

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)814/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Minutes of the meeting
held on Monday, 11 December 2017, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP (Chairman)
 - Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
 - Hon Claudia MO
 - Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
 - Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
 - Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
 - Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
 - Hon IP Kin-yuen
 - Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
 - Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
 - Hon CHU Hoi-dick
 - Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
 - Hon SHIU Ka-fai
 - Hon SHIU Ka-chun
- Members absent** :
- Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
 - Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
 - Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
- Public Officers attending** :
- Miss Vinci CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs) 3
Home Affairs Bureau

 - Mr Billy LEUNG
Assistant Secretary (3) 2
Home Affairs Bureau

Mr CHENG Kwan-yam
Chief Executive Officer (3)
Home Affairs Department

Ms Anita LEUNG
Chief Executive Officer (Administration) 2
Home Affairs Department

Mr Gray IP Ga-ri
Senior Staff Officer (Research and Development)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Attendance by : Global Social Services Ltd.
invitation

Mr Yousaf Zab RASHID
Corporate Secretary

The Civic Party

Miss CHEUNG Pui-ki
District Developer of the Kowloon West Branch

League of Social Democrats

Mr CHAN Man-wai
Member

New People's Party

Ms Sammi FU Hiu-lam

The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community
Fund of Hong Kong

Mr Saeed UDDIN
Hon. Secretary

Mr Ilyas MOHAMMAD

Mr Khan ASIF

Mr Pir KHAN

Mr Zubair MUHAMMAD

Sri Lankan Buddhist Cultural Centre

Mr Thero SUMITHTHA
President

Nepalese Christian Council Hong Kong Ltd

Mr James GURUNG

Bethel Mission Church Ltd

Mrs Subba SABITA

Rotary Lautau Community Service Corps

Mr Andrew WONG Chao-hing
Advisor

Mr Ishaque Ali Sarker MOHAMMAD

Anatolia Cultural and Dialog Center Limited

Mr Ibrahim Erdem CONGAR
Public Relations Manager

Hong Kong Islamic Culture and Welfare Society

Mr Adnan MUHAMMED
Member

United Muslim Association of Hong Kong

Ms Luisa Tan CASTRO
Honorary Treasurer

Dr Chitra SIVAKUMAR

Dawat-e-Islami, Hong Kong

Mr Imam Muhammad Anis
Chairman

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Mr Dennis HO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 3

Mrs Fanny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

Action

I. Provision of venues in districts for ethnic minorities to conduct religious and cultural activities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)473/17-18(01) and FS01/17-18]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. The Subcommittee received views from 19 deputations/individuals and noted that two written submissions were provided by organizations/individuals not attending the meeting. The Subcommittee noted the following major views expressed by the deputations:

- (a) with the growth of ethnic minority ("EM") population (including foreign domestic helpers) by 70% over the past decade, there was a shortage of places of worship in Hong Kong for EMs. While it was noted that about 300 000 Muslims were living in Hong Kong, all the six existing mosques were located in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island. Some deputations requested that a new mosque should be built in the New Territories ("NT");
- (b) the Administration was requested to provide more venues for EMs to conduct religious and cultural activities, particularly in NT West and Lantau (particularly Tung Chung) where many EMs resided. Due to inadequate venues, the EM groups in Tung Chung had to conduct festivals and cultural activities in public venues and private clubhouses. Some deputations requested the Administration to provide a dedicated venue or vacant school premises for EMs in Tung Chung to conduct religious and cultural/sports activities;
- (c) while cricket is a very popular sport amongst EM youths, there is a shortage of cricket grounds in Hong Kong. The Administration

was requested to provide more cricket grounds and review the relevant booking procedures to facilitate use by EM youths (e.g. by lifting the restriction that booking has to be made on an organization basis); and

- (d) some deputations raised concerns about the following two cases:
 - (i) the Sheung Shui Islamic Centre and elderly home development project faced delay due to various problems. The Administration was urged to step up public education to eliminate misunderstanding and biases towards EMs, and offer more support to speed up the implementation of the project; and
 - (ii) the Ibrahim Mosque in Yau Ma Tei had to be returned to the Government by the end of December 2017 to make way for an infrastructural project. United Welfare Union Hong Kong Limited, which operated the Mosque, was in discussion with the Administration for an alternative permanent site or temporary venue for the Mosque. It was hoped that the Administration would make the best alternative arrangements and minimize the impact on worshippers concerned.

3. The Administration made the following initial response:

- (a) under the prevailing policy, the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") might give policy support to religious bodies' applications for government land for building religious facilities at concessionary land premium or rental in respect of the floor areas occupied by such facilities. Suitable land might be leased under a short-term contract. Each application would be considered on its own merit;
- (b) in March 2017, the Lands Department published a list of vacant school premises available for application by non-government organizations for short-term use. In this connection, HAB had sent letters to encourage religious bodies (including EM organizations) to consider seeking suitable premises from the list for religious purposes; and
- (c) there are 105 community halls/community centres ("CHs/CCs") under the management of the Home Affairs Department. Local organizations could apply to use these venues for conducting a wide range of activities such as social groups and civic education activities, training courses and celebration, recreational and sports

activities. EM organizations could also apply to use CHs/CCs for organizing religious activities. Eligible organizations could be granted exemption of charges for use of CHs/CCs, subject to meeting the criteria for exemption. Besides, eligible non-profit organizations could hire the venues under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at a concessionary rental for applicable sessions.

Follow-up actions required of the Administration

Admin 4. Members in general considered that there were shortages of venues in various districts for EMs to conduct religious and cultural activities. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to:

- (a) step up efforts to address the shortages of places of worship for EMs in various districts especially in Lantau and NT, as well as to strengthen public education efforts to dispel biased attitudes towards EMs and to promote understanding of their religion and culture;
- (b) adopt a policy such that the development plan of new development areas should include community venues which could be applied for use by organizations (including EM organizations) for conducting religious and cultural activities, and such venues should also be provided in the development of new public rental housing ("PRH");
- (c) provide supplementary information on the eight applications for government land from EM organizations for provision of venues for religious and cultural purposes, and confirm whether there are examples of schools in Hong Kong which also serve as venues for conducting religious activities;
- (d) relay to the Housing Department that, given the shortage of venues for EMs to conduct religious and cultural activities, the premises in PRH estates available for use by residents for "welfare" purpose should be opened up for conducting religious activities as well;
- (e) address the demand of EM youth for cricket grounds and take measures to facilitate their booking; and
- (f) explore in collaboration with the Education Bureau the feasibility of requesting schools in NT West to open up their school facilities to EM organizations for conducting religious and cultural activities.

II. Proposed work plan of the Subcommittee

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)473/17-18(02) and CB(2)569/17-18(01) to (04)]

5. Members agreed to the proposed work plan of the Subcommittee set out in paragraph 2 of the paper prepared by the Clerk [LC Paper No. CB(2)473/17-18(02)], except that the subject proposed to be discussed on 27 March 2018 should be changed to "Issues relating to the employment of EMs".

6. Members agreed to discuss the "Implementation and review of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality" at the next meeting on 23 January 2018 at 4:30 pm with deputations and the Administration.

III. Any other business

7. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:23 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 February 2018

**Proceedings of the meeting of the
Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities
on Monday, 11 December 2017, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action required
<i>Agenda item I - Provision of venues in districts for ethnic minorities to conduct religious and cultural activities</i>			
001019 - 001644	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks Briefing by the Administration	
001645 - 002003	Global Social Services Ltd.	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)473/17-18(03)]	
002004 - 002237	The Civic Party	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/17-18(01)]	
002238 - 002552	League of Social Democrats	Presentation of views	
002553 - 002836	New People's Party	Presentation of views	
002837 - 003204	The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)473/17-18(04)]	
003205 - 003624	Mr Ilyas MOHAMMAD Mr Khan ASIF Mr Pir KHAN Mr Zubair MUHAMMAD	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/17-18(03)]	
003625 - 004005	Sri Lankan Buddhist Cultural Centre	Presentation of views	
004006 - 004329	Nepalese Christian Council Hong Kong Ltd	Presentation of views	
004330 - 004554	Bethel Mission Church Ltd	Presentation of views	
004555 - 004906	Rotary Lautau Community Service Corps	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)473/17-18(05)]	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action required
004907 - 005347	Mr Ishaque Ali Sarker MOHAMMAD	Presentation of views	
005348 - 005720	Anatolia Cultural and Dialog Center Limited	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/17-18(04)]	
005721 - 010056	Hong Kong Islamic Culture and Welfare Society	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)473/17-18(06)]	
010057 - 010502	United Muslim Association of Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/17-18(05)]	
010503 - 010810	Dr Chitra SIVAKUMAR	Presentation of views [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)484/17-18(01) and CB(2)555/17-18(06)]	
010811 - 011127	Dawat-e-Islami, Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/17-18(07)]	
011128 - 012004	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG Administration	<p>With reference to the Equal Opportunities Commission's submission [LC Paper No. CB(2)484/17-18(02)], Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern that the Sheung Shui Islamic Centre and elderly home development project had come to a standstill. He commented that the local residents' objection to the project at the consultation stage reflected their misconception of the culture and religion of Muslims. In his view, the Administration should step up public education efforts to eliminate biased attitudes towards ethnic minorities ("EMs"). Dr CHEUNG also considered it unfair that the land premium for the project was unreasonably large, as compared with the land premium of \$1,000 for similar projects by the Heung Yee Kuk.</p> <p>The Administration clarified that the relevant land plot in Sheung Shui was already granted in 2006 for the project. Under the lease agreement, the operation of the relevant facilities should have commenced within five years, but the Administration noted that the commencement had been postponed due to some internal difficulties encountered by the grantee. The Administration would continue to follow up closely with the grantee.</p> <p>The Administration gave an account of its initial response to the views and concerns expressed by the deputations.</p>	
012005 - 012611	Chairman Mr CHU Hoi-dick Administration	Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern that there was not even one mosque in the New Territories ("NT") and asked whether the Administration would render assistance to facilitate the provision of the first one in NT. He also asked whether the	

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		<p>Administration had received any applications from Islamic organizations for land for the setting up of a school in the new towns in the past 20 years.</p> <p>The Administration replied that in the past three years, it had received eight applications for government land from EM organizations for provision of venues for religious purposes. The Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on those applications and whether there were any more examples like the existing Islamic school in Tai Hang which served as a school and a venue for religious purpose.</p> <p>Mr CHU said he noted that an Islamic group had submitted an application to the Town Planning Board for development of a mosque, a community centre and an Islamic school on an agricultural site near Kam Sheung Road. The application had, however, faced objection by local residents, with security concerns being one of the reasons. He considered that the Home Affairs Department should make active efforts to dispel such bias of the local residents. The Administration agreed to follow up.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p> <p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
012612 - 013127	Chairman Mr Andrew WAN Administration	<p>With reference to FS01/17-18, Mr Andrew WAN expressed concern over the lack of Islamic, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish places of worship in various districts of Hong Kong. He said that there were many EMs living in NT West, and the Administration should step up its efforts in helping EM/religious bodies seek premises for conducting religious and cultural activities. He also requested the Administration to designate zones in planning new development areas/ new public rental housing ("PRH") for providing community facilities for the use by EM organizations for religious and cultural purposes. The Administration replied that sites zoned for "Government, Institution or Community" uses in new development areas could be used as such venues.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
013128 - 013821	Chairman Deputy Chairman Administration	<p>The Deputy Chairman commented that many EMs in NT West who were PRH residents were longing for venues for their cultural and religious activities within their own estates instead of booking community halls for such purposes. She requested the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") to make inter-departmental efforts (particularly with the Housing Department ("HD")) to help EMs seek venues for such activities, and to promote public understanding of the religion and culture of various ethnicities.</p> <p>The Administration explained that the relevant premises in PRH estates could only be applied for use for "welfare" purpose. It agreed to relay the above-mentioned suggestion to HD for consideration.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>

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		<p>The Deputy Chairman further enquired whether there was designated staff of HAB to assist EMs in seeking venues for religious and cultural activities. The Administration replied that the support service centres commissioned by HAD could render assistance to provide EMs with information of public venues available for hire in the nearby districts.</p>	
013822 - 014511	<p>Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration</p>	<p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun expressed concern that some local people had cited prejudiced reasons in their objection to the planning application relating to the Sheung Shui Islamic Centre and elderly home development project. These reasons included risks of triggering religious conflicts and nuisance to the neighbourhood. He called on the Administration to step up public education about EM cultures among local people.</p> <p>Mr SHIU was concerned that while the EM population in NT had increased considerably over the past decade (e.g. over 50% of Indonesians and Pakistanis resided there in 2016), no additional religious venues were provided there. He also requested the Administration to address the demand for cricket grounds of EM youth, who might lack information and did not know how to book such facilities. Moreover, the restriction that booking of such facilities had to made on an organization basis should be lifted.</p> <p>The Administration said that the cricket grounds in Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground and Po Kong Village Road Park, as well as seven hard-surface and three artificial turf soccer pitches were suitable for playing cricket. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department also worked with the Hong Kong Cricket Association to organize cricket activities and identify potential sites for developing cricket grounds. For example, a new cricket ground would be opened in early 2018 in Gin Drinkers Bay in Kwai Chung for short-term use.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
014512 - 014835	<p>Chairman Mr Holden CHOW Administration</p>	<p>Mr Holden CHOW suggested that consideration might be given to requesting schools in NT West to open up their school facilities to EM organizations for conducting religious and cultural activities. This could be a short-term measure to relieve the shortage of venues for such activities in NT West. The Administration undertook to consider Mr CHOW's suggestion in consultation with the Education Bureau.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
014836 - 015344	<p>Chairman Administration Dr Fernando CHEUNG</p>	<p>In response to Dr Fernando CHEUNG's enquiry, the Administration said that a site in Yau Ma Tei was leased to United Welfare Union Hong Kong Limited ("UWU") under a non-renewable short-term tenancy agreement in 2012 effective in February 2013. Originally, the lease would expire on 31 December 2014 and the land concerned should</p>	

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		be handed over to the Government for the construction of the Central Kowloon Route ("CKR"). The lease had in fact been extended to 31 December 2017 due to delay in the implementation of the CKR project. Last summer, the Administration received UWU's request for a site search in the Jordan and Yau Ma Tei area. Since no available site in the area could meet UWU's requirements, the Administration asked UWU in late November 2017 to modify its requirements.	
015345 - 015444	Chairman Mr Andrew WAN	Mr Andrew WAN considered that HAB should step up efforts to assist EMs in seeking venues for religious and cultural activities so as to address the acute shortage of such venues for EMs.	
<i>Agenda item II - Proposed work plan of the Subcommittee</i>			
015445 - 015719	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Mr Andrew WAN	Discussion on the proposed work plan of the Subcommittee.	
<i>Agenda item III - Any other business</i>			
015720 - 015730	Chairman	Closing remarks	

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 2 February 2018