

Legislative Council Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Motions Passed at the Meeting on 9 July 2018

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the two motions passed by the Legislative Council Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities at its meeting on 9 July 2018 on the work of the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs (the Steering Committee) and support measures for ethnic minorities (EMs). The wordings of the two motions are at **Annex**.

Steering Committee

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (the Government) attaches great importance to the well-being of EMs. Bureaux and departments share the common goal of ensuring that EMs enjoy equal access to public services, facilitating their integration into the community, helping them become self-reliant and enhancing their capacity to move upwards along the social ladder.

3. To further enhance collaboration within the Government on support for EMs, the Chief Secretary for Administration initiated the establishment of the Steering Committee under his chairmanship. The direction of the Steering committee is generally in line with the strategies highlighted in the motion. These include holistically coordinating policies and support measures for EMs under a common vision and goal, proactively engaging with EM groups and organisations to feel their pulse, and formulating policies and measures on a short-term, medium-term and long-term basis. In the process, the Steering Committee will make reference to overseas experience and available studies by local academics and non-governmental organisations.

4. The Steering Committee is working at full steam to review and explore policies and measures with a view to drawing up a package of actionable initiatives to strengthen support for EMs. The Steering Committee will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the initiatives to ensure that the intended objectives are met.

Engagement with EMs

5. The Government encourages EMs to actively participate in Advisory and Statutory Bodies (ASBs) so that EMs' perspectives and views could be reflected and taken into account in the formulation of a wide range of policies and measures. At present, EM representatives are already serving on various ASBs including the Equal Opportunities Commission, Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony, Commission on Poverty, Commission on Children, Youth Development Commission, Women's Commission and Human Resources Planning Commission, etc. The Government will consider appointing more suitable EMs to join the ASBs when suitable opportunities arise.

6. The Steering Committee is intended to play the role of an internal action-oriented platform which drives cross-departmental efforts to review and formulate policies and initiatives and monitor their implementation. It comprises Directors of Bureaux and Heads of Departments who are overseeing the provision of key public services relevant to EMs.

7. While the Steering Committee does not include any non-official members, it values highly the advice, suggestions and views of EM groups, stakeholders and relevant organisations. Further to the two focus group meetings held in May and June 2018 as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to gather views and suggestions from EM representatives and service providers, the Steering Committee is committed to engaging EM representatives and stakeholders on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Steering Committee will explore collaboration with other ASBs in pursuing issues concerning EMs in future.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to note the paper.

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office
July 2018

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This Subcommittee urges the Chief Secretary for Administration, with his political determination, to formulate the following strategies for the Steering Committee, including:

- (1) to coordinate the policies and support measures in respect of ethnic minorities (“EMs”) of various departments, such that a common vision and goal are in place for the Government in formulating the policies and support measures;
- (2) to establish open channels to proactively get in touch with EM groups and the relevant organisations on a regular basis for the purpose of effective public engagement and monitoring, as well as effective expression of public views on the Steering Committee, in order to enhance transparency;
- (3) to instruct various bureaux to plan for long-term policies in gradual replacement of the existing short-sighted remedial measures; develop short, medium and long-term and measurable performance indicators; as well as make reference to overseas experience and those available studies by local academics and non-governmental organisations when formulating policies,

in order to bring hopes for resolving the EM issues which have remained enmeshed for a long time, and help EMs integrate into Hong Kong more quickly.

Moved by : Hon Claudia MO

This Subcommittee strongly requests the Government to appoint ethnic minorities (“EMs”) and persons who are concerned about the rights of EMs to the Ethnic Minorities Steering Committee, in order to ensure that the Steering Committee will optimise the use of the \$500 million public resources and effectively address the needs of EMs.

Moved by : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung