

Celebration of 26th Anniversary of HKSAR Return to Motherland Multi-Cultural Football Tournament 2023



On 19 August 2023, DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee and DAB's Yuen Long Branch held an inclusive football tournament at Tung Tau Industrial Area Playground in Yuen Long. The tournament was organized in celebration of the 26th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, aiming to enhance awareness of EM issues and strengthen the integration of ethnic minority youth into the community.

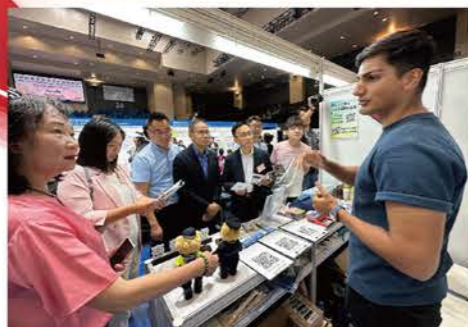
Approximately 100 individuals took part in the tournament. There were members from various ethnic minority groups including Pakistani, Nepali

and Bangladeshi ethnicities as well as a team of police officers representing Yuen Long District. As well as giving the players a chance to show off their football skills, this event was a good opportunity for the EM members to socially integrate and develop a spirit of cultural cohesion.

Building a Multicultural Workplace Job Fair

DAB's Ethnic Minorities Service Centre (EMSC) and the Labour Department joined hands once again to organize the "Building a Multicultural Workplace Job Fair", held at MacPherson Stadium on the 22 and 23 August 2023. Over 2,100 citizens including a large proportion of EM members joined the Job Fair, up from around 1,000 people last year.

There were around 50 different participating organizations, including the Police Force, Correctional Services Department, various enterprises, and social services organizations and over 4,300 job vacancies were advertised. Also attending the Fair were the Ethnic Minorities Committee members, Chairperson of DAB's Sham Shui Po Branch, Chan Wai-ming Samuel, Chairperson of DAB's Yau Tsim Mong Branch, Benny Yeung, and District Councillors Lau Pui-yuk and Ho Kwan-chau Leo.



Ethnic Minorities Leaders' Luncheon Gathering 2023

DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee (EMC) held an Ethnic Minorities Leaders' Luncheon Gathering on 19 September 2023, with over 80 people in attendance. It has been 18 years since EMC was first established, and DAB's Chairperson Ms. Starry Lee, Chairperson of EMC Mr. Vincent Cheng as well as first appointed Chair of EMC Mr. Jasper Tsang were all invited to say a few words during the luncheon.



Temple, Mosque and Madrasah Visits

Members of DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee paid visits to a number of places of worship, including the Kowloon Mosque, the Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple in Wan Chai, the Hindu Temple in Happy Valley, the Tin Shui Wai Madrasah, the Sham Shui Po Madrasah and the To Kwa Wan Madrasah. The visits facilitated the exchange of views on ethnic minority issues, helping to foster understanding and improved relations.



Message from DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee Chair, Legislative Councillor Hon. Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP



As the Chairperson of the 10th DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee (EMC), I will continue to facilitate dialogue between the city's Ethnic Minority (EM) community and the Hong Kong Government, as well as promoting EM community members' wellbeing and entitlements in every area of life.

Over the years, EMC has worked hard to help ethnic minorities overcome daily challenges while encouraging them to develop their strengths. The DAB established the Ethnic Minorities Services Centre (EMSC) to provide support and consultation services in the areas of education, employment and housing, comprehensive social security assistance, immigration, family and legal disputes, and medical affairs. Last year, EMSC handled over 300 cases. EMSC also distributed newsletters to ethnic minorities through street stations, sharing messages from the Centre and informing them about government's new policies.



Members of The 10th DAB's Ethnic Minorities Committee



The new term of EMC has commenced. At this point, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the contributions of the former committee members, and welcome new members and colleagues for their ongoing efforts and dedication to this underserved EM community, and for shining a light on the importance of a harmonious society.

The government recently announced the public consultation of Article 23 Legislation, designed to protect Hong Kong citizens, which we fully support. The Hong Kong National Security Law already has provisions prohibiting acts of secession and subversion. Further to these, we will enact laws under Article 23 to cover the offences of treason, espionage and sabotage, including use of advanced technology to attack computer systems, thus endangering national security. The EM community is part of our society and we all need a safe environment in which to live and carry on with their business in Hong Kong. With my best regards!



Learning About Ramadan

To learn more about one of the important festivals within the EM community, we had the pleasure of interviewing Imam Nadeem Muhammad, who told us all about the festival and its significance.

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Muslim calendar, and is a month of fasting, worship, service, communal gathering, and spiritual development. During this holy month, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, meaning they refrain from eating and drinking (including water) during daylight hours. The purpose of the daily fast is to strengthen the connection with God, as well as practising discipline, doing more good, and thinking of those less fortunate. The fast is broken towards the end of each day with a prayer and 'iftar', which is a festive meal beginning with dates.



Hailing from the city of lights, I am Ahmed Adeel from Punjab Pakistan. I moved to Hong Kong in 2006 after my dearest father passed away. I studied at Pak Kau College, which is near my home. There I was kept motivated and encouraged to work to improve society as well as developing myself. Being raised by a single mom in the bustling city was not easy. I am the only child and my mother pushes me forward and encourages me to learn

from my mistakes. Your family is the foundation that helps you grow and stand tall in today's competitive world.

I spent more than seven years as a community worker, working for various government and non-government departments including four years with the Hong Kong Police Force as a Community Liaison Assistant and two years with The Society for Aid and Rehabilitation for drug abusers. These years gave me a better understanding of Ethnic Minority issues.

Finally, I joined DAB in January 2023 as Assistant Coordinator although I didn't know much about Hong Kong politics at the time. After joining, I learnt more about government-related matters and how I can pass government-related information to other Ethnic Minority members like me. One of my biggest challenges was during the Hong Kong District Elections in 2023 when we had three competing EM candidates. However, the majority of the Ethnic Minorities put their trust in DAB. I love DAB. It's like a second home where I can learn and build a bright future.

New DAB Leadership

On 25 September 2023, DAB's new Executive Committee held its first meeting and elected 21 members as Standing Executive Committee members. The Standing Executive Committee elected Gary Chan as the Chairperson; Brave Chan, Holden Chow, Chan Hok Fung, Quat Elizabeth and Ben Chan as the Vice-chairpersons; Chris Ip as the Secretary-General and Steve Chong as the Treasurer. Additionally, the Standing Executive Committee, after deliberation, appointed Terry Yip as the Deputy Secretary-General. The 10th Senate also held its first meeting on 25 September 2023, at which Lo Man Tuen was re-elected as the Chairperson.

CHAN Hak Kan, Gary Chairperson, Executive Council member, Legislative Councillor	LO Man Tuen Chairperson, Senate	
CHAN Yung, Brave Vice-chairperson, Legislative Councillor	CHOW Ho Ding, Holden Vice-chairperson, Legislative Councillor	CHAN Hok Fung Vice-chairperson, Legislative Councillor
QUAT Elizabeth Vice-chairperson, Legislative Councillor	CHAN Han Pan, Ben Vice-chairperson, Legislative Councillor	
IP Ngo Tung, Chris Secretary-general	CHONG Wai Ming, Steve Treasurer	YIP Man Pan, Terry Deputy Secretary-general

January 19, 2024 most updated news Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging Scheme Postponed to August 1

Government departments will start using designated rubbish bags as planned from April 1, as a trial

For more information on the MSW charging scheme, please visit the government website



Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme

Adjusting rates upwards by **3.3%** effective from 1st February 2024 onwards

CSSA Scheme (Able-bodied Recipients)		Subsidy	Rate
Elderly Person	\$4195	Old Age Allowance	\$1620
Adult	\$2950	Old Age Living Allowance	\$4195
Child	\$3555	Normal Disability Allowance	\$2070
		Higher Disability Allowance	\$4140

Family Recipients

Number of Able-bodied Adults/Children	Single Parent/Family Carer	Family Member	Children
≤2	\$3200	\$2630	\$2940
3	\$2900	\$2370	\$2635
≥4	\$2565	\$2120	\$2355

Government launches One-stop, round-the-clock support "18111- Mental Health Support Hotline"

- The mental health support hotline co-ordinates about 20 related organisations to provide comprehensive mental support services
- Mental health support hotline operates all year round with dedicated personnel answering the phone 24 hours a day
- Providing immediate support and counselling services to members of the public from all backgrounds and of all ages
- Callers will also be referred to the most appropriate organisations depending on the nature of individual cases

ETHNIC MINORITY WELL-BEING CENTRE

- The service centre located in Jordan will start serving ethnic minorities from December 28
- Supported by a multi-professional team comprising social workers, counsellors and support staff conversant in ethnic minority languages
- The service centre provides emotional support and counselling services to ethnic minorities and refers cases to other service platforms for additional support and/or treatment if needed
- The service centre opens from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Friday
- Members of the public can call the centre hotline at 9682 3100 for information
- Or visit the website www.zubinfoundation.org/our-work/ethnic-minority-well-being-centre/ to learn more about the service centre

