





and diligently across various professions and areas, our non-ethnic Chinese brothers and sisters have made equal contributions for the growth of Hong Kong.

Since the implementation of the Race Discrimination Ordinance 15 years ago, EOC has been committed to promoting equal opportunities in various aspects of daily life, work and education, etc., for all Hong Kong residents regardless of their race, so that they are free from discrimination, harassment and vilification.

The Government has always strived to ensure that citizens irrespective of their race have equal access to public services. We are committed to promoting racial integration and building a caring and inclusive society. The Government has been providing additional resources for EOC to establish the Ethnic Minorities Unit since 2015 and to strengthen its relevant work from promotion and education to training and community engagement.

In last year's Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced a series of services and support for ethnic minorities on various fronts, such as integration into the community, education, employment, welfare, and healthcare.

In terms of employment, the Government encourages departments to design their own language tests to provide an additional pathway for ethnic-minority applicants to meet the appointment requirements on language proficiency. For instance, more than 300 ethnic-minority applicants have passed the Chinese/English written exam designed for police recruitment. This would allow ethnic minorities who may not have participated in public examinations in Hong Kong to gain the opportunity to join and work for the Government. In addition, the Internship Programme for non-ethnic Chinese students also provides participants with basic workplace Chinese training, to enhance their understanding on the application of Chinese and the required level of Chinese proficiency in daily work.

As regards measures for promoting community integration in last year's Policy Address, the Government has embarked on the preparatory work for setting up two additional support service centres for ethnic minorities in Kowloon Central and New Territories East. A service centre providing emotional support and counseling services for ethnic minorities has also commenced operation last year while the Ethnic Minority Care Teams are expected to commence service within this year.

Promoting racial integration and building a harmonious society requires the collaboration and support of the entire community. It is encouraging to see so many representatives from different sectors in today's event, as a pledge of their support for a more diverse and inclusive society. On this promising note, I wish today's event great success.

Thank you.

