

主旨: Fw: public engagement exercise on population policy

To whom it may concern,

Although it's end last night, hope you would consider the opinion from a group of ethnic minority people.
Please find the attachment.

Thanks for your attention.

Regards,
A group of EM who concern the future of HK

My opinion about the Population Policy as a whole

Hong Kong aspires itself as a world city, where Chinese and English are the official languages but if you step into any of the government offices and you speak English, you can see the hesitation of the person to whom you are speaking to. So I would like to say that while the government is taking a right step by starting Chinese as a second language for non-Chinese speaking students, it itself is taking a step backwards by not brushing up the English of its own employees.

Even the curriculum for the CSL is still unclear. The Government should be able to provide a clear vision about its concept and its goals. It is a bit confusing when the Government introduces a plan to do something but does not how they should go on about it.

The Government can also set up a good example by starting to employ Ethnic Minority citizens. The admittance to JPC is not an actual case of hiring people. Immigration should also employ non-Chinese speaking people because you have so people of different nationalities coming to Hong Kong for trade that it would be an advantage.

I know that the Government provides integration programs to new arrivals as well as EMs but I think the local people should also be provided such programs so that they can know about the various cultures of the people living around them. Cultural sensitivity does not work when its just one side of the wall that's trying to adjust. It works when both all the citizens are attuned to each other.

My Hong Kong ...

I own Hong Kong. Being an EM citizen and a component of Hong Kong's social fabric, it's my obligation to put-up my humble suggestions to my government regarding Population Policy. It is an excellent, timely crafted initiative because if we see the history lesson being experienced by Europe/Japan and still combating the very same dilemma which is now knocking our doors.

There are some serious flaws which have not been tackled prior to table this debate publicly because; Hong Kong's current fundamental amenity resources are not adequate to fulfill the Housing, Schooling, and Medical needs of the existing population.

Housing Problem

- ⊗ **Public Housing:** applications are getting piled up and worsening with time. New applicants are flooding in.
- ⊗ **Private Housing:** Rents are skyrocketing because of the disequilibrium of demand and supply cycle. Landlords are putting miseries on tenants by demanding unfair rents. No safety net or legislation to stop landlords.

Medical Infrastructure:

- ⊗ **Public Hospitals:** Waiting time bar is extended with passing time. Long waiting queues see a doctor. People are waiting for months to get their operation turn.
- ⊗ **Public Clinics:** Very difficult to get appointment on the very same day.
- ⊗ **Private Hospitals/ Clinics:** Dam expensive and beyond the reach of the middle class. EMs flies back to their homeland to get done the operation to avoid pain and anxiety of a long waiting list.

Schooling System:

- ⊗ So much pressure on admission system. People want to get admission in the morning shifts. EMs are especially discouraged by school management by refusing straight forwardly that we are out of space. Majority of Chinese kindergarten you won't see EMs students in morning shifts. Hong Kong parents don't want EMs student to sit next to their children. How petty... EMs is hesitant to lodge a complaint because of communication barriers and lack of awareness about their. Parents avoid any circumstances where they have to be a party against school management. It's been a misery for parents and students.

Backlash: This point has no essence that government restrains them by not giving them local citizenship rights. Mind it; we cannot restrain human to human contact. Indeed, they will be required housing, medical attention and after a while they do get married and ultimately need sharing of existing amenities.

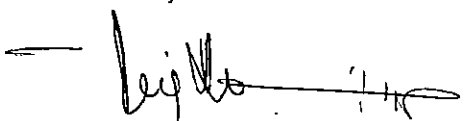
Suggestion: Need of restructuring the existing civic amenity infrastructure. Otherwise grave implications will earthed if new immigrants are allowed to flood in without. To handle this sudden population influx government must take necessary measure before implementing this great policy.

Thank you for reading,

Regards

Tariq Khan

Ethnicity: Pakistan


19-02-2014

Working as a Nepali/Hindi interpreter in CHEER Centre and listening to the EM people talking in the hotline with their service providers, I believe one of their main concerns is a very high rent for housing in the private sector. Those EM who are eligible for "Public Rental Housing" have already applied for it. But the problem is a very long waiting time for public housing applicants. So they have to spend a large portion of their income for the rent payment. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the average low income EM groups in Hong Kong to sustain their daily life. This is indeed the concern for average Hong Kong people who are living in private housing. Some believe that if the government introduce a "rent ceiling" for private sector housing that would help ease their burden especially when sometimes there seem to be no ending of the rapid and sometimes crazy increase in the rent for private sector housing.

Name: Thapa Anju



18/2/2014

Nationality: Nepali

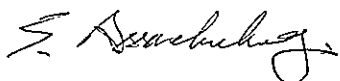
Location: Shek Tong Tsui, Western District

Regarding to Government Population Policy Address, particularly on Ethnic Minority (EM). In my opinion, I would like to share about employment opportunity. There was still a problem, most of EM still face with the discriminate opportunity in society. If the phenomenon prompted the Equal Opportunities Commission to warn that action would be taken if officials had no remedial measures in the coming policy address.

As we always saw from the job vacancy that post by labour department which most of the post of government jobs were required Chinese language is a must.

Most of EM who had educated from local mainstream school but they still found it hard to get the jobs. Some of EM who immigrant dependent with their family and had qualify education but they don't have a chance to get the good job due to language barrier, by this case government should be improve more policy in employment for EM to government department that need to provide the support service to EM such as Housing Authority, Labour Department, Social Welfare etc.

Thus Equal opportunities should not be governed by race or colour. The establishment of a poverty line and population policy afford a timely opportunity to review different policies, identify inadequacies and make a serious improvements. I wish to see the better opportunity for Ethnic Minority should be happening in the future of Hong Kong.



Name: ASSAWABENCHANG, Supaporn

Nationality: Thai

Location: Wong Tai Sin

Population policy says that import more labour force, and also it will create an environment to encourage couples to raise families and increase fertility rate.

Hong Kong is one of the most congested cities in the world, people are living in subdivided flats, which are no more than a narrow passage. Number of people living under poverty line, there are buildings which are almost slums. So Government should provide reasonable and human-able living conditions for the current population. Otherwise the above mentioned policies will worsen the conditions and create more sufferings for the public.

Government is working to set minimum wages in recent years and updated them on some occasions and may be still thinking to improve them again.

The people only getting benefit from this system are those who are doing low level jobs and especially security guards, it has no effect on the salaries of skilled labour, and people who are doing more technical jobs. So this is narrowing the gap and skilled labour is depressed and it is encouraging them to shift to more relaxed jobs. So Government should work on this and make fair distribution of wealth, so better if government should set some percentage rather than updating minimum wages repeatedly.

Population policy said HK need more labour to fill the vacancies.

But there are several people who are struggling for reasonable level of jobs or even some for very basic jobs for their sustenance. So Government should first on those unemployed population and provide them jobs, if they want to make HK a better place.

Signature: _____

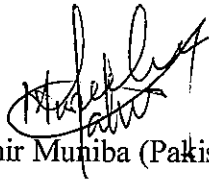
Name: Bilal Anwar

Nationality: Pakistani

I am working as an interpreter in CHEER. Serving to the ethnic minorities I encounter that most of the ethnic minorities having difficulties in finding the right job according to their academic qualification especially the immigrants.

- Most of the ethnic minorities were rejected in job interviews because they do not know Chinese or they are not Chinese.
- Most information of the training courses, job vacancies and social services are simply represented in Chinese, these lead them more dependent in the worse circumstances
- Their academic qualification is not recognized in job hunting.
- Their promotion opportunities, working benefits, salary and chances to be employed are less than the local Chinese.

As Hong Kong is an international city composed of variety ethnic people, the government lack of the multi-racial perspective to promote the anti-discrimination in the society.



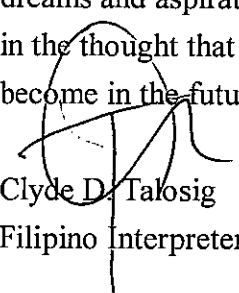
Tahir Muniba (Pakistan)

My thoughts on the Population Policy of Hong Kong

I feel that the population policy of the Hong Kong government is a population policy exclusively for the Hong Kong Chinese and disregards its ethnic minority populace. The Hong Kong government should follow the example of Singapore where in all their policies, whether it be in education, population, labour, health etc., its government is consistent in pointing out that everyone of its citizens are all Singaporeans including their ethnic minorities. That is why you will see that even as you enter Singapore in the airports, you will notice that its immigration officers are coming from different ethnicities such as Indians, Malaysians, Chinese etc. Compare this with Hong Kong who claims that it is an international city.

I am an EM and let me put myself as an example. I lived here in Hong Kong for seven years already and im ready to apply for a permanent resident visa in a couple of months. But I remain apprehensive about getting the coveted Hong Kong Permanent ID Card because I see no change in my life even if I get the said document. For me, the language barrier still remains even if I attempted to learn Cantonese. Having passed the GCSE exam for Chinese in 2011 with an "A" mark, I cannot even find suitable employment that is commensurate to my bachelor degree education and working experience. This is because I cannot speak Canontese fluently enough like my Chinese counterparts and because my educational qualifications are not even considered here in Hong Kong. So, whats the point in obtaining all these qualifications?

I believe that if Hong Kong is really an international city as it claims to be, more concrete and comprehensive efforts should be done by the government to making its environment conducive for all people to realize their full potentials, pursue their dreams and aspirations together with their families and age comfortably while secure in the thought that whoever they are, wherever they come from and whatever they become in the future, they are still treated as Hong Kongers and not just minorities.



Clyde D. Talosig
Filipino Interpreter

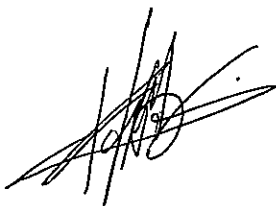
Victor (Philippines)

Set a slightly higher limit for the eligibility requirements / or at least give an alternative option for them to be eligible for a part of the whole amount / service (Subsidies / Housing)

- For housing eligibility, to those who slightly have exceeded the eligibility limit (e.g. those people who exceeded the salary limit for HKHA public housing but whose capacity is still under the umbrella of not being able to afford the rents for private housings). The Government can formulate another set of eligibility like higher rents to those who slightly went above the limit. Thus, it may reduce the population of families or individuals living in subdivided flats.
- For subsidy eligibility, that it may provide a part of the whole amount if such applicant have slightly exceeded the limit.

Education

- That the government may provide substantial solutions to the challenges that EMs are facing with education. The government had too many motions and promises but have not implemented a very concrete system that is both helpful to the locals and the EMs. It has been a long challenge for EDB and EMs especially to the parents. Finding a suitable institution should at least be less difficult among EMs since they also aim for their own progress as much as the locals do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, stylized strokes.