



15th January, 2014

**Hong Kong Unison's response to the 2014 Policy Address
and Press Invitation:**

**Hong Kong Unison welcomes Mr CY Leung's fulfillment of his promise of
implementing a "Chinese as a Second Language" policy**

Hong Kong Unison welcomes the announcement of a "Chinese Language as a Second Language" policy in the latest Policy Address and the government's acceptance that it should aim at enabling ethnic minority students to meet the DSE Chinese Language standard. The efforts of various sectors, including the education sector and ethnic minority parents and students, have finally paid off. This policy shows that the government accepts that it has the responsibility to ensure ethnic minorities have equal rights and opportunities. Equal education opportunities, which enable ethnic minority students to learn adequate Chinese, are the prerequisite for them to integrate into society and compete on a level playing field.

Hong Kong Unison is glad to see that the government will allocate \$200 million each year to implement this policy. This shows the government starts to get committed. However, this is also a crucial moment because implementing a "Chinese as a Second Language" policy with an effective use of resources requires not only the close cooperation of various government departments but also the close monitoring and active participation of various stakeholders.

We will learn about the details, including the supporting measures, of the policy from the Education Bureau to ensure it gives ethnic minority students equal opportunities. Hong Kong Unison has been advocating the establishment of a "Chinese as a Second Language" centre which will gather recognized experts and teachers who are committed to improving the education of ethnic minorities. This CSL centre will set appropriate work targets, indicators, appropriate guidelines and procedures for schools and monitoring and assessment mechanism and plan for the provision of teacher training.

We urge the Education Bureau to ensure various stakeholders can be truly involved in the policy formulation, implementation and monitoring process to ensure accountability.

We are disappointed that the Policy Address was silent on the de facto racial segregation in the public education system. Hong Kong Unison will continue to advocate the elimination of the segregation.



We also urge the EOC to monitor whether the policy as implemented is consistent with the Race Discrimination Ordinance and the principle of equal opportunities and ensures upward social mobility of ethnic minorities.

Ms Margaret Ng, Chairperson of Hong Kong Unison, will give detailed comments on the Policy Address in respect of ethnic minorities tomorrow. We would be grateful if your agency could come and cover the press conference.

Details of the press conference are as follows:

Date: 16th January, 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: Ms Margaret Ng's office

(Address: 10/F, New Henry House, 10 Ice House Street, Central)

For enquiries, please contact Ms Holing Yip, Acting Executive Director (Advocacy) on 5318-8779.