

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1697/15-16

(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the thirty-eighth meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15 March 2016, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

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

**Public Officers : Item I  
attending**

Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung, JP  
Under Secretary for Education  
Education Bureau

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (6)  
Education Bureau

Mr WOO Chun-sing  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education  
& Kindergarten Education)  
Education Bureau

**Item II**

Ms Doris HO, JP  
Head, Policy and Project Coordination Unit  
Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office

Ms Reddy NG, JP  
Principal Economist (5)  
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit

Ms IP Ling-bik  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Education Commission &  
Planning)  
Education Bureau

Mr LO Pui-lam  
Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Chinese)  
Curriculum Development Institute  
Education Bureau

Mr FUNG Man-chung  
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr Charles HUI, JP  
Assistant Commissioner (Employment Services)  
Labour Department

Dr MA Chi  
Deputy Executive Director (Training Services)  
Employees Retraining Board

Mr CHENG Kwan-yam  
Chief Executive Officer (3)  
Home Affairs Department

**Attendance by : Item II  
invitation**

A.I.M. Group

Ms Abbas Sairah  
Assistant Program Worker

Equal Access Group

Ms Shaheen Shabana  
Group Member

Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for  
Workers (Kowloon)

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Mr LI Ka-shu  
Program Officer

Oxfam Hong Kong

Ms WONG Shek-hung  
Hong Kong Programme Manager

葵青關注少數族裔聯盟

Mr Minhas Rashad

Liberal Party

Mr Michael LEE  
Representative

Hong Kong Unison

Ms Payal Biswas  
Programme Worker

ISS-HK-Hope Support Service Centre For Ethnic Minority

Mr Thapa Deepen Kumar  
Centre Coordinator

Ms ALE, Samantha

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Lynn LAW  
Officer (Family & Community Service)

PathFinders

Ms Lia Lau Ngatini  
Case Manager

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

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Kay CHU  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Ms Ada TANG  
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

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Action

**I. Provision of a One-off Grant for School-related Expenses to Kindergarten Students**

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1034/15-16(01)]

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

Secretariat

2. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to seek the Administration's explanation of how the rate (i.e. \$3,770) of the flat-rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme was set.

**II. Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities and the related support policies**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1034/15-16(02) to (06) and CB(2)1104/15-16(01)]

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

Admin

4. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide information on:

- (a) the number of non-Chinese speaking students at various levels of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in each of the past 12 school years; and
- (b) the population of children given birth in Hong Kong by foreign domestic helpers.

*(Post meeting note: The Administration's response to (a) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1373/15-16(01) on 26 April 2016. Regarding (b), the Census and Statistics Department and Immigration Department confirmed that no data /information was available.)*

**III. Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting**

5. Members noted that the Subcommittee would discuss the subject of "Level of CSSA and the basic living security" at the next meeting scheduled for Monday, 11 April 2016 at 4:30 pm.

Action

*(Post-meeting note: As directed by the Chairman, the Subcommittee would discuss the subjects of "Alleviating poverty through developing local community economy and bazaars" and "Level of CSSA and the basic living security" at its next meeting.)*

**IV. Any other business**

6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:18 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 June 2016

**Proceedings of the thirty-eighth meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Tuesday, 15 March 2016 at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Provision of a One-off Grant for School-related Expenses to Kindergarten Students</i>			
000553 - 000922	Chairman Admin	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>The Administration briefed members on its proposal to invite the Community Care Fund ("CCF") to implement a programme to provide a one-off grant for school-related expenses ("the Programme") for eligible kindergarten ("KG") students in the 2016-2017 school year before the implementation of the free quality KG education policy ("the Policy").</p>	
000923 - 001432	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu expressed appreciation to the Administration's proposal of setting three levels for the one-off grant, i.e. full grant, 3/4 grant and 1/2 grant, which would allow more needy KG students to benefit from the Programme. He asked:</p> <p>(a) about the estimated percentage of KGs, which would provide free whole-day ("WD") places under the Policy; and</p> <p>(b) whether CCF would consider providing assistance to ease the financial burden of working parents who had to bear high cost of WD KG services.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <p>(a) on the premise that the provision of WD/long WD ("LWD") KG services should be on a co-payment basis, most WD places of KGs would not be free under the Policy. However, WD KG services would be more affordable with the provision of a grant for eligible WD KGs under the Policy; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration would continue implementing the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme ("KCFRS") to render assistance to needy students attending WD KGs after the implementation of the Policy.</p>	

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		<p>Mr TANG expressed concern that under KCFRS, about 70-80% of applicant households with children attending WD KGs were not entitled to full fee remission. In response, the Administration advised that KCFRS and CCF had the same objective to help financially needy families. For those families which were not eligible for KCFRS, the Administration had to consider carefully whether they should be assisted by CCF. Whilst the Administration did not intend to make all WD places of KGs be free under the Policy, Mr TANG's suggestion at (b) above would be considered.</p>	
001433 - 002002	<p>Chairman Mr Albert HO Admin</p>	<p>Mr Albert HO asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) about how the rates of full-grant, 3/4 grant and 1/2 grant of the one-off grant were set; and</li> <li>(b) whether applications for the one-off grant could be submitted via the KGs concerned. If so, the Administration should remind these KGs to clearly explain to applicant households on how to fill in the application forms properly, especially the information on household income.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) advised that under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme, CSSA households with children attending KGs were entitled to a flat-rate grant to cover selected items of school-related expenses ("the flat-rate grant") and the rate for the 2016-2017 school year was \$3,770. The Administration therefore proposed to set the full-grant rate of the one-off grant at \$3,770, which was equivalent to the flat-rate grant, and the rates of 3/4 grant and 1/2 grant at \$2,828 and \$1,885 respectively; and</li> <li>(b) briefed members on the application procedures of the one-off grant set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of its paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1034/15-16(01)]. The Administration added that the KGs concerned would be invited to help promote the one-off grant to needy families and facilitate their applications for the one-off grant.</li> </ul>	



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002003 - 002440	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p>The Deputy Chairman asked whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the one-off grant would be incorporated into the Administration's regular assistance programme in order to provide assistance for eligible KG students in the long run;</li> <li>(b) the amount of the one-off grant, which was set at a rate equivalent to the flat-rate grant under the CSSA Scheme, was inadequate to cover a kindergarten student's school-related expenses which varied for different KGs; and</li> <li>(c) the implementation of the Policy would be postponed to the 2018-2019 school year or later.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) as recommended by the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education ("the Committee") under the Education Bureau ("EDB"), the Administration would provide an additional grant for school-related expenses for KG students from needy families upon the introduction of the Policy in the 2017-2018 school year. The provision of the one-off grant under CCF was an interim measure to provide timely support for KG students from needy families before the implementation of the Policy;</li> <li>(b) as recommended by the Committee, the Administration proposed to set the full-grant rate of the one-off grant at a rate equivalent to the flat-rate grant under the CSSA Scheme (i.e. \$3,770); and</li> <li>(c) the Administration would implement the Policy in the 2017-2018 school year.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman said that the Subcommittee should seek the Administration's explanation of how the rate of the flat-rate grant under the CSSA Scheme was set.</p>	Secretariat (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
002441 - 003214	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki asked if the Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) would consider providing additional assistance in purchasing equipment for KG students with special educational needs ("SEN") from grassroot families to assist in their learning; and</li> </ul>	

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		<p>(b) had consulted stakeholders on the needs of KG students with SEN and taken into account their views in setting the rates of the one-off grant.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the policy on children under six years old with special needs fell under the purview of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). More support would be provided for KG students with special needs by implementing the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services ("the Pilot Scheme") by SWD and enhancing the overall teacher-pupil ratio for eligible KGs from 1:15 to 1:11 under the Policy. The Administration would keep in view the implementation of the Pilot Scheme and consider providing additional resources to further support KG students with special needs when the need arose.</p> <p>The Chairman called on EDB to consider collaborating with the Innovation and Technology Bureau to take measures to facilitate the learning of KG students with SEN. In response, the Administration explained the objectives of KG education and advised that the suggestions raised by Dr KWOK and the Chairman would be considered.</p>	
003215 - 003855	Chairman Mr IP Kin-yuen Admin	<p>Mr IP Kin-yuen asked if the Administration:</p> <p>(a) could disburse the one-off grant before October 2016 so that timely support could be provided for needy KG students before the commencement of the 2016-2017 school year in September 2016; and</p> <p>(b) would consider raising the subsidy level under the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme ("PEVS") or providing additional assistance to strengthen the support for working parents, who were not eligible for the one-off grant but still had to bear high schooling expenses of their children attending KGs after receiving a subsidy under PEVS.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <p>(a) it intended to disburse the one-off grant together with the fee remission under KCFRS from October 2016 onwards, taking into account the processing time of</p>	

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		<p>applications. That said, the Administration would strive to disburse the one-off grant as early as practicable; and</p> <p>(b) eligible households could benefit from KCFRS in addition to PEVS. Taking into account the year-on-year rate of change in the Composite Consumer Price Index, the subsidy level under PEVS would be increased by 3% in the 2016-2017 school year. However, further discussion on adjusting the subsidy level under PEVS was not useful as PEVS would be replaced by the Policy with effect from the 2017-2018 school year.</p>	
003856 - 004316	Chairman Dr Kenneth CHAN Admin	Noting that Link Asset Management Limited had disposed of some of its shopping malls in public rental housing estates, Dr Kenneth CHAN was concerned that some non-profit-making KGs, which had been operating in the aforesaid shopping malls at concessionary rent, could no longer sustain their operation as new owners of the shopping malls imposed various charges on top of the rental. He called on the Administration to examine the number of KGs and KG students affected by the aforesaid circumstances, and consider taking measures to help those affected. The Administration advised that EDB was examining the issue.	
004317 - 004904	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin	<p>Noting that some 11 000 needy KG students might be required to submit applications for the one-off grant to Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung called on the Administration to issue a circular memorandum on the Programme to all parents of KG students through the KGs concerned to ensure that all eligible families would benefit from the Programme.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it would organize briefings and invite the KGs concerned to help promote the Programme to families of KG students. The Administration would discuss with the KGs concerned in this regard to ensure that all eligible families would benefit from the Programme.</p>	
004905 - 005524	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Admin	Whilst appreciating the provision of the one-off grant before the introduction of the Policy, Miss CHAN Yuen-han wondered why the Administration:	

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		<p>(a) proposed to provide the one-off grant instead of taking a long-term measure to support needy KG students in the long run; and</p> <p>(b) did not take a similar interim measure to support needy families before the introduction of the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme in May 2016.</p> <p>The Administration:</p> <p>(a) reiterated its reply to the Deputy Chairman at (a) above [time marker: 002003-002440]; and</p> <p>(b) advised that a one-off subsidy had been provided under CCF to support needy families before the implementation of the LIFA Scheme.</p>	
005525 - 005700	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p>The Deputy Chairman said that eligible students attending half-day ("HD")/WD/LWD KGs would receive the same amount of the one-off grant (i.e.\$3,770) although those attending LWD KGs might have to bear higher school-related expenses. He asked if the Administration had taken into account the financial need of LWD KG students when it designed the Programme.</p> <p>The Administration advised that there should be no big difference in the levels of school-related expenses on most items charged by HD and LWD KGs. The Administration stressed that the provision of the one-off grant for eligible KG students was intended to alleviate the financial burden of needy families on the basic learning or education expenses incurred from their children's KG education.</p>	
005701 - 005932	Chairman	<p>Noting that members in general supported the provision of the one-off grant under CCF for eligible KG students in the 2016-2017 school year, the Chairman requested the Administration to, before the introduction of the Policy, consider:</p> <p>(a) examining whether the amount of the one-off grant was inadequate for eligible KG students to cover school-related expenses;</p>	

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		<p>(b) disbursing the one-off grant before October 2016;</p> <p>(c) consolidating the financial assistance schemes for different levels of education, including those for needy KG students, under the student financial assistance mechanism; and</p> <p>(d) requiring KGs to enhance the transparency of their charges to facilitate the selection of KGs by parents and a realistic calculation of school-related expenses by the Administration during the design of relevant assistance programmes.</p>	
005933 - 010126	Chairman Mr Abraham SHEK	<p>Mr Abraham SHEK was of the view that:</p> <p>(a) some school-aged ethnic minorities ("EMs") had encountered difficulties in securing admission to KGs which conducted admission interviews in Cantonese; and</p> <p>(b) KGs should be encouraged to allocate more resources to improve the quality of education and enhance the transparency of their charges. However, regulation of KGs' charges by the Administration would hinder the development of KG education.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II – Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities and the related support policies</i>			
010127 - 010316	Chairman	The Chairman informed members that the Subcommittee would conduct its last meeting in the Fifth Legislative Council in April 2016. At the aforesaid meeting, the Subcommittee would discuss the subject of "Level of CSSA and the basic living security". After the meeting, a report of the Subcommittee would be prepared and circulated to members for comments before submission to the House Committee ("HC"). HC's agreement would also be sought for the priority allocation of a debate slot to the Subcommittee Chairman under rule 14A(h) of the House Rules for moving a motion on the Subcommittee report at a Council meeting.	
010317 - 012214	Chairman Admin	With the aid of powerpoint presentation, the Administration briefed members on the poverty situation of EMs in Hong Kong.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
012215 - 012608	Chairman A.I.M. Group	Presentation of views	
012609 - 012921	Equal Access Group	Presentation of views	
012922 - 013234	Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1034/15-16(04)]	
013235 - 013558	Oxfam Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1034/15-16(05)]	
013559 - 013917	葵青關注少數族裔聯盟	Presentation of views	
013918 - 014225	Liberal Party	Presentation of views	
014226 - 014528	Hong Kong Unison	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1034/15-16(06)]	
014529 - 014851	ISS-HK-Hope Support Service Centre For Ethnic Minority	Presentation of views	
014852 - 015154	Ms ALE, Samantha	Presentation of views	
015155 - 015508	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Presentation of views	
015509 - 015849	PathFinders	Presentation of views	
015850 - 022108	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman summarized the views and concerns of the deputations/individuals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) some EMs had encountered difficulties in securing employment, using public services and attending school due to the problems of language barrier and cultural differences;</li> <li>(b) EMs of some origins, e.g. Nepalese, had a high labour force participation rate but they were facing the problems of long working hours and low income;</li> <li>(c) one-stop service should be provided to facilitate needy EMs to apply for government assistance;</li> <li>(d) some KGs conducted admission interviews in Cantonese, which had placed EM children in an unfavorable position for securing admission to KGs;</li> <li>(e) many schools, which had admitted less than 10 EMs, did not receive additional resources from the Administration; and</li> </ul>	

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		<p>(f) foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs") and their children born in Hong Kong were not covered by the "Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2014" ("the Report").</p> <p>In response, the Administration advised that:</p> <p><i>Support for EM students</i></p> <p>(a) under the Policy with effect from the 2017-2018 school year, a grant comparable to the recommended salary for one teacher would be provided for KGs admitting eight or more non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students to enhance the support for these students;</p> <p>(b) EDB had issued guidelines to KGs to remind them that their admission criteria should be fair, just and open and in compliance with relevant laws of Hong Kong including Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602). Parents were welcomed to liaise with EDB if their children received unfair treatment in individual KGs in this regard;</p> <p>(c) EDB would continue to organize dedicated briefing sessions on admission to KGs, primary schools and secondary schools for EM parents from time to time;</p> <p>(d) two organizations, which were commissioned through the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research, would provide the "Vocational Chinese Language Courses for NCS School Leavers" starting from mid-2016. 85% of the tuition fee would be reimbursed to the course participants who could fulfil the attendance or assessment requirement upon completion of the course;</p> <p>(e) the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("the Learning Framework") had been implemented starting from the 2014-2015 school year in primary and secondary schools to help NCS students overcome the difficulties of learning Chinese as a second language with a view to enabling them to bridge over to mainstream Chinese Language classes and create an inclusive</p>	

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		<p>learning environment in schools. As regards schools admitting a handful of NCS students (i.e. 1 to 9 for ordinary schools and 1 to 5 for special schools), their NCS students could benefit from the immersed Chinese Language environment of the school as well as the Learning Framework. From the 2014-2015 school year, these schools might apply for an additional funding of \$50,000 per year on a need basis to offer after-school support programmes in learning Chinese to consolidate what their NCS students had learnt in classes. Besides, NCS students in these schools might benefit from other support measures such as the Chinese Language Learning Support Centres;</p> <p>(f) to ensure that EM students could benefit from the regularized programme on Provision of Free Lunch at Schools for Primary Students from Low-income Families, vegetarian meals were available for their choice. Besides, EDB, in collaboration with the Department of Health, was exploring specifying halal food in the list of "School Lunch Suppliers";</p> <p><i>Support for EMs in need</i></p> <p>(g) the launch of the LIFA Scheme in May 2016 would also benefit eligible EM households. To promote the LIFA Scheme to the EM community, the Administration would continue to organize briefings, distribute promotional materials which were in different EM languages, and publicize the Scheme via various media channels and the Support Service Centres for EMs which were commissioned by the Home Affairs Department ("HAD"). Other suggestions, if any, would be considered to further enhance the publicity of the LIFA Scheme;</p> <p><i>Employment support for EMs</i></p> <p>(h) the Administration would consider implementing assistance programmes under CCF to assist working EMs in learning Chinese so as to facilitate their upward mobility;</p>	



Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(i) in addition to providing employment support services in Chinese and English, all job centres under the Labour Department ("LD") had set up a special counter to provide dedicated employment services to EM job seekers;</p> <p>(j) LD job centres would continue distributing leaflets in six EM languages to walk-in EM visitors to promote the interpretation service for EMs. In 2015, out of the 1 467 EM job seekers visiting LD job centres and introduced the interpretation service, 15 of them requested and were provided the service;</p> <p>(k) employers who would like to place job vacancies with LD were reminded to give consideration to the genuine occupational needs when specifying the language requirements and were encouraged to adopt a more relaxed requirement;</p> <p>(l) the Employees Retraining Board ("ERB") would continue organizing training courses on Chinese reading and writing as well as vocational Cantonese, which were recognized by the Qualifications Framework, for working and unemployed EMs. In addition, ERB planned to organize Putonghua courses for EMs. Eligible EMs could apply for fee waiver or subsidies for the aforesaid courses;</p> <p><i>Measures to facilitate integration of EMs</i></p> <p>(m) the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau had formulated the Administration Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality to promote an equal access to government services by EMs;</p> <p>(n) the Special Needs Groups Task Force under the Commission on Poverty would focus its work on enhancing EMs' employment opportunities and integration into the community, e.g. facilitate use of public services by EMs;</p> <p>(o) SWD had issued a set of "Points-to-note in Providing Welfare Services for Ethnic Minorities" to Integrated Family Service Centres ("IFSCs") / Integrated Services Centres ("ISCs") and Family and Child Protective Services Units ("FCPSUs") to</p>	

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		<p>provide relevant information, including that of interpretation services, to enhance the provision of timely welfare services for EMs. To strengthen the provision of interpretation service for the needy EMs, ISCs notices in multiple EM languages were displayed at the reception areas of IFSCs / FCPSUs of SWD and the non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") concerned would notify EMs of their right to access to interpretation and translation services whenever necessary; and</p> <p>(p) HAD would continue providing EMs with support services to facilitate their integration into the community. Among others, HAD had commissioned non-profit-making organizations to operate six support service centres and two sub-centres for EMs. One of the centres, namely the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of EM Resident, had deployed part of its government grant to provide general interpretation and translation services. Nevertheless, the Centre was not the Administration's designated interpretation and translation service provider. Bureaux and departments could base on their operational needs to outsource interpretation service or adopt other suitable measures, such as employing EM service ambassadors, ensuring EMs' equal access to their services.</p>	
022109 - 022650	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Admin	<p>The Chairman extended the meeting time for 10 to 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.</p> <p>Mr Frankie YICK said that:</p> <p>(a) while the Administration had taken steps to help EM children master Chinese language, reference should also be made to the work of Oxfam Hong Kong;</p> <p>(b) he had collaborated with NGOs to provide career aptitude assessment service for EMs and assist an EM of South Asian origin in obtaining a taxi driver license. He hoped that ERB could help promote similar services and examine how to collaborate with business organizations to provide industry-specific Chinese language courses for EMs to enhance their labour force participation; and</p>	

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		<p>(c) the Administration should consider seeking assistance from EM-related religious bodies to strengthen EMs' motivation to learn Chinese.</p> <p>The Administration shared its experience in promoting the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for EMs through their religious bodies and grocery stalls frequented by EMs.</p>	
022651 - 023509	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung called on the Administration to consider:</p> <p>(a) employing more EMs to better serve the EM community and allocating more resources to facilitate the implementation of EM-related measures in different areas, such as education and employment, to cater for the special needs of EMs; and</p> <p>(b) taking steps to assist EMs in learning English instead of Chinese as a second language to help them overcome language barrier.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the Hong Kong Police Force and Support Service Centres for EMs had employed EMs to provide services for the EM community. More could be done in this regard. Stressing that proficiency in Chinese was crucial to integration of EMs into the community, the Administration would continue to facilitate NCS students to learn Chinese through the Learning Framework and an Applied Learning (Chinese) subject.</p>	
023510 - 024003	Chairman Mr Albert HO Admin	<p>Mr Albert HO was of the view that the Chinese language requirement for admission to post-secondary institutions and government jobs was too high for EMs. He said that EMs who knew EM languages and English could contribute to the development of cultural diversity in Hong Kong, where Chinese and English were the two official languages stipulated in the Basic Law.</p> <p>The Administration advised that since 2008, recognized alternative Chinese qualifications, such as the General Certificate of Secondary Education, were accepted for consideration of admission to individual undergraduate programmes. Nonetheless, mastery of the Chinese language would facilitate working and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		living in Hong Kong, the population of which was mainly Chinese.	
024004 - 024551	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Expressing concern about the poverty situation of EMs, especially Pakistan households, Mr TANG Ka-piu sought information on the educational attainment of the second generation of EMs, who had received education in Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Administration invited members to refer to the 2011 Population Census Thematic Report on EMs, which set out the statistics on the education attainment of EMs in Hong Kong in 2011. The Administration added that according to the relevant statistics, the dropout problem of NCS students in secondary schools was considered not serious. At the Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide the number of NCS students at various levels of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in each of the past 12 school years.</p>	Admin (paragraph 4(a) of the minutes)
024552 - 025000	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman hoped that the Administration would note members' and deputations' views and concerns on the poverty situation of EMs. He reiterated his concern at (f) above [time marker: 015850 – 022108].</p> <p>The Administration explained that as FDHs worked in Hong Kong with restricted conditions of stay and were not entitled to such social benefits as education, public housing and welfare, they were not included in the analysis of the Report. Their children born in Hong Kong would be provided with social welfare services subject to their needs.</p> <p>The Chairman requested the Administration to provide information on the population of children given birth in Hong Kong by FDHs.</p>	Admin (paragraph 4(b) of the minutes)