response to the Subcommittee –

- (a) CoP should address the issues relating to ethnic minorities ("EMs") from a policy perspective so as to help EMs move upward;
- (b) policies on integration of EMs into Hong Kong should be formulated;
- (c) whether there were policies on setting a recruitment ratio of EMs for civil service posts and EMs' political participation; and
- (d) whether alternative Chinese Language admission requirements for tertiary education would be imposed for EM students having regard to their low university admission rate.

**II. Any other business**

3. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7 pm.

**Proceedings of the eighteenth meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Friday, 25 April 2014, at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda item I – Measures to support ethnic minorities in relation to employment and integration into the community</i>			
000331 - 001202	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks  Briefing by the Administration on the existing and enhancement measures to support ethnic minorities ("EMs") in relation to employment and integration into the community.	
001203 - 001459	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1312/13-14(03)]  (a) though the 12 job centres under the Labour Department ("LD") had set up special counters to serve EM job seekers, the successful job matching rate as well as the utilization rate of the EM employment services and interpretation service were very low;  (b) vocational training organizations, such as the Construction Industry Council, offered very limited number of training courses in English which were crucial for EMs to enhance their vocational skills and alleviate poverty; and  (c) the Administration should set up an accountability system for implementing the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality ("the Guidelines") effectively.	
001500 - 001808	Chairman Hong Kong Unison Limited	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1312/13-14(04)]  The general classification of EMs as non-locals and imported workers in the government context, and the de facto racial segregation in the education system were in conflict with the public policy on inclusive society.	
001809 - 002119	Chairman The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1312/13-14(05)]  The Administration should –	

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		<p>(a) enhance the interpretation service as language barriers were major problems which hindered EMs' access to public information and services; and</p> <p>(b) formulate a comprehensive policy on integration of EMs into Hong Kong in consultation with EMs and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs").</p>	
002120 - 002412	Chairman Justice Centre Hong Kong	<p>Views that : –</p> <p>(a) persons making non-refoulement protection claim were some of the most marginalized EMs in Hong Kong. They were generally barred from working and their living could only rely on the humanitarian assistance, but the amount of which put them below the poverty line; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should consider permitting mandated refugees and torture claimants substantiated under the unified screening mechanism to work during their stay in Hong Kong, so that they could be self-reliant and the manpower shortage in Hong Kong could also be mitigated.</p>	
002413 - 002724	Chairman Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the front-line staff of the support service centres/sub-centres for EMs ("SSCs") under the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") did not proactively provide EMs with interpretation service;</p> <p>(b) the Housing Department ("HD") did not provide any support for those EMs who could not communicate in Cantonese or English. Some EMs missed allocation of public rental housing ("PRH") due to language barriers;</p> <p>(c) most EMs were not aware of the services of the Student Financial Assistance Agency ("SFAA") as it did not promote its service in EM languages. EMs might be reluctant to apply for financial assistance from SFAA given the complicated procedures and the high thresholds; and</p> <p>(d) the employment services for EMs provided by LD were considered ineffective.</p>	

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002725 - 002840	Chairman A.I.M. Group	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1312/13-14(06)]</p> <p>Most EM job seekers failed to secure employment via LD's employment services.</p>	
002841 - 003120	Chairman Equal Access to Government services Concern Group for Hong Kong Ethnic Minority	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1312/13-14(07)]</p> <p>(a) the front-line staff of SSCs did not proactively provide EMs with interpretation service;</p> <p>(b) HD did not provide any support for those EMs who could not communicate in Cantonese or English;</p> <p>(c) most EMs had never heard of the SFAA's service; and</p> <p>(d) the LD's employment services for EMs were considered ineffective.</p>	
003121 - 003324	Chairman Hidden Women Art Craft Studio	<p>Views that the low employment rate of EM women was caused by language barriers, inexperience, cultural difference and their faith in religions. The Administration should address the problem and help EM women seek employment.</p>	
003325 - 003656	Chairman HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1408/13-14(02)]</p> <p>(a) LD should proactively invite employers to offer more job opportunities at job fairs and hire EM staff to promote its employment services to EM community;</p> <p>(b) the Civil Service Bureau should take the lead in reviewing and relaxing the Chinese language proficiency requirements ("LPRs") for recruitment; and</p> <p>(c) the Community Care Fund launched the "One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving CSSA" assistance programme which offered a uniform subsidy of \$10,000 for three-or-more-person eligible households. Given that the family size of an EM was usually big, the Administration was requested to increase the amount of subsidy according to the actual number of family members, so as to relieve the financial pressure on low-income EM households.</p>	



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003657 - 004005	Chairman Khatme-Nubuwwat Movement HK	Urging the Administration to –  (a) address the needs of some EM students to study Quran;  (b) launch special housing programmes for EMs who were suffering from high housing rental;  (c) organize EM youth programmes to provide non-engaged EM youths with support services; and  (d) help EMs overcome language barriers.	
004006 - 004252	Chairman India Association	View that language barriers were major problems faced by EMs in Hong Kong. The Administration should –  (a) reinforce language education for EMs to strengthen their language proficiency in spoken and written Chinese for better integration into Hong Kong ; and  (b) consider the genuine occupation qualifications of the government posts when specifying the language requirements and take initiatives to facilitate the employment of EMs in different sectors.	
004253 - 004601	Chairman International Human Right Forum	Views that some EMs with higher academic qualifications were only engaged in low-skilled jobs because in addition to language barriers, their academic qualifications acquired in their home countries were not recognized in Hong Kong. To facilitate employment of EMs, the Administration was requested to relax the Chinese LPRs of government posts and organize self-employment seminars to help EMs set up business in Hong Kong.	
004602 - 004848	Chairman Pakistan Women Association of HK	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1408/13-14(01)]  EMs who knew neither Cantonese nor English had to heavily rely on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance as they could not find job. The Administration should create more jobs for EMs and encourage employers to relax Chinese LPRs for recruitment.	
004849 - 005202	Chairman Jammu Kashmir Association (HK)	Views that EM children were mainly allocated to English-speaking schools given their poor proficiency in spoken and written Chinese. In the end, the EM community could neither get rid of the language barriers nor improve their living	

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		standard by engaging in skillful jobs. The Administration should modify the education policies to stop the vicious cycle and help EMs integrate into Hong Kong.	
005203 - 005508	Chairman Hong Kong Christian Service	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should formulate a comprehensive policy on integration of EMs into Hong Kong, under which the EM population would be treated as a valuable source of social and economic development, and more resources would be allocated to NGOs for provision of long-term support services for EMs;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should make public the implementation progress of the Guidelines and extend the scope of application of the Guidelines to NGOs that received Lump Sum Grant; and</p> <p>(c) NGOs should be encouraged to organize cultural sensitivity trainings for their front-line staff for better serving EM community.</p>	
005509 - 005817	Chairman Yan Oi Tong Community Centre	<p>Views that the Administration should establish a policy on integration of EMs into Hong Kong to –</p> <p>(a) facilitate co-ordination and achieve synergy among bureaux and departments ("B/Ds") and NGOs;</p> <p>(b) provide NGOs with performance indicators to measure the outcome instead of output of the support services for EMs; and</p> <p>(c) secure sufficient resources for NGOs to develop and provide long-term support services for EMs.</p>	
005818 - 010122	Chairman Miss CHEUNG Sze-wing	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1468/13-14(01)]</p> <p>(a) whilst appreciating the various measures taken by the Administration to support EMs, Miss CHEUNG considered that more should be done to encourage EMs to obtain professional qualifications for their career development in Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(b) new generation of EMs had the responsibility to put more efforts in improving their</p>	

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		proficiency in spoken and written Chinese for better integration into Hong Kong.	
010123 - 010436	Chairman Nepali Union Church	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>Most Nepalese children were allocated to English-speaking schools, thereby weakening their Chinese language proficiency. Consequently, their opportunities to receive higher education and vocational trainings, and to find skillful jobs were substantially reduced. Many youth problems, such as drug abuse, then arose.</p>	
010437 - 010744	Chairman Mr POON Wing-Lok	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should relax the Chinese LPRs for recruitment, in particular written Chinese, and create more government posts to facilitate the employment of EMs;</p> <p>(b) for the composition of government-appointed non-official members in advisory and statutory bodies, the proportion of EMs should be raised according to the EM population in Hong Kong, i.e. 6% to 7%; and more representatives from the grassroots community should be appointed so that their needs could be reflected more effectively; and</p> <p>(c) HAD should examine the service contract bidding for operating SSCs in terms of the outcome, service quality and experience of non-profit-making organizations in serving EMs.</p>	
010745 - 011110	Chairman Labour Party	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should incorporate the EM employment policy into the government recruitment policy and apply it to all B/Ds; and</p> <p>(b) according to the written reply by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare to a question raised at the Council meeting of 13 November 2013, the numbers of able-bodied EMs who registered with LD for employment service and the numbers of placements secured for able-bodied EM job seekers through the referral services of LD dropped continuously during the period from 2010 to 2012. The Administration should announce to the public the cost-effectiveness of the LD's employment services for EMs.</p>	

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011111 - 011424	Chairman Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the Guidelines, which were not applicable to all B/Ds, were not effective in terms of outcome, and implementation of these Guidelines was not regularly reviewed by the Administration; and</p> <p>(b) the Equal Opportunities Commission was not granted the appropriate power and resources to monitor the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation by B/Ds.</p>	
011425 - 011749	Chairman Pakistani Students Association Hong Kong	View that the Administration should enhance the education for the new EM generation so that they could overcome language barriers, secure employment and become self-reliant, alleviate poverty and successfully integrate into Hong Kong.	
011750 - 011949	Chairman Miss Sangita Datta	<p>Views that the Administration should –</p> <p>(a) provide and promote interpretation service for EMs in their access to public services; and</p> <p>(b) increase the number of female doctors at public healthcare organizations to cater for the need of EM women.</p>	
011950 - 013220	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's summary of major views and concerns of deputations on language barriers, employment, provision of training programmes in EM languages, societal engagement of the young EM generation, EMs' political participation, appointment of EMs to advisory or statutory bodies, provision of interpretation services by the Administration, government policies on integration of EMs into Hong Kong and appointment of EMs to the civil service.</p> <p>The Administration's explanation on the dedicated language courses and training programmes provided for EMs by the Employees Retraining Board ("ERB"), the interpretation services and employment assistance available for EMs, the adjustments to the Chinese LPRs and recruitment formats of relevant Government jobs.</p> <p>Expression of disappointment by the Chairman that officers attending the meeting were unable to respond to deputations' concerns about whether the Administration had a policy of setting a recruitment ratio of EMs for civil</p>	

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		service posts, its policies on integration of EMs into Hong Kong and EMs' political participation. The Administration was requested to relay the aforesaid concerns to the Commission on Poverty ("CoP").	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
013221 - 013931	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Administration	<p>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's concerns and views that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Administration lacked new initiatives to help EMs seek employment;</li> <li>(b) LD should analyze the skills of EM job seekers and proactively recommend suitable candidates to employers. One-on-one job matching service for EMs should be provided; and</li> <li>(c) the system for recruiting police officers adopted before 1997 should be resumed so as to provide EMs with the opportunity to join the Hong Kong Police Force.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) given the large number and variety of job vacancies placed with LD (around 100 000 job vacancies a month), job matching on an individual basis might not be the only effective means to help EM job seekers to find work. The personalized employment advisory services provided by LD would equip the EM job seekers with the necessary job search skills for finding jobs through direct application or referral services. As around 90% of the vacancies advertised through LD were open for direct application by job seekers, job seekers were also encouraged to apply for the openings direct, apart from making use of the referral services.</li> <li>(b) LD had embarked on new measures to help EMs find work. Organization of large-scale job fairs targeting EMs was found to be effective in helping EM job seekers find suitable work. In effect, at the two job fairs organized in March 2014, EM job seekers secured 79 job offers through on-the-spot interviews with employers.</li> </ul>	
013932 - 014718	Chairman Dr Priscilla LEUNG Khatme-Nubuwwat Movement HK	Dr Priscilla LEUNG' views and suggestions that to enable EMs' political participation, representatives from EM groups should be nominated to the Nominating Committee for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017.	

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		<p>Views of Khatme-Nubuwwat Movement HK that—</p> <p>(a) information regarding LD's employment service was not disseminated to EMs; and</p> <p>(b) many EMs were born in Hong Kong and had contributed to the society. It was unfair to regard them as lower class citizens. The Administration should seriously address this problem.</p>	
014719 - 015425	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration	<p>Extension of meeting time for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time by the Chairman.</p> <p>Enquiries/views of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che –</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration would provide funding on a longer-term for implementing measures to facilitate EMs' integration into Hong Kong;</p> <p>(b) the reasons for the low success rate of job matching by LD for EMs;</p> <p>(c) the Administration should focus on the outcome instead of the output of its services for EMs; and</p> <p>(d) the Administration should conduct a comprehensive study on EMs' academic background, qualifications, etc. so as to formulate policies to help them integrate into the society.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) HAD had commissioned six NGOs to operate SSCs on a two-year agreement term. Although the current agreements were for two years, they could be extended for further terms, subject to provision of satisfactory services. The current arrangement had not hindered the planning of SSCs. HAD would continue to closely monitor these services annually and consider the possibility of extending the agreement term if necessary;</p> <p>(b) according to the 2011 Population Census Thematic Report on Ethnic Minorities ("Thematic Report"), the labour force participation rate of EMs (excluding foreign domestic helpers) was 65.2% which was higher than the labour force participation of</p>	

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		<p>the overall population (57.9%). The Thematic Report also provided other useful information on EMs' needs in relation to job search;</p> <p>(c) job seekers who had registered with LD for employment services might find work through the referral services of LD or by direct application to employers who advertised their vacancies through LD. As the majority of the vacancies advertised through LD were open for direct application by job seekers and those who had successfully obtained employment through direct application were not required to report their placement to LD, the success rate of LD's job referral service had not included the placements made through direct application; and</p> <p>(d) to have a better understanding of the employment situation of EMs registered with LD for employment services, LD had conducted surveys since the second quarter of 2013. Among the 545 registered EM job seekers, about half of the 348 respondents had found work. LD had also invited those respondents who were still looking for employment to approach LD for its personalized employment advisory service.</p>	
015426 - 020133	Chairman Deputy Chairman Administration HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre	<p>Enquiry/views of the Deputy Chairman –</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration would keep record of the number of EM civil servants so that members would be able to follow up the appointment of EMs to the civil service;</p> <p>(b) many EMs could not use public services because of the inadequate provision of interpretation services; and</p> <p>(c) LD should consider placing conspicuous notices at its job centres to inform EM job seekers that interpretation services would be provided for them if needed.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) the relevant B/Ds should follow the Guidelines and provide interpretation services to facilitate EMs to use public services;</p>	

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		<p>(b) in LD's experience, most of the EM job seekers visiting the job centres were able to communicate with locals while others would be accompanied by their friends or relatives who spoke Cantonese or English. This might explain for the relatively low usage of LD's interpretation services. Nonetheless, the front-line staff of job centres had been alerted to the language needs of the EM job seekers and reminded to proactively make use of the interpretation services where appropriate. Notices introducing the services to the EM visitors were also posted up. Special counters were set up to serve EM job seekers in each job centre; and</p> <p>(c) the usage of public services provided through the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents ("CHEER") in the past three years had doubled. The Administration would step up the promotion of CHEER's services.</p> <p>View of HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre that to facilitate EMs to use the Administration's interpretation services, government departments such as LD and the Housing Department ("HD") should consider recruiting EMs as ambassadors.</p>	
020134 - 020703	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concerns and views that –</p> <p>(a) English notices of PRH allocation arrangements for tenants affected by the Administration's redevelopment projects should be available in all the PRH estates concerned;</p> <p>(b) CoP should address the issues relating to EMs from a policy perspective so as to help EMs move upward;</p> <p>(c) policies on integration of EMs into Hong Kong should be formulated; and</p> <p>(d) the Special Needs Groups Task Force ("SNG Task Force") under CoP should follow up whether there would be a policy on setting a recruitment ratio for EMs to civil service posts, and whether alternative Chinese Language admission requirements for tertiary education would be imposed for EM students having regard to their low university admission rate.</p> <p>Expression of disappointment by the Chairman</p>	



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		that representatives from CoP were not present at the meeting. He requested the officers attending the meeting to relay to CoP his concerns mentioned in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) above.	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
020704 - 021207	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's view that the Administration should formulate policies in relation to the provision of an alternative Chinese Language curriculum for EM students to facilitate them to pursue higher education and the relaxation of the requirement for Chinese proficiency for civil service posts.	
021208 - 021331	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)	With the consent of all members present, the Chairman extended the meeting for 10 minutes beyond the extended ending time.  View of Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon) that the Construction Industry Council should offer more training programmes in English for EMs.	
021332 - 021503	Chairman The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	View of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service that on-site interpretation services were provided for EMs subject to the Administration's assessment of the need for such services and a charge would apply. On-site interpretation services should be provided upon request of EMs free of charge.	
021504 - 021612	Chairman Justice Centre Hong Kong	View of Justice Centre Hong Kong that the Administration should take into account the recommendations made by Refugee Concern Network and improve the humanitarian assistance for protection claimants. The Administration should also consider permitting protection claimants to work during their stay in Hong Kong.	
021613 - 021657	Chairman Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs	View of Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs that the Administration should provide funding for NGOs to provide job matching services for EMs if LD was not going to set up a dedicated employment services division for EMs.	
021658 - 021808	Chairman HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre	Views of HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre that –  (a) the Administration should seriously consider recruiting EM staff to help EM job seekers; and	

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		(b) some EMs could not use LD's employment services as they did not have friends or relatives who could speak Chinese. The Administration should proactively provide interpretation services for EM job seekers.	
021809 - 022000	Chairman Khatme-Nubuwat Movement HK	Views of Khatme-Nubuwat Movement HK that –  (a) every District Council office should employ at least one EM staff member to help EMs in the district provide them with the required information and solve communication problems;; and  (b) the Administration should assist needy EMs who were suffering from high housing rental.	
022001 - 022523	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Administration	The Administration's response to Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's enquiries regarding interpretation services and personalized job search service that –  (a) on-site interpretation services would be provided in large-scale thematic job fairs. For district-based job fairs, LD would also make use of the telephone interpretation services provided by CHEER where appropriate;  (b) there were currently 12 job centres and one new job centre would be set up in Tung Chung. Through these job centres, LD networked with the employers and NGOs in the respective districts to provide dedicated services to help EMs find work. This mode of operation should work much better than a single service point in terms of geographical coverage;  (c) personalized employment advisory service was available to all job seekers, including EMs, in job centres. The Administration would step up the promotion of this service especially to EM job seekers;  (d) interpretation services provided for EMs were free of charge;  (e) HAD would recruit more EM staff in the coming year. It was anticipated that the number of full-time EM staff employed by the Department and SSCs would be increased from 65 to 95 and from 50 odd to 80 odd for part-time EM staff; and	

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		(f) ERB had set up a focus group consisting of representatives from EM groups and NGOs to understand more about the training and employment needs of EMs. EMs were welcome to give their views to ERB through the focus group.	
022524 - 022812	Chairman Mr POON Wing-Lok Administration	<p>Mr POON Wing-Lok's view that members should scrutinize the fairness and transparency of service contract bidding for operating SSCs for EMs.</p> <p>The Administration's response that an open and fair mechanism was in place for selecting operators of SSCs. The bids received were examined by an inter-departmental vetting panel according to a basket of criteria. The Administration would continue to closely monitor the service quality of the operators.</p>	
022813 - 022818	Chairman	Expression of regret by the Chairman that representatives from CoP were not present and his remarks that the Subcommittee would follow up with the SNG Task Force issues with respect to support for EMs.	