

Existing and Planned Measures on Promotion of Equality for Ethnic Minorities

Voter Registration and Electoral Services

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO), being the executive arm of the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC), is responsible for providing administrative support to the EAC in the efficient discharge of its statutory functions under the EAC Ordinance (Chapter 541). These include review and delineation of constituency boundaries, registration of electors, compilation of election guidelines and reports, conduct and supervision of elections and handling of complaints.

The Government attaches great importance to the promotion of racial equality as an integral dimension in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies and measures. To this end, the REO has put in place a number of measures to enhance the access to information relating to voter registration and election-related matters by ethnic minorities (EMs).

A. Voter Registration

Existing Measures

- Key information on voter registration is published in seven EM languages (in the form of an information notice and a set of Questions and Answers) on the dedicated website for voter registration to assist EM persons to understand the eligibility requirements and the statutory procedures and deadlines for voter registration
- Voter Registration messages are published in seven EM languages in newsletters of the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER) and in four EM languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Tagalog and Urdu) in local newspapers during Voter Registration Campaign in election years.
- Voter application forms are made available at eight EM support service centres for collection by EM persons and posters on voter registration are put up at the centres.
- Voter registration counters are set up at eight EM support service centres to assist EM persons in applying for voter registration during the voter registration campaign in an

election year. In addition, key voter registration messages are broadcast through radio in five EM languages including Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Urdu, Hindi and Thai to appeal to EM persons.

- In collaboration with CHEER, the REO provides free telephone interpretation service in seven EM languages, through the election hotline, to assist EM persons in making enquiries related to voter registration matters.
- Assessment of Future work
- The REO will review its services for EM persons from time to time, strengthen training to frontline staff in improving their communication with EM persons and, to the extent practicable, continue to enhance its publicity efforts to provide them with voter registration information.

B. Election-related Matters

Existing Measures

- Key information on election-related matters and, in particular, voting procedures in seven EM languages is provided on the dedicated election website and displayed at eight EM support service centres to assist EM persons to understand the relevant information during an election year.
- Advertisements about the nomination and appeal for voting at the District Council Ordinary Election and the Legislative Council General Election are placed in seven EM newspapers and seven newsletters published by the EM support service centres.
- A language assistance folder containing information on voting procedures printed in seven EM languages and a set of pictorial guide on voting steps are made available at every polling station to assist EM electors as necessary to cast their votes on the polling day.
- In collaboration with CHEER, the REO provides free telephone interpretation service in seven EM languages, through the REO telephone hotline, to assist EM electors to understand the voting procedures and to make enquiries

on election-related matters.

- In an election year, messages are broadcast in five EM languages through radio to announce election-related information and to appeal to EM electors to vote.
- Assessment of Future work
- The REO will review its services for EM persons from time to time and, to the extent practicable, continue to enhance its efforts to provide EM electors with key information on election related matters.

Enquiries

Enquiries may be made through the following channels –

Enquiry no.: 2649 7786 (Senior Electoral Officer (Geographical Constituencies / Voter Registration))
(on matters relating to voter registration)

3580 2605 [Electoral Officer (Elections Division 3) Special Support 3]
(on election-related matters)

Email: reoenq@reo.gov.hk

Registration and Electoral Office
October 2018