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Call to replace UC with City Council

URBAN Councillor Tsin Sai-nin said yesterday the first step for elected body representing the Hongkong people is to have a "city council."

Mr Tsin, also chairman of the Association for Democracy of Hongkong, said the Urban Council represents only regional interests and should be replaced by what he called a city council.

Under that format, he said, the Urbco election should be extended to the New Territories.

A general election should be held to vote for the 15 UC candidates. The 18 district boards can elect

two members from each district, making up another 36 seats.

Also, all the district board members should be elected while the appointed members could only serve in an advisory capacity, he said.

The vice-chairman of the association, Pang Wah-keung also suggested that appointed district board members should resign first if they decide to run for the UC election, or it would be unfair to other independent candidates who do not hold any appointed offices.

Appointed district board members have more access to publicity, he said.

Mr Tsin said only by

such a system can Hongkong lead to a democratic system. "The second step to a fully representative government is to have an elected Legislative Council," he said.

"At present, the Urban Council has lost its jurisdiction over some urban affairs and has played an advisory role like that of the district board," he said.

He said he will fly to London in April to put forward his suggestion to some Members of the British Parliament and officials at the Foreign Office.

• ONE of the 42 candidates for the coming Urban

Council elections, Chan Chan-nam, alias Chan Chee-jang, a Yaumati herbalist, yesterday withdrew from the polls.

Mr Chan's nomination, together with four others, was received last Friday, the final day for the acceptance of nominations. Among the nominees are 10 serving councillors.

The elections, which will be held for the first time on a constituency-basis, will take place on March 8.

Mr Chan's withdrawal leaves three candidates to contest the seat in the Yaumati constituency. They are councillor Denny Huang and Yeun Kam-ming and Kwok Yuen-ping.