

## 50pc of seats to be unopposed

MORE than half of the 21 Legislative Council functional constituency seats are set to be won by unopposed candidates.

If there are no more nominations for these seats lodged before today's 5 pm deadline, more than a third of the 69,825 registered functional constituency electors will be denied their chance to vote.

The 12 unopposed candidates include two new faces, Mr Michael Ho Man-kar of the health care sector and Dr Philip Wong Yu-hong of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

The other 10 are incumbent legislators, including two appointed members, Mr Lau Wong-fat and Mr Ronald Arculli.

These two are standing in the

Heung Yee Kuk and the real estate and construction constituencies — two of the seven newly-designated functional sectors.

At 78, Mrs Elsie Tu is the oldest and the only female hopeful who is poised to secure a Legco place without having to go through the ballot test.

But Mrs Tu, who is running for the seat designated for the Urban Council, noted there were conflicting reports on whether her colleague, Mr Pao Ping-wing, would join the polls.

Describing herself as confused, Mrs Tu accused Mr Pao of playing tricks in the elections. Mr Pao was not available for comment.

The labour constituency has been given two votes. Its two sitting representatives, Mr Tam Yiu-chung and Mr

Pang Chun-hoi, are both heading for a third term in office.

Mr Tam has the 176,000-strong pro-China Federation of Trade Unions behind him, while Mr Pang is a leader of the pro-Taiwan Trade Union Council.

Mr Lau Wong-fat, long time chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk, is expected to leave the territory in August for a rest and to visit his children overseas.

Other hopefuls likely to be re-elected uncontested are Mr Stephen Cheong Kam-chuen of the Federation of Hongkong Industries; Mr David Li Kwok-po of the banking sector; Mr Hui Yin-fat of the social services sector; Dr Leong Che-hung of the medical profession; and Mr Peter Wong Hong-yuen, representing accountants.