



The India Association Hong Kong

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The Hon. Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBS, JP

Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR

Office of the Chief Executive

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Tamar, Hong Kong

2nd October 2017

By Post

Dear Mrs. Lam,

Chief Executive Policy Address

On behalf of The India Association Hong Kong, we would like to thank the Government of the Hong Kong SAR for its commitment to addressing the needs of the non-ethnic Chinese community of Hong Kong. The non-ethnic Chinese community has been an integral part of the development of Hong Kong for over 150 years and it is important that we continue to work together to integrate the diverse communities of Hong Kong. We are all Hong Kong people first and foremost and the success of Hong Kong is important to us all.

In preparation for your maiden Policy Address we would like to remind you of some of the main issues that concern the non-ethnic Chinese community in the hope that you may take some or all of these into consideration as you formulate your policies.

The four main heads we suggest need reviewing are integration, education, employment and racial harmony.

INTEGRATION:

- A policy unit that includes members from the non-ethnic Chinese community to work specifically on issues affecting the non-ethnic Chinese community and to work on policies to better integrate the communities. We sincerely believe that a bureau level unit for the non-ethnic Chinese community should be established or in the interim a commission level unit for similar purposes.

- Public Education on inclusiveness:
 - We are all Hong Kong people irrespective of race or religion. We prefer not to be referred to as “ethnic minorities”; we are the non-ethnic Chinese community of Hong Kong.
 - In textbooks and public announcements we should not stereotype by profession. References in textbooks to Filipinos as domestic helpers and Indians/Pakistanis as labourers and security guards and other blue-collar workers is unhelpful.

EDUCATION:

- Our goal must be to ensure all Hong Kong students are fluent in Chinese but there must also be emphasis on improving the standard of English in Hong Kong if it is to retain its position as a world city.
- The Government has provided additional funding to schools to support non-ethnic Chinese students with their Chinese learning but how effective this funding is needs to be monitored. We need to set up Key Performance Indicators to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the funding such as:
 - Number of non-ethnic Chinese students in each school;
 - Acceptance rate of non-ethnic Chinese students in each school – (number of places offered/number applied);
 - Teachers trained in Chinese as a Second Language teaching;
 - Grades in Chinese for non-ethnic Chinese students compared to the average grade for the school;
 - Grades at DSE in English, Chinese and mathematics for non-ethnic Chinese students studying in English-medium schools vs Chinese-medium schools; and
 - the impact of streaming by ability – is there an improvement in Chinese grades.
- Ensure non-ethnic Chinese Hong Kong students are given equal opportunity for admission to kindergartens, schools and tertiary institutions and that admission documents, school notices and reports are in both Chinese and English.
- Train teachers in Chinese as a second language teaching. There needs to be proper training for teachers to teach Chinese as a second language. Children whose mother tongue is not Chinese are unlikely to learn Chinese at the same speed as native students.
- Monitor and assess non-Chinese students with Chinese proficiency to ensure those that need assistance are provided with assistance.
- Introduce and establish guidelines for the teaching of a Chinese as a second language qualification to those students who do not possess sufficiently adequate

standards to sit the HKDSE but a qualification that still gives students the necessary Chinese skills to properly integrate into the community, for tertiary education and for employment (including in the civil service). The GCSE, is in our view, not of a high enough standard to fulfill these requirements.

- Re format the HKDSE Chinese to separate the language and the harder literature content. Many non-ethnic Chinese students as well as ethnic Chinese students who are proficient in Chinese language (speaking, reading and writing) find the literature content of the HKDSE Chinese exam simply untenable.

EMPLOYMENT:

- Dedicated resources at the labour department to assist those whose are not fluent in Chinese.
- Provide vocational training courses at community colleges in industries such as accounting, marketing, design, engineering for those not fluent in Chinese to enable them to enter the workplace.
- Make Chinese language courses more accessible for adult non-ethnic Chinese.
- The Government should lead by example – hire more non-ethnic Chinese Hong Kong people into the civil service.

RACIAL HARMONY:

- The Equal Opportunities Commission needs to take a more active role to minimise systematic discrimination which is prevalent in areas such as the rental and purchase of property in Hong Kong by real estate agents and landlords.
- The Government should amend the Race Discrimination Ordinance to make it unlawful for government services and functions to discriminate on the grounds of race.

We look forward to working with your administration to improve the livelihood of Hong Kong society and to work towards the continued success of Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of The India Association



Vijay Harilela
President



Anita Gidumal
Executive Committee