

Existing 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 facilitate the access of ethnic minorities (EMs) to information relating to voter registration and election-related matters.

A. Voter Registration

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| Existing Measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Key information on voter registration is published in seven EM languages¹ (in the form of an information notice and a set of Questions and Answers) on the dedicated website for voter registration to assist EMs in understanding the eligibility requirements and the statutory procedures and deadlines for voter registration.
● Voter Registration messages are published in seven EM languages¹ in newsletters of the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER) and in four EM languages² in local newspapers during Voter Registration Campaign in election years.
● Eight EM support service centres³ are available at which posters on voter registration are displayed, voter application forms are made available for collection by EMs, and voter registration counters are set up to assist |
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¹ The seven EM languages include Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu.

² The four EM languages include Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Tagalog and Urdu.

³ The eight EM support service centres are CHEER Centre (Kwun Tong), HOME Centre (Yau Tsim Mong), HOME Sub-centre (Sham Shui Po), HOPE Centre (Wanchai), LINK Centre (Kwai Tsing), SHINE Centre (Tuen Mun), TOUCH Sub-centre (Tung Chung) and YLTH Centre (Yuen Long).

EMs in applying for voter registration during the voter registration campaign in an election year.

- Key voter registration messages are broadcast through radio in five EM languages⁴.
 - Survey forms are distributed at the EM support service centres to collect the views of EMs to help review our existing voter registration services for EMs and enhance publicity efforts to provide EMs with voter registration information in election years.
 - In collaboration with CHEER, the REO provides free telephone interpretation service in seven EM languages¹, through the election hotline, to assist EMs in making enquiries related to voter registration matters.
- Assessment of Future work
- The REO will review its services for EMs from time to time, strengthen training to frontline staff in improving their communication with EMs and, to the extent practicable, continue to enhance its publicity efforts to provide them with voter registration information, including meeting with non-governmental organisations to discuss effective means to encourage and assist eligible EMs in registering as electors.

B. Election-related Matters

Existing Measures

- Key information on election-related matters, in particular voting procedures, in seven EM languages¹ is provided on the dedicated election website and displayed at eight EM support service centres³ to assist EMs in understanding 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 newsletters published by the EM support service centres³.
- A Language Assistance Folder containing essential

⁴ The five EM languages include Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai and Urdu.

information on voting procedures printed in seven EM languages¹ and a set of pictorial guide on voting steps are made available at every polling station to assist EM electors as necessary in casting their votes on the polling day.

- In collaboration with CHEER, the REO provides free telephone interpretation service in seven EM languages¹, through the REO telephone hotline, to assist EM electors in understanding the voting procedures and to make enquiries on election-related matters.
 - In an election year, messages are broadcast in five EM languages⁴ through radio to announce election-related information and to appeal to EM electors to vote.
 - Electoral information in six EM languages⁵ is available on the homepage of the Home Affairs Department's Race Relations Unit (www.had.gov.hk/rru).
 - Appeal is made to candidates to provide election advertisements in English and/or EM languages to facilitate understanding by electors who do not read Chinese.
- Assessment of Future work
- The REO will review its services for EMs 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

⁵ The six EM languages include Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Tagalog, Nepali, Thai and Urdu.

Registration and Electoral Office
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