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300-hour hunger strike

THE end of a 50-hour fast by two liberal activists protesting against a conservative post-1997 political blueprint yesterday marked the beginning of a 300-hour marathon hunger strike relay.

Two Sha Tin District Board members, the Reverend Fung Chi-wood and Dr John Young, ended their fast at 5 pm. They were demonstrating against a "mainstream" Basic Law proposal put forward by Mr Louis Cha.

Other liberal activists yesterday decided to continue the fast.

Starting the second round of the 50-hour fast last night were Urban Councillor Mrs Fok Pui-yee and Kwai Tsing District Board member Lee Kin-sang.

Mr Fung and Dr Young handed over a "democracy torch" to the two in a symbolic move.

Five or six pairs of other liberal activists will take over from Mrs Fok and Mr Lee tomorrow.

Mr Fung said: "By staging a hunger strike, we hope to arouse public concern over the political proposal and to gather momentum for drastic amendments to the draft mini-constitution."