

(Further revised)

Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Terms of reference

To study and follow up policies and measures relating to ethnic minority issues in Hong Kong and make timely recommendations.

Work plan

The Subcommittee will focus its work and make recommendations in the following areas:

- (a) development of a "Chinese language as the second language" curriculum, the examination and assessment systems, as well as the placement of ethnic minority students and support measures to these students and to schools admitting them;
- (b) implementation and review of the Race Discrimination Ordinance;
- (c) difficulties encountered by ethnic minorities in applying for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport;
- (d) housing problem of ethnic minorities;
- (e) right of fair access to government and public services by ethnic minorities, implementation of the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality and review of the services provided by the support service centres for ethnic minorities;
- (f) poverty situation of ethnic minorities and difficulties encountered by ethnic minorities in applying for the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") (e.g., ethnic minorities who were employed as casual workers were unable to provide proofs of employment when applying for LIFA);
- (g) employment difficulties encountered by ethnic minorities and enhancing employment support services for ethnic minorities (including establishing an Ethnic Minority Employment Division and employing English-speaking ethnic minority staff to provide support services for non-Chinese speaking job-seekers, and providing other additional employment support measures funded by the Community Care Fund for ethnic minorities);

- (h) disparity between the remuneration rates applicable to ethnic minorities and other local people employed by the Government as interpreters;
- (i) lack of venues in districts for ethnic minorities to conduct religious and cultural activities;
- (j) matters relating to the use of medical and health services by ethnic minorities; and
- (k) other subjects pertinent to ethnic minority issues.

Time frame

The time frame of the Subcommittee will be in accordance with rule 26(c) of the House Rules, which stipulates that "[a] subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the House Committee or the relevant Panel(s). Should such a subcommittee consider it necessary for it to work beyond that 12 months, the subcommittee should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s) if it is appointed by a Panel(s), report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period."