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Appointed man faces a bigger election hurdle

THE sudden illness of Legislative Council member Mr Chan Ying-lun is hurting his attempt to win election to Legco after six years as an appointed member.

Mr Chan, who is standing in the constituency of Hongkong Island East, suffered an attack of neuritis which has left him unable to attend important functions in his close battle against opponent Mr Desmond Lee.

Mr Chan told *The Standard* yesterday he is slowly recovering from the illness, which struck two weeks ago and has partly affected his hearing, sight and sense of taste.

"I am perfectly all right except for a swollen face," Mr Chan said.

"Now I look more cunning with a twisted mouth," he joked.

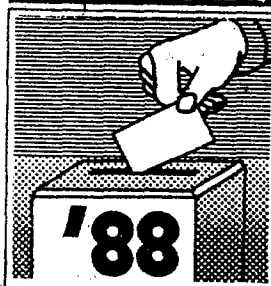
The change to his appearance caused by the inflammation has forced Mr Chan to decline election functions which could prove important in the race against Mr Lee, a Legco colleague.

Mr Chan said the illness would prevent him attending the shooting of a programme for all Legco candidates organised by Radio Television Hongkong this Saturday.

He said it might also force him to miss other electioneering activities.

Mr Chan was supposed to meet Mr Lee in a September 10 election forum organised by the City and New

LEGCO POLLS



Territories Administration. He was also to appear on other TV programmes about the forthcoming election.

"I do not know what caused the disorder," he said.

In hopes of a speedy recovery, Mr Chan tried electrotherapy and acupuncture before being hospitalised last weekend for three days to "clean the nerves".

"But now that there is no hope of a speedy recovery I will leave the matter as it is," he said.

His campaign for the seat is the first time he has sought election after being appointed to previous sessions.

A member of the Eastern District Board, he won his seat in elections last March.

Mr Lee is also a member of the Eastern District Board. He is supported by the Hongkong Affairs Society and the Hongkong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood.