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SCMP 12 MAY 84

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1997 question not on CPPCC agenda



Mrs Deng

From GARMEN CHAN
Peking, May 11.

The Hongkong question is not on the agenda of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) which opens here tomorrow.

But the vice-secretary general of the conference, Mr Lu Ping, said it was fully possible the issue will be discussed while conference deputies examine reports and papers.

At a press conference today, Mr Lu said he had not received any motions from

members to discuss the 1997 issue.

"It is hard to say at present whether members will put forward such motions during the conference," he said.

There are 44 Hongkong and Macau members on the CPPCC and the Hongkong question is bound to come up during their group discussion.

Mr Lu said the conference — the second session of the sixth national committee of the CPPCC — will open tomorrow at 3.30 pm in the Great Hall of the People.

The conference chairman, Mrs Deng Yingchao, the widow of Mr Chou Enlai, will make the opening speech.

Items on the agenda include discussion of the report of work of the standing committee of the CPPCC since the last meeting of the full session in June last year.

The conference would also put forward suggestions to further the work of the standing committee.

Members would also consider and deliberate motions put forward since they last met.

Mr Lu said since the first session of the sixth national committee of the CPPCC, more than 1,000 motions had been put forward. Of these, about 890 had received the attention of the central Government.

Hongkong members of the CPPCC have in the past year put forward 13 motions, but none concerned Hongkong.

Among the motions forwarded were recommendations to improve the customs service at the Chinese border, charges on tourist industries and improvements to the Peking taxi service.

The conference will elect one new vice-chairman and 11 standing committee members following the death of members.

They will also consider electing an additional vice-chairman and standing committee members.

The CPPCC is a united front body playing an advisory role in promoting the policies of the central Government.

Last year, there was a heavy emphasis on the "unification of the motherland" theme.

There are 2,030 members attending the conference, which expected to last 15 days.

The sixth national committee of the CPPCC had a total of 2,039 members which it selected last year. Fifty members died during the past year and the standing committee appointed 41 new members last week.