

"A man who fought for social justice"

By TOM CHOW
and CONNIE LAW

TRIBUTES poured in from all quarters yesterday for Tuen Mun legislator Mr Stephen Ng Ming-yum, who died of leukaemia aged 36.

They described him as a popular man who was easily accessible and who cared deeply about his constituents.

Regional Council's vice-chairman, Dr Pang Hok-tuen, said his death was a loss both to the council and the public.

Although Mr Ng sat on the three tiers of representative government, he had never neglected his duties in the Regional Council, Dr Pang added.

A colleague, Tuen Mun District Board member Mr Ng Yun-ching, who knew the legislator for more than 10 years, said he was a man of great virtue and a tempo-

rary altar would be set up for his constituents to pay their last respects.

Another Tuen Mun District Board member and Meeting Point member, Mrs Choi Cheung Yuet-lan, said they had worked together on district affairs since 1982 and Mr Ng was a man whose deeds always followed his words.

Mr Ng always fought for social justice and drew a clear line between personal and public interests.

Mr Ng's secretary, Ms Mak Yuk-sau, also said he was a man of "great devotion, bravery and perseverance".

She had been his secretary for six years. Mr Ng was a hard working man who continued his work even after learning of his illness.

Ms Mak hoped someone could carry on the work Mr Ng had started.

He had a great love for Hongkong and China, she said, and it was his goal to

see democracy flourish in both places.

Legislative Councillor Mr Vincent Cheng Hoi-chuen, who studied at the same secondary school and university as Mr Ng, said they might have had different views on some issues but Mr Ng had done a good job in Legco.

He added he was concerned whether Mr Ng's death would leave his family in financial difficulty and hoped legislators and the public would provide assistance.

Another Legco colleague, Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye, said it was unfortunate that Mr Ng, who had done so much for Hongkong, should die at such a young age.

Mr Ng was an outspoken person and his death was a great loss to Legco.

They had only been Legco colleagues for a short time but she felt he always tried his best.

Mr Ling Po-leung, a teacher at Buddhist Sum Heung Lam College, where Mr Ng had been a teacher for a decade, described him as an open-minded teacher with a sense of humour.

Mr Ng's involvement in community affairs had helped raise students' public awareness, Mr Ling said.

The school was planning to organise a memorial service after the final examinations this week.

It was also considering an essay-writing competition to commemorate Mr Ng.

Among others who called on Mr Ng's ward office to pay tribute to him was housewife Mrs Wong Yin-kwan.

"It is such a loss to the community that he died so young," Mrs Wong said on the verge of tears.

She had been acquainted with the Ng family for a long time.