



Total number of document(s): 1

1 .South China Morning Post | 2015-06-21
Newspaper | EDT7 | EDT | By Samuel Chan

Police laud minority inclusion schemes

Despite force's efforts, activists say token hirings not enough for non-Chinese groups

Rights activists have warned that the problems faced by Hong Kong's ethnic-minority communities cannot be addressed by window dressing such as token hirings.

However, the police – who have been taking steps to bring more non-Chinese officers into the force – say their initiative can act as a first step to the employment of ethnic minorities in other government departments.

“We realise that people sometimes want to go to other government departments, so we are trying to act as a bridge,” police Superintendent Mohammad Khan told the Sunday Morning Post. “If someone wants to move into the Correctional Services Department, Fire Services Department, or any other department, we will try to assist.”

Khan is a second-generation police officer of Pakistani descent who advises the force on non-Chinese policing matters.

He said a “close liaison” was now in progress with the two departments.

Similar to the Junior Police Call Scheme through which many young people have joined the police force, Yau Tsim, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts provide extra classes in written Chinese to young members of ethnic minorities and offer visits to the police and other government departments.

Previously, Khan oversaw Project Gemstone in Yau Tsim district, where there is a large South Asian population. Since the project's inception in 2013, more than 100 non-Chinese youth aged between 16 and 25 have joined. Five of them applied to the police, and three succeeded, two joining as constables and one as an auxiliary officer.

Yip Ho-ling, a research officer for ethnic-minority rights group *Unison*, said minorities felt targeted for “stop and search” and other unfair treatment by police.

“It does not stop at a more proportional representation [of ethnic minorities] in civil service; the ethnic minorities would still see no improvement in their everyday life unless the majority of the force or civil service becomes more sensitive to their needs,” Yip said.

Citing recent examples such as a South Asian girl being told by police officers to “go back to India” when she made a complaint in fluent Cantonese during the Occupy protests last year, Yip said the force would need to explain to the public in detail how police would improve frontline officers’

understanding of ethnic minorities across the board.

Police laud minority inclusion schemes

Despite force's efforts, activists say token hirings not enough for non-Chinese groups

Samuel Chan
samuel.chan@scmp.com

Rights activists have warned that the problems faced by Hong Kong's ethnic-minority communities cannot be addressed by window dressing such as token hirings.

However, the police - who have been taking steps to bring more non-Chinese officers into the force - say their initiative can act as a first step to the employment of ethnic minorities in other government departments.

"We realise that people sometimes want to go to other government departments, so we are trying to act as a bridge," police Superintendent Mohammad Khan told the *Sunday Morning Post*. "If someone wants to move into the Correctional Services Department, Fire Services Department, or any other department, we will try to assist."

Khan is a second-generation police officer of Pakistani descent who advises the force on non-Chinese policing matters.

He said a "close liaison" was now in progress with the two departments.

Similar to the Junior Police Call Scheme through which many young people have joined the police force, Yau Tsim, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing districts provide extra classes in written Chinese to young members of ethnic minorities and offer visits to the police and other government departments.

Previously, Khan oversaw Project Gemstone in Yau Tsim district, where there is a large South Asian population. Since the project's inception in 2013, more than 100 non-Chinese youth aged between 16 and 25 have joined. Five of them applied to the police, and three succeeded, two joining as constables and one as an auxiliary officer.

Yip Ho-ling, a research officer for ethnic-minority rights group Unison, said minorities felt targeted for "stop and search" and other unfair treatment by police.

"It does not stop at a more proportional representation [of ethnic minorities] in civil service; the ethnic minorities would still see no improvement in their everyday life unless the majority of the force or civil service becomes more sensitive to their needs," Yip said.

Citing recent examples such as a South Asian girl being told by police officers to "go back to India" when she made a complaint in fluent Cantonese during the Occupy protests last year, Yip said the force would need to explain to the public in detail how police would improve frontline officers' understanding of ethnic minorities across the board.

DOCUMENT ID: 201506215312328

Source: Wisers electronic service. This content, the trademarks and logos belong to Wisers, the relevant organizations or copyright owners. All rights reserved. Any content provided by user is the responsibility of the user and Wisers is not responsible for such content, copyright clearance or any damage/loss suffered as a result.