

20. 16

Alliance set to determine new Regco chairman

By Lily Mak

THE alliance of rural and pro-China forces in the new Regional Council (Regco) will most likely determine who becomes the assembly's second ever chairman on Monday.

Following the 5 March municipal council election, 17 incumbent Regco members will vacate their seats and the new council will be sworn in.

Liu Ching-leung, 52, has been widely tipped to succeed the

retiring Cheung Yan-lung as Regco chairman.

Mr Liu is vice-chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk and a former member of the Sheung Shui Rural Committee.

The favourite candidate for the post of vice-chairman is Ngan Kam-chuen, a member of the pro-China Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB).

Democratic Party member Chow Yick-hay had been rumoured to be eying the post, but yesterday he

dismissed the claim as purely speculative.

He said any chance of a Democratic Party member obtaining such a powerful post in Regco was slim because the group could muster only a dozen votes out of the 36 in the assembly.

Heung Yee Kuk chairman Lau Wong-fat is also expected to represent Regco in the new Legislative Council in October.

Mr Lau is the present Kuk representative in Legco.

Incumbent chairman Mr Cheung, who has occupied the post for 10 years, joked that his leaving the council was part of the "smooth transition".

Legislator and Democratic Party member Reverend Fung Chi-wood said he would also miss Regco which he had served for four years.

Rev Fung lost his seat to Wong Chi-keung, a Liberal Democratic Federation member, in the March direct election.

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