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## Allen Lee unsure about next term

By SHIRLEY YAM

SENIOR Legislative Councillor Mr Allen Lee Peng-fei said last night he was still considering whether to accept another term of appointment to the assembly should the Governor ask him.

But Mr Lee has already ruled out the possibility of standing in the maiden direct elections to the council in September.

"The job as a legislator is getting more and more difficult and time-consuming. I am almost working full time as the senior member," said Mr Lee.

The workload of the council will increase further in the new legislative session and newcomers would have to learn the business rather quickly, said Mr Lee.

More heated debate was expected and it will be more difficult for councillors to reach a consensus, he added.

The Governor was expected to finalise his list of appointees to Legco after the elections in a bid to balance the views in the council.

Mr Lee yesterday declined to comment on how other senior members view their political career with the

introduction of direct elections.

Asked to comment on Jardine Matheson's decision to seek primary listing in London, Mr Lee said the company should consider its responsibility to the territory in making the move, although he respected it as a business decision.

"Jardine has made a lot of money from Hongkong. It should be ready to bear certain responsibilities for the territory," Mr Lee said.

"It is up to the shareholders to decide whether they can face Hongkong people with their move."

Any plan by the large firms to remove their primary listing from Hongkong, Mr Lee continued, would affect the status of the territory as an international financial centre.

Mr Lee stressed that the Government should never sacrifice the interest of investors and shareholders in considering Jardine's request for exemption from most of the securities regulations.

"I don't think it is fair to other listing companies and shareholders to grant exemption to a few companies," he said.