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Actress rules out seeking re-election

PROMINENT television actress Lisa Wang Mingchuen has declared that she will not seek re-election to the National People's Congress when her term expires in 1993.

In a "self-criticism" on her own performance in China's highest law-making body, she admitted that she had contributed little.

Nine months after the brutal crackdown on the student movement, the 43-year-old Shanghai-born actress said she "eventually found out" that she was not suitable for the NPC post.

It is likely her decision rests as much on the upheavals in Beijing as much as Miss Wang's sudden realisation of her limited capability.

The popular television star won a sweeping victory to the congress in January 1988, winning 743 of the 745 votes cast by deputies in the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress, which covers Hongkong.



■ Miss Wang ... not suitable for post.

She gained the highest number of votes, outpolling by seven Mr Xu Jiatun, who was then director of the Hongkong branch of the Xinhua News Agency. However, in a recent interview with *The Hongkong Standard*, Miss Wang said she had found the work in the National People's Congress too difficult.

"Two years ago, I got the highest vote just because of my achievements and high popularity in show business," she said.

"I don't think the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress elected me because of my political talents.

"Due to my limited knowledge and little interest in politics, I feel the work of a NPC deputy to be rather a hard job.

"I'm not capable and competent to fill the post of a NPC deputy.

"My talents are in acting and drama," said the actress, who has been in show business for more than 20 years.

"It's difficult for me to express opinions on political and economic issues.

"Consumption of my time is just a secondary problem. I really can't find anything to comment on during the meetings."

Miss Wang stressed that her decision was not related to the June 4 crackdown.

But it is understood that the horrifying bloodshed on Tiananmen Square last June made her realise the cruel political realities of the mainland.

At the height of the student movement in late May, Miss Wang threatened to resign from her National People's Congress post if Beijing used force against the demonstrating students.

She was among six outspoken Hongkong deputies who launched an open condemnation of the Beijing leadership immediately after the bloodshed on June 4.

But she did not carry through her threat to resign, saying she did not want her place to be taken by someone who might blindly support the authorities in Beijing.

Miss Wang said she would attend the coming National People's Congress session in Beijing and speak according to her conscience.

"I will tell what I know, I will tell the truth during the NPC meetings.

"My stance in support of the student movement has not changed," she said.

In a personal testimony written after the June 4 crackdown, Miss Wang spelled out her bitter disappointment and disillusionment towards the Beijing regime.

"The Beijing massacre has affected my confidence so much that I plan to sell my Hongkong properties if I can find any buyers," she said.

"The so-called Gang of Elders no longer represents the country or the people.

"China is run by an ageing oligarchy."