



Mr. Henry Tang Ying Yen
Chief Secretary
12/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices,
Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

23 September 2009

Dear Mr. Tang,

I write to express my support to your views recently noted in a lecture with students at Chinese University, that public participation and the capacity to accommodate opposing views are important in policymaking. Along with this, I would like to follow up with the issues I raised over a short meeting with you on 17 September, an occasion in which I had the pleasure attending as one of the awardees of Outstanding Social Worker 2008. I sincerely hope that the meeting, albeit brief, will be one of the steps towards open policymaking and governance.

You may recall that during the meeting, I presented a number of issues relating to difficulties faced by ethnic minority residents in Hong Kong. On behalf of them and of Hong Kong Unison for which I work, I would like to furnish you with further details of the issues raised and earnestly request you to ensure that the issues will be resolved by relevant policy bureaus with time-framed action plans. We also see it imperative for these concerns be covered by the Chief Executive in his coming Policy Address, and the policy agendas, to be announced on the middle of next month.

Our concerned issues include:

- 1) Formulation of a policy for Chinese as a Second Language for non-Chinese speaking students in Hong Kong, as endorsed by the United Nation's Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) this August, in its Concluding Observations on the situation of HKSAR.

Para. 31. Despite the provision of a Supplementary Guide to the Chinese language curriculum, the Committee is concerned that no official education policy for teaching Chinese as a second language for non-Chinese speaking students with an immigrant background in Hong Kong has been adopted. (art. 5(e))



The Committee recommends that a policy on Chinese teaching for non-Chinese speaking students from immigrant background be developed in consultation



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with teachers as well as the communities concerned. Efforts to improve the quality of Chinese language education for immigrant children should be intensified.

This will include the development of a through-train Chinese language curriculum, from kindergarten to secondary school, together with appropriate stage learning objectives, assessment tools, textbook and other supporting teaching materials.

- 2) Enhancement of cultural sensitivity and ethnic acceptance within the Police Force. This will include the revision of the Police General Order or Procedure Manuals to prohibit any form of racial discriminatory practice and to ensure ethnic minorities are treated with due respect by the police. In addition, the current police complaint mechanism should be reviewed to ensure its practice in line with racial equality and cater for the needs of ethnic minority complainants.
- 3) Strengthening of services provided to ethnic minority who are on drugs, for instance, the setting up of designated outreaching teams, and the provision of tailor-made counseling and residential rehabilitation services.

As an international city, we believe Hong Kong should embrace ethnic equality and diversity to ensure the achievement of social harmony and stability in its true sense. Provided that they are given equal opportunities, our young and energetic ethnic minority population will be an important force for social building and economic development.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation again for your hospitality and your concern about ethnic minority people in Hong Kong. If you need further information, please feel free to call me at 2789 3246 or 9237 6464.

Yours sincerely,

Fermi Wong
Executive Director
Hong Kong Unison

