

# **MAC Assists Mainland Spouses Return Home and Cares for Disadvantaged Mainland Spouses in Taiwan**

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Over the past few years, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) has encountered various urgent cases requiring assistance for Mainland spouses in Taiwan; in which cases the staff have always been instructed to thoroughly investigate the problems faced by the Mainland spouses and assist in finding solutions by coordinating related authorities, while at the same time, maintain close contact with them and tend to their needs for assistance. Especially in the current Lunar New Year holiday season, some Mainland spouses of disadvantaged families who are denied the joy of the holiday due to straitened living circumstances remain in dire need for care and assistance from the society. In one such case, the husband of a Mainland spouse surnamed Huang suffered from a rare disease that required him to undergo regular treatment at great medical expense, whereas the only source of income for the family depended entirely on the Mainland spouse's salary from a restaurant job. Therefore, the MAC staff visited the family prior to the Lunar New Year to better understand the husband's medical conditions and the family's situation, while at the same time offered consolation money and conveyed the government's concern. The MAC maintains regular contact with organizations related to Mainland spouses so as to fully grasp the demand for assistance from Mainland spouses in Taiwan and coordinate assistance provided from related social welfare units and non-governmental organizations.

Moreover, at the beginning of this year, MAC Minister Wang Yu-

chi met with the head of an organization for Mainland spouses to reach out to Mainland spouses living in Taiwan. During which the organization head mentioned recent cases involving Mainland spouses who have domiciled in Taiwan and wished to return to the Mainland to cancel their Mainland household registration were refused the Taiwan Compatriot Travel Certificates by the Mainland side on the grounds that they still had a Mainland registered household, and were thus prevented from successfully returning to the Mainland. Minister Wang was informed of the problems of converting documentation after domiciling in Taiwan prior to the peak travel season of Lunar New Year holidays, therefore he immediately instructed MAC staff to promptly deliberate and address the problem. The Straits Exchange Foundation was also instructed to coordinate with relevant departments on the Mainland side, who subsequently agreed to allow Mainland spouses domiciled in Taiwan to apply for a single-entry Taiwan Compatriot Travel Certificate upon arrival at any of the 31 direct cross-strait transportation ports in the Mainland. Thus, Mainland spouses were able to smoothly process related documentation and return to the Mainland in time for the Lunar New Year's holiday.