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Criteria on nominations to Government Advisory Groups

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Cc:

History: This message has been forwarded.

Dear Honourable Legco members,

Last year the then Chief Secretary, Mrs. Carrie Lam publicly encourage more ethnic minorities individuals to participate in the community issues, and nominate themselves to Home Affairs Bureau for consideration to government advisory positions.

<http://app.scmp.com/scmp/mobile/index.html#/article/1928626/desktop>

But unfortunately what she mean "A case for inclusion" was only for her friends, the elites, Mrs. Shalini Mahtani, the Zubin Foundation, to screen the EM applicants, for Mrs. Shalini to introduce the elites to the advisory boards. May I ask who is Mrs. Shalini and who does she represent ? Why does Mrs. Shalini have the authority to screen and endorse who can be chosen to the advisory boards? Why does the Hong Kong Government have to follow Mrs. Shalini advice?

Yet, even with my proficiency in the Chinese language, it has not been easy for me to participate within

the system as an independent who is not affiliated with political parties or influential bodies. I applied last year to serve on government advisory bodies, after former chief secretary Carrie Lam expressed interest in expanding ethnic diversity on those bodies. I never got a response, but Zubin Foundation submitted a list of 16 ethnic minority people to Mrs. Carrie Lam, who promised to give the list to the city's bureaus for consideration and were quite successful.

The current Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, continued to follow the same footsteps of his predecessor Mrs. Carrie Lam, and attended the same event this year on 23rd March organized by Zubin Foundation (founder - Mrs. Shalini Mahtani) to receive another batch of nominations to Government advisory positions, which were screened and endorsed by Zubin Foundation or Mrs. Shalini Mahtani, who is an elite, a descendant of the most rich Indian businessman in Hong Kong, Mrs. Carrie Lam's die hard supporter, policy advisor during CE elections, personal friend.

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/03/19/lost-language-gap-ethnic-minorities-feel-shut-hong-kongs-political-conversation/>

It is unclear what criteria the government uses in deciding which nominations to accept. It seems that it is about having connections with the right people.

I would like to know the criteria, or what kind of connections I need to have, and would appreciate if the Government can give me a list of those influential people or elites that the Hong Kong Government would require their agreement or endorsement so maybe I can see if I can have any connections or get their endorsement to my application, or submit through those authorized elites.

If the Government believes because someone is an elite, a rich person, they must have the best wisdom and advice, the right to represent represent the whole community, then actually we don't need so many Government Boards, and Policy making Lawmakers, we should not need Legco, or even Government officials, the most wealthy people like Li Ka-Shing, Lee Shau-Ke, Kwok's family, in Hong Kong should be running the Government.

Does the Government think that the the elite circle would know and really understand the real issues of grassroots and their needs? Most of these elites who received their education abroad, lived abroad, would never knew what the real problems Hong Kong ethnic minority are facing. Just because you are a EM, or a EM face does not represent he or she understand EM issues. Just because you are an elite or descendant of a wealthy businessman does not make them a leader to represent the community.

Or are these Advisory Boards, Consultation groups, just a club, or party to entertain the elites, their friends and relatives, and a show business?

Sincerely,
Phillip Khan (簡浩名)