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A petition to Peking?

New Territories residents may petition Peking if the Government fails to heed their plea for a New Territories Administration Commission.

The Chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk, Mr Chan Yat-san, said at the Kuk's second Executive Committee meeting yesterday that the commission is necessary to fight for the interests of NT residents.

Mr Chan said in May last year the Kuk petitioned the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Lord Goronwy Roberts, requesting the setting up of the commission. However, it was turned down.

"We have for many years asked the Government for a fair and reasonable land policy in the NT," Mr Chan said. "But

the Government ignored public opinion and continued with its unfair policy."

At the meeting yesterday the Kuk decided to petition the Governor this time and if this fails "we will have no choice but to petition Peking on the issue."

The Kuk wants a commission with the Secretary for the New Territories as chairman and members to be nominated by the Kuk and the secretary.

The petition will demand that the Heung Yee Kuk Ordinance be revised giving more power to the Kuk.

The petition claims NT residents suffer when the Government resumes land without fair or appropriate compensation.