

**The Eighth Meeting of the Home Affairs Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
8 November 2012**

Summary of Discussion

The Home Affairs Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its eighth meeting on 8 November 2012. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress on the pilot scheme of “financial assistance for ethnic minorities (EMs) and new arrivals (NAs) from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations”. As at the end of October 2012, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had received 377 applications.
2. Some Members proposed considering the extension of the programme’s assistance coverage (such as including trade tests and qualification assessments). HAD would take into account Members’ views to devise a detailed proposal later.
3. Members noted the progress on the “Subsidy for non-school-attending EMs and NAs from the Mainland to enroll in language courses”. As at the end of October 2012, the HAD had received 142 applications. The HAD would strengthen the cooperation with the Employees Retraining Board, so as to further promote the programme.
4. Members noted the progress on the “Subsidy for owners’ corporations (OCs) of old buildings”. HAD had written to all eligible OCs inviting them to join the scheme and response from OCs had been positive. HAD would invite OCs to complete a questionnaire on relevant information of the concerned building, such as the financial position of households etc., when an OC’s application was approved.
5. Members noted that application for the “One-off allowance to NAs from low-income families” was closed on 30 June 2012. Over 212 000 applications were received, with close to \$1.2 billion of allowances being granted for over 198 500 applications. As the application period for the

programme had ended, Members endorsed the time limits for handling applications with late submission of required information/documents and late appeals.