

S.C.M.P.

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A basic case of too many nominations

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With just four days to go, registered non-specified organisations have yet to agree on a shortlist of nominations for the Basic Law Consultative Committee.

Only 41 seats have been allocated for representatives of more than 200 groups.

While groups in the major sectors are to meet within a few days to produce a shortlist, doubts have been cast that they would be successful before Wednesday's deadline.

There are also fears that the meeting could be marked by acrimony as each group lobbies for its own representative.

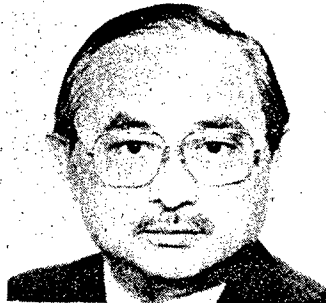
And of the 20 sectors that qualify for the "recommended invitation" category, 15 have filed nominations that also exceed the allocated seats.

The Hongkong members of the drafting committee will make the final decision in three weeks should the groups fail in their task.

The shortlist can only be approved if it has the signatures of at least two-thirds of the total number of nominees in each sector.

It is expected that the sectors of education, community groups, medical and civil servants are likely to put up a stiff battle for their nominees.

Each sector has submitted



Mr Luke Yip ...difficult to get consensus.

Group exempted

The 150-strong Basic Law Consultative Committee is to be exempted from the provisions of the Societies Ordinance.

The Societies Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule) 1985 was published in the gazette yesterday.

A Government spokesman said that the aim of the exemption order is to help the setting up of the consultative committee.

The order will prevent the provisions of the principal ordinance from applying to the consultative committee.

more than 10 nominations for a handful of seats.

The convener of the education sector, Mr Luke Yip of the Subsidi-

dised Secondary School Council said: "It will be difficult to get consensus on the final nominations . . . The matter will probably have to be resolved by the six-member group."

In some cases 10 people have been nominated for one seat.

"The only way out is for some groups to revoke their nominations, but that is very unlikely," Mr Yip said.

In the community group sector, 12 people have been nominated.

They include representatives from the Heung Yee Kuk, three housing bodies and the district-based kaifong groups.

The medical sector, made up of 12 separate groups, is in the same situation. There are 12 nominations for two seats.

Given the diverse nature, composition and size of each group, it will be difficult to reach a compromise, said one nominee.

In the civil servants sector there are 13 nominations for five seats.

A member of the six-member group, Dr Raymond Wu, said they would try to help if requested.

He said: "We don't want to interfere with their consultation. As far as I know, there has not been a request for assistance."