



No one should be absent at this critical times

## Words on Government Policies for Poverty Alleviation

It is our core belief that all people are treated equally with dignity before God. In a fair and just society, everyone should be respected disregarding his age, sex, race, religion and occupation. The same should be extended to matters over allocation of social resources and political rights. For the stringent political atmosphere besieging Hong Kong and for the ever growing stress that poor people are facing, **the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor (HKCNP)** now appeal for:

### **1. To expedite its Policies for Poverty Alleviation as soon as possible**

We are pleased to see that the **Commission on Poverty (CoP)** has progressively rolled out a number of policies and measures to sooth the problem of poverty and to render assistance to the disadvantaged groups based on proposals and suggestions of HKCNP as well as other organizations, especially those in relation to inter-generational poverty, education and employment opportunities. We now urge the Government and Legco to address the pressing needs of the poor and quicken their discussion on passing budget concerning livelihood of the poor.

### **2. To build a Fair Platform for the Lower-class to have their Voice Heard**

If it was not the hard working last generations, Hong Kong would not be enjoying the economic boom as it is now. Unfortunately, there are many who do not have their contributions paid off. Through the project – **Love Food Bank**, HKCNP helped over 30,000 families in times of difficulties. Many of them would rather earn their own living than taking social welfare. Yet, most often, this is not seen by some government officials and those vested interests. As a modern and democratic city like Hong Kong, a healthy and stable development would not be reached without getting a true picture the lower-class. In this regard, we strongly request that the Legco, Nomination Committee and other government consultation structures to reasonably increase the channels for the Grass-roots to share their views on policies.

### **3. To Listen to the Youth and Help Make their Dreams Come True**

How the younger generation feels about the future of Hong Kong affects the well-being of the City. Unclear career path, dwindling home-buying opportunity and limitation in political participation are upsetting the youth in HK. This may account for the recent social phenomenon. In the past few years, via the **Mentorship Programme**, HKCNP has life coached young people from over 3,000 grass-root families. As they are the future of the City and what they have in mind should not be ignored, the Government and political parties should set up effective communication channels, guide them in taking their role in social and political development and help them make a balance between dreams and reality.

### **4. To Walk with Religious Sector for the Betterment of Hong Kong**

Hong Kong people walked through the times of difficulties with aids from Religious parties which cover medical, education, **poverty alleviation**, social services and spiritual support. With their people working in various business sectors, dedication from the religious sector is irreplaceable for the social and economic development of Hong Kong. Being a member of Christianity, **HKCNP** has been actively promoting community caring in church level for the mitigation of injustice caused by poverty, and the loss of dignity resulting from shortfall of the policies. We hope that instead of using violence of any kind that tears people apart, religious sector is to join force with the Government and other social sectors to work for a harmonious and prosperous future.

**Proverbs 10:12: Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.**



## The Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor

### Executive Committee

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### Founding Organizations

Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union, Hong Kong Christian Council, Hong Kong Church Renewal Movement

### Member Organizations

The Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship, Mission To New Arrivals, Christian Action, Cedar Fund, The Society for Truth and Light, Jubilee Ministries, The Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship, Olive Capital Fund, Child Development Matching Fund