

S.C.M.P.

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90pc have got the jitters

A survey by Yaumati District Board showed that nearly 90 per cent of the people interviewed were apprehensive about post-1997 Hongkong when the administration is handed over to local people.

China has stated repeatedly that the mode of government after the British departure would be "Hongkong people ruling Hongkong."

The poll focused on a possible "drop in living standard under such an administration" and about 88 per cent of 1,800 or so people said they were worried.

Only two per cent said they were not worried. The rest gave no opinion.

Another question dealt with "concern over a drastic change in the economy" and about 90 per cent said they were concerned.

The survey was conducted by two members of the Yaumati District Board, Mr Lee Lit-man and Mr Joseph Chan Wai-wang.

The poll was carried out in Tsimshatsui and Yaumati.

Respondents also expressed the wish for a more representative government leading to 1997.

About 82 per cent said they would like to see elected Legislative and Executive councils.

Based on the findings the two district board members suggested there should be a seat in the Legislative Council for every 75,000 people.

The post-1997 governor should be elected within Hongkong and formally appointed by Peking to show China's sovereignty over the territory, they added.