

工商界關注勞工狀況聯會

Joint Business Group on Labour Situation

28 October 1999

The Hon. Mrs Anson Chan, *GBM, JP*
 Chief Secretary for Administration
 Government Secretariat
 Central Government Offices
 Lower Albert Road
 Hong Kong

Dear *Anson*,

Review of the Driving Duties of Foreign Domestic Helpers (FDHs)

On behalf of the Joint Business Group on Labour Situation (JBG), I would like to put forward the following views for your consideration in reviewing the driving duties of FDHs.

The JBG, which comprises 11 trade and business associations, is concerned about the proposal by the Government to impose a total ban on driving duties by FDHs. Under the current practice, employers are allowed to deploy their FDHs to perform driving duties if they are incidental to and arising from domestic duties. We believe such flexibility is extremely important as it can greatly facilitate employers in arranging the deployment of their FDHs to meet their domestic needs. We are worried that many employers would experience grave inconvenience if such flexibility is removed by imposing the proposed ban.

It is the standing position of JBG that local workers should be given priority in securing employment. As there is no shortage of supply of local drivers, we are in support of prohibiting FDHs from working as full-time chauffeurs. In fact, under the present arrangement there is already a requirement disallowing employers to hire FDHs to undertake full-time driving duties. In our view, this requirement has been effective and sufficient in protecting the employment opportunities and wage level of local workers. We do not feel there is any genuine need for the Government to impose a total ban.

In view of the dire implications of the proposed ban for employers, we strongly recommend the Government to reconsider its original proposal. In particular, we hope the Government continue permitting FDHs to carry out driving duties that are incidental to and arising from genuine household needs. For instance, such duties as driving the employer's children to and from school and driving to the market should remain to be allowed.

Yours sincerely,



F K Hu
 Convenor

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Chinese Manufacturers' Association of HK	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Employers' Federation of Hong Kong	Hong Kong Hotels Association
Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners	Hong Kong Retail Management Association
Federation of Hong Kong Industries	Textile Council of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Construction Association	Association of Retailers & Tourism Services
Hong Kong Exporters' Association	

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