



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China



南區區議會
Southern District Council
司馬文區議員
District Councillor, Paul Zimmerman

立法會 CB(2)326/16-17(02)號文件
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Chairman and Members of Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

By email: sc_hs52_16@legco.gov.hk

Dear Chair and Members

Meeting of 'Education for children of ethnic minorities' on 12 December 2016

As a District Councillor with an ethnic minority background as well as serving constituents whom many of them are with a similar background, we are aware of many parents having a frustrating time in seeking the right education their children require and deserve.

More importantly, the needs and rights of Non-Chinese students (NCS) with Special Education Needs (SEN) have been hugely ignored over the past decade. We have raised a discussion in the Southern District Council on 21 July 2014, the agenda title being 'Insufficient school places for English medium special education needs (SEN) children'. To date, we have seen little improvements and progress on the issue.

The waiting time for Non-Chinese students (NCS) with Special Education Needs (SEN) is up to 5 years. It is estimated there are only around 400 places for English medium SEN students provided by one special school, learning support centres, international schools and other institutes. However, using an internationally adopted standard and the data of Census 2011, 2659 children under the age of 15 in Hong Kong require English Medium SEN. The demand outweighs supply by over eight-fold.

The same census data shows that 11.6% of children under the age of 15 are from various ethnic minority groups. However, there is only one English medium special needs school, compared to 60 Chinese medium ones. Confirming the serious shortage of SEN places, ESF's website states:

'Given the limited provision for non-Chinese speaking children with special needs in Hong Kong, there is always a very long list of applicants wanting places in one of these provisions. We therefore operate a tight waiting list procedure, with limitations on the number of applicants for each year group.'

Whilst we appreciate the measures taken as mentioned in paragraph 13 and 14 of LC Paper No. CB(2)208/16-17(01), the actual solution required is simple: Provide a second special school dedicated to serve non-Chinese students.

Yours sincerely

Paul Zimmerman