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4-4-2 compromise model favoured by community groups

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A SURVEY of a dozen community organisations reveals that none of them supports either the bicameral package or the political model already proposed in the draft Basic Law.

Instead, most threw their weight behind a faster pace of democratisation as outlined in the 4-4-2 compromise model and the blueprint agreed by Executive and Legislative Councillors.

But the poll organiser, the Joint Committee of Community Organisations on Basic Law Drafting, said the low response rate of 29 per cent indicated that people were disillusioned with the consultation exercise.

Of the 41 community bodies approached, only 12 responded.

Four of them backed the 4-4-2 model, while one favoured the Omelco blueprint. Another five endorsed both models and the rest supported the Group of 190 liberal formula.

Presenting the findings to the New China New Agency (NCNA), the group yesterday said the majority support for the 4-4-2 model and the Omelco proposal indicated that local people believed it was vital to reach a consensus on the post-1997 political model.

The group submitted the result to the NCNA instead of the Basic Law Consultative Committee (BLCC) because they were dissatisfied with the BLCC's decision against holding a territory-

wide Basic Law opinion poll.

They accused two BLCC officials of manipulating public opinion by advocating the bicameral system championed by the New Hongkong Alliance.

They were referring to BLCC vice-chairman Mr Lo Tak-shing, and secretary-general Mr Leung Chun-ying, who are founding members of the alliance.

They also claimed that attacks by some mainland drafters on some of the models had discouraged local people from airing their views on the draft mini-constitution.

Spokesman Mr Lai Siu-chung said they wanted to submit the findings to the Basic Law Drafting Committee (BLDC) through the NCNA, hoping that the drafters would respect local opinions.

Meanwhile, the Hongkong Chinese Clerks Association has come out in favour of the bicameral model.

The association said Hongkong's prosperity and stability hinged on a system in which all sectors had their views reflected in and considered by the administration.

The clerks said the functional constituencies in the Legislative Council, which had contributed to Hongkong's economic success over the years, should be retained.

● The Hongkong Polytechnic Students Union is backing the Executive and Legislative Councillors' blueprint of political reforms.