

J. C. M. P.

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15 locals tipped for law drafting

By WALTER CHEUNG

Fifteen of the 50 members of the basic law drafting committee will be from Hongkong, a local delegate to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference said yesterday.

Mr Xu Simin, who has just returned from the latest session of the CPPCC in Peking, said he understood the Hongkong members would include local delegates to the CPPCC and the National People's Congress.

The deputy director of the Hongkong and Macau Affairs Office, Mr Li Hau, said last week that the number of local CPPCC and NPC delegates who will sit on the committee would not be substantial.

Mr Xu said he was not in favour of too many legal experts on the committee.

The drafting would be more a political than legal question, he said.

Legal aspects of the drafting would be more "a technical question."

Mr Xu, publisher of the Mirror magazine, said the decision to have a 30 per cent Hongkong representation on the committee was partly a result of the efforts of local delegates to the CPPCC.

The delegates, he said, had pushed hard for adequate local representation.

Mr Xu said he had proposed that the number of Hongkong committee members should be set at 20.

He said one of Peking's most pressing tasks is the control of blackmarket foreign currency deals.

Mr Xu was confident the problem will be solved, particularly as the public security forces have recently stepped up their actions.

Two other returning delegates, Mr Chuk Woon-fai and Mr Ng Tor-tai, described the discussions at the CPPCC as being "very open."

They were among more than 10 local delegates who returned from Peking yesterday.

They arrived home more than four hours late after their flight was diverted to Canton because of bad weather in Hongkong.

Four other Hongkong delegates to the CPPCC are still in China.