

“Issues relating to the employment of ethnic minorities”

27 March 2018

DEAR HON MEMBERS AND FRIENDS .

I AM HONOURED THAT OUR CHAIRMAN MR. DEREK HUNG HAS ASKED ME TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF E M’ S IN H.K.

SINCE MY TALK IS RESTRICTED TO 3 MINS, I SHALL BE BRIEF AND TRY MY BEST TO REFLECT MY VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT .

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN H.K. SO THE TOPIC OF EM'S IN GENERAL IS ONE I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT. IN THOSE COLONIAL DAYS THERE WASN'T A PROBLEM REGARDING E M EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE THE TREND WAS THAT MOST WERE EITHER IN THE BRITISH ARMY OR IN HER MAJESTY PRISONS AS IT WAS CALLED IN THOSE DAYS. THE REST WERE MOSTLY WORKING AS WATCHMAN IN HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS .

NOW THIS TREND HAS CHANGED EVEN BEFORE AFTER THE HANDOVER AND THE CHILDREN OF THE E M’ S ARE FAR BETTER EDUCATED THEN THEIR PARENTS , THEREFORE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT TODAYS GENERATION E M’ S SEEK BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIETY MUST ALSO PLAY THEIR PART BY OFFERING THEM EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EMPLOYMENT SECTOR .

THIS OF COURSE MEANS THE GOVT., AND PRIVATE SECTORS .

THE MAIN OBSTACLE APPEARS TO BE THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY. ALTHOUGH MANY CAN SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE AND SOME EVEN PUTONGHUA, THEY FAIL IN WRITING AND READING LIKE MYSELF .

GOVT HAS THANKFULLY DONE MUCH IN THE LAST TWO YEARS TO ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM BUT MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, HAVING SAID THIS, THE E M’ S MUST ALSO REALIZE THAT THIS IS A TWO WAY STREET AND PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY ONE PARTY ONLY AND WE MUST WORK HAND IN HAND WITH MUTUAL TRUST .

IF E M’ S REALLY BELIEVE THAT H.K. IS THEIR HOME, AND WISH TO BUILD A FUTURE



HERE, THEN ALL OF US MUST REALIZE THE FACT THAT WE LIVE IN A CITY WHERE ROUGHLY 94% OF THE POPULATION ARE CHINESE AND IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND A HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTENCE, WE MUST ALSO BE ABLE TO SPEAK, UNDERSTAND, READ & WRITE THEIR LANGUAGE. THIS IN TURN WILL CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE, A HIGHER DEGREE OF INTEGRATION AND MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES WILL BECOME AVAILABLE .

AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET OUR OWN CULTURE AND HERITAGE. WE SHOULD PROUDLY SHARE THIS WITH OTHERS AND MAKE H.K. A BETTER, MORE DIVERSE PLACE TO LIVE IN SO THAT H.K. CAN THRIVE AS A TRUE COSMOPOLITAN CITY .

I THANK THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND RESPECTED MEMBERS OF LEGCO FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING .