<u>New support service centre for ethnic</u> <u>minorities in Tuen Mun District</u> <u>commences operation</u>

â€<A new support service centre for ethnic minorities in Tuen Mun, namely ONE Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities (ONE Centre), operating under a funding grant of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) formally commenced operation today (August 1).

ONE Centre will provide a wide range of support services for ethnic minorities with a view to enabling their early integration into the community.

The support services include Cantonese and English language classes, after-school tutorial classes, dedicated programmes for ethnic minority youths, orientation and familiarisation programmes for newly arrived ethnic minorities, as well as integration activities, and counselling and referral services. The centre will also provide other services to assist ethnic minorities in accessing public services, including Internet access and distribution of multilingual service guidebooks and leaflets on services provided by the Government and non-profit-making organisations (NPOs).

The centre is located at Shop 101 & 102, 1/F, Esplanade Place, 101 Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun, with a floor area of about 415 square metres. Except for public holidays, the centre operates six days a week (including Sundays) and is closed on Tuesdays. The operating hours are from 9am to 9pm.

At present, the HAD provides funding grants for six other NPOs to operate five support service centres for ethnic minorities, respectively located in Wan Chai, Yau Tsim Mong, Kwun Tong, Yuen Long and Kwai Tsing, as well as two sub-centres in Sham Shui Po and Tung Chung, providing a series of support services to help ethnic minorities integrate into the community.

Following an open invitation of proposal exercise, the HAD selected the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service and the New Home Association to jointly operate this new centre in Tuen Mun. The SHINE Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities in Tuen Mun ceased operation on this day.