

Allen Lee opposes civil service allegiance test

LOUIS WON

Liberal Party leader Allen Lee Peng-fei says senior civil servants should not be required to state publicly whether or not they support the provisional legislature.

Mr Lee, a Preparatory Committee member, said yesterday that senior civil servants should not take a political stand.

"They did not openly support the current legislature, yet they have to work with the legislature in presenting bills and applications for funding, and they are answerable to the legislature.

"There should be no difference in the future when the provisional legislature is established," he said on RTHK radio.

He was speaking after Chinese officials said senior civil servants must support

the appointed provisional legislature, which is replacing the elected council at the handover next year.

Mr Lee said he hoped Lu Ping (魯平), Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, would take up the invitation to meet Chief Secretary Anson Chan Fang On-sang.

Mr Lu is coming to Hong Kong as the Preparatory Committee gets ready for consultation next weekend on the Selection Committee, which will choose the chief executive and provisional legislature.

This could help ease "the misunderstanding" and improve confidence.

"Time is running short. In order to ensure a smooth transition, our civil service must have confidence in the future," Mr Lee said.

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