
'Last warning' on help for minorities

A judicial review will be launched if the government fails to take action to help children of ethnic minorities integrate and learn Chinese, a concern group has warned.

Unison executive director Fermi Wong Wai-fun said the group wants to see concrete measures from the government instead of the usual line that all suggestions will be considered.

"This is our last warning. The government has been ignoring our appeal for almost 13 years," Wong said yesterday.

The move comes after the Equal Opportunities Commission criticized the Education Bureau last month for not doing enough to help ethnic minorities integrate into society by providing better language support.

The watchdog suggested the government provide intensive Chinese language programs at the pre-primary level and set up a separate Chinese-language curriculum and assessment program.

Wong said the government is being given one year to act on these recommendations and proposals by Unison, which will be submitted in October.

Unison is now seeking legal advice and identifying cases to prepare for legal action.

The group has drafted some proposals, based on the recommendations of the equality body, and hopes to submit them either to Secretary for Education Michael Suen Ming-yeung or Permanent Secretary Cherry Tse Ling Kit-cheng in early October.

It will also approach the three probable contenders in next year's chief executive election - Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, Henry Tang Ying-yen and Leung Chun-ying - and ask them "to show their vision towards an integrated and harmonious Hong Kong society," Wong said.

An equality body spokesman said members are awaiting a reply to a request for a meeting from Suen and do not plan taking any action at this stage.

staff.reporter@singtaonewscorp.com



Fermi Wong said the Unison appeal has been ignored for years. SING TAO

'Last warning' on help for minorities

Winnie Tse

A judicial review will be launched if the government fails to take action to help children of ethnic minorities integrate and learn Chinese, a concern group has warned.

Unison executive director Fermi Wong Wai-fun said the group wants to see concrete measures from the government instead of the usual line that all suggestions will be considered.

"This is our last warning. The government has been ignoring our appeal for almost 13 years," Wong said yesterday.

The move comes after the Equal Opportunities Commission criticized the Education

Bureau last month for not doing enough to help ethnic minorities integrate into society by providing better language support.

The watchdog suggested the government provide intensive Chinese language programs at the pre-primary level and set up a separate Chinese-language curriculum and assessment program.

Wong said the government is being given one year to act on these recommendations and proposals by Unison, which will be submitted in October.

Unison is now seeking legal advice and identifying cases to prepare for legal action.

The group has drafted some proposals, based on the recommendations of the equality

body, and hopes to submit them either to Secretary for Education Michael Suen Ming-yeung or Permanent Secretary Cherry Tse Ling Kit-cheng in early October.

It will also approach the three probable contenders in next year's chief executive election - Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, Henry Tang Ying-yen and Leung Chun-ying - and ask them "to show their vision towards an integrated and harmonious Hong Kong society," Wong said.

An equality body spokesman said members are awaiting a reply to a request for a meeting from Suen and do not plan taking any action at this stage.

staff.reporter@singtaonewscorp.com

DOCUMENT ID: 201108124480054

The copyright of this content is owned by the relevant media organization / copyright owner. Any reproduction, adaptation, distribution or dissemination of this content without express authorization is strictly prohibited. All rights reserved. This content is sourced from Wisers' electronic services.

----- 1 -----

Wisers Information Limited Enquiry: (852) 2948 3888 Email: sales@wisers.com Web site: <http://www.wisers.com>
Copyright (c)2011 Wisers Information Limited. All Rights Reserved.