

S.C.M.P.

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3-tier advice set-up urged

A three-tier local advisory framework on drafting the basic law has been proposed by an Urban Councillor, Mr Pao Ping-wing, yesterday.

Mr Pao suggested that under an advisory committee appointed by China's National People's Congress, there should be working groups of different professionals, and offices to gather public opinions.

Mr Pao, at a lunch meeting of the (Anglican) Diocese of Hongkong and Macau, also recommended a timetable for drafting and endorsing the basic law.

He suggested the basic law be drafted and initially endorsed by the NPC by 1992 and officially passed in 1996. The three-year lapse is to allow for amendments according to public opinion.

On his proposed three-tier advisory framework, Mr Pao said the advisory committee should comprise 30 to 60 members — all Hongkong people.

One of the responsibilities of the committee, he suggested, was to announce in stages the contents of the basic law worked out by the drafting committee.

The advisory committee then could compile a report on opinions collected and submit it to the drafting com-

mittee for consideration of amendment.

On the composition of the advisory committee, he suggested that one-third of the members be appointed by China, another one-third elected by designated functional organisations, and the rest appointed by China among people nominated by non-profitmaking organisations or by elected members of district boards, Urban Council and the future Regional Council.

The chairman of the advisory committee and one member should be included in the drafting committee, he said.

The working groups should be set up among different professionals and through them to consult people in their own industry on particular areas.

The number of members should be arbitrary, he said.

To consult the public on the basic law on a wider spectrum, Mr Pao proposed the setting up of public opinion gathering offices.

One way was to set up the offices in China's organisations in Hongkong, he said.

Turning to a drafting committee of the basic law, Mr Pao proposed that no less than one third of its members should be Hongkong people.