



香港融樂會有限公司
HONG KONG UNISON LIMITED

Hon IP Kin-yuen
Chairman of the Panel on Education
Room 919 Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

29th January 2019

Dear Hon Ip,

Review report and refinement of the “Chinese Language Curriculum
Second Language Learning Framework”

I am drawing yours and the Panel’s attention to the review report and refinement of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (‘Learning Framework’) for the teaching and learning for ethnic minority students.

At the Panel on Education meeting on 2 Nov 2018, a few Legco members, including Hon. Claudia Mo, Hon. Abraham Shek, and Hon. Au Nok Hin, asked the Education Bureau (EDB) representatives regarding the publication of the Learning Framework Research Framework and the progress of the 3-year (2014/15 to 2016/17) review of the Learning Framework. At that time, the EDB Deputy Secretary for Education in Curriculum and Quality Assurance Branch, Mrs. Hong Chan Tsui Wah, mentioned that the Review Report of the Learning Framework would be discussed in the Curriculum Development Council (課程發展議會) and would be disclosed to LegCo at the end of the year (i.e. 2018). However, to date, the Review Report has not been released.

The EDB circulated a notice on the Refinement of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework’ on 18 Jan (EDB Circular Memorandum No. 25/2019, EDB (CD/CLE)/ADM/50/02), asserting the view that there is **no need** to largely refine the Learning Framework, without providing supporting evidence. In the circular, the EDB mentioned that ‘teachers generally considered the “Learning Framework” useful for teaching Chinese to NCS students’, again without providing any evidence or data to support. The EDB is in fact organizing a briefing session on 31 Jan 2019 to brief teachers on the refinement of the “Learning Framework”. We are very puzzled by this process of conducting



and briefing schools on the refinement of the Learning Framework prior to the release of the Review Report with relevant findings.

In a correspondence from the EDB to Hong Kong Unison ('Unison') in late Nov 2018, the EDB stated that *'the research framework with a considerable number of technicalities is for EDB's internal reference'*, and *'EDB reported the progress on supporting the Chinese learning and teaching for NCS students, including initial findings of the effectiveness of support measures for NCS students to the Panel on Education of the Legco in June 2017.'* This is contradictory to Mrs. Hong's report at the Panel on Education meeting. It is of utmost importance that the Research Framework and the Review Report be disclosed to the public. Unison remains the view that the initial findings cannot replace the publication of the full review report, and the review data is only valid with the deliberation of the un-biased methodology of the research data suggested in the Research Framework.

We are very concerned by the way EDB handled the teaching and learning of non-Chinese speaking students. The review process of the Learning Framework clearly lacks transparency and accountability as the EDB refused to disclose the Research Framework and the review report has been delayed for more than 2 years. This is not only a matter for ethnic minority but of concern to the public as well as the EDB has spent more than \$1 billion of public money towards implementing the Learning Framework since 2014/15. We earnestly request the Panel on Education look into this matter, to ensure the accountability and transparency in the review process of the Learning Framework, and a quality Chinese education for ethnic minority students. Please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Mandy Cheuk (Project Manager) and me if you have any questions. Thank you for your kind attention.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Cheung
Executive Director