

Clerk to Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road, Admiralty

[By email: sc_hs52_16@legco.com.hk]

Re: CB2/HS/2/16

Implementation and review of the Administrative guidelines on promotion of racial inequality

I would like to point out some of the areas where the Government can consider making amendment to current guidance. I hope amendment can bring better racial equality for the Ethnic minorities.

Religious

- There aren't enough worship places for multiples religious groups. As an example, for the Muslim, the existing Mosque cannot accommodate the people during Friday prayers and Eid prayers. Therefore, they do the prayers in different sessions causing chaotic situations when entering and exiting within short span of time. The government should provide more spaces, so people can segregate into different places or allow some of the playground for one-time congregation during EID. Due to need of places some religious groups renting flats in some buildings for prayers which does not have adequate facilities.

Immigration

- Though it is understandable as to why the government has implemented visa requirements for the some of the countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan etc. It is becoming more difficult and inconvenient due to lengthy processing time for the real business visitors, family members of the resident to obtain visa. The government should arrange faster visa processing for the frequent business visitors and close relatives of Hong Kong residents. Also, they should be provided multiple entry visas with longer validity, so it won't be a repetitive process plus it will reduce the workload of the immigration officers.

Youth support

- The government should encourage and support the ethnic minority youths after graduating and completing the IT, engineering and business field etc to become entrepreneur. The Innovative and Technology commission should provide sponsoring and help the ethnic minority youth by funding. They can then use their talents and skills to invent and expand businesses. Also through more vocational training, the government should have widened the scope of using EM youths with their diverse talents.

Job Opportunities for the Youth

- Civil service: The government should carry on and take forward what the Chief Executive mentioned in her policy address about reviewing the Chinese requirements thus the Ethnic Minorities can compete for some of the civil service jobs.

NGOs and Funding's

- Government is funding some NGOs to support the ethnic minorities, but as far as we know almost all of them are not run by the Ethnic Minorities themselves. The government should instead provide direct funding to some of the Ethnic Minority Associations or societies which can directly help the ethnic minorities for easier event management.

Public Housing and Social Interactions

- As per the statistics EM families tend to have more members in a household, and the poverty rate is also higher, so the government should prioritise their public housings accommodation otherwise it is a very challenging to survive in the high rent of Hong Kong. The government should encourage the public housing estate committees to welcome the ethnic minorities, include them in activities or events organised by them. Thus, they can integrate with them easily and feel welcomed.

Special Education need (SEN)

- The Government should have equipped more school to give better learning environment for EM students with special educational needs.

Home for aged

- Social Welfare Department as well as NGO's should be encouraged to make arrangement and trained their staff to handle Ethnic Minorities senior citizen in the old home. So, the difference in culture may not discourage old EM people to move in, if they need.

Thank you,

Dewan Saiful Alam

Member

Ethnic Minorities Committee

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB)

General Secretary – The Bangladesh Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong

Former President- Bangladesh Association of Hong Kong

Member – The Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony, HAD