

A clear stance on provisional legislature

On May 2 you reported that I intend to form a political party. Your writer, Fanny Wong, said that unlike other politicians in the democratic camp "who have already vowed not to join the provisional legislature. Ms Loh remains undecided".

Whether I will join the provisional legislature or not is conditional on two issues being satisfactorily resolved. I believe my stance is exactly the same as that of a number of democrats.

First, the idea of establishing a provisional legislature in the manner which the Preparatory Committee and Chinese officials are suggesting has no constitutional basis. As long as the issue of its legality is in doubt, I cannot serve on what would be an illegal body.

Second, even if the issue of legality can be resolved, there is still the equally important issue of the provisional body's political and moral legitimacy. If what China wants to do is to pick and choose among the 60 members of the Legislative

Council based on their political stance, then the body will not carry either political or moral legitimacy. I also cannot see myself serving on such a body.

If China insists that the through train has been derailed, it could still reconstruct it by allowing all 60 members of the legislature to serve beyond 1997.

I see no reason why Hong Kong should not argue vigorously for such a position. This is the only solution that is truly in Hong Kong's interest.

Ms Wong also wrote that I chose to be "a lone petitioner at Xinhua offering her views on the formation of the Selection Committee, instead of joining the protest organised on the same day".

My submission was addressed to the Preparatory Committee, not to Xinhua (the New China News Agency). The Preparatory Committee was meeting that morning at Xinhua's offices to evaluate the public consultation meetings

held over the weekend of April 13 and 14. Regrettably, I was unable to attend the meetings despite my repeated requests for a meeting. As such, I wanted to ensure that the Preparatory Committee received my submission at the time when it was conducting a review. That, I managed to do.

I believe it is my public duty as an elected representative to make every effort to communicate with the Preparatory Committee. I will continue to ask for meetings and to make submissions.

Ms Wong says that I should be "realistic about the fact that the key to her party's survival does not only hinge on her enthusiasm". That goes without saying. My personal enthusiasm will not be enough.

What is needed is the enthusiasm and dedication of many more people. We must commit ourselves at this moment in Hong Kong's history to participating in the public decision-making process. We must take

on the responsibility of our promised autonomy.

I have committed myself to staying in politics in Hong Kong for the long term. I know this will not be easy because my views are not in accord with those of the current Chinese leadership, but I also feel strongly that this is no time to give up.

In thinking about forming a party, I hope to be able to galvanise a wider enthusiasm for Hong Kong's future among the many people I have met since becoming a legislator four years ago, who seem interested to take on a political role. I would like my party to be an issue-orientated party.

Hong Kong's future public life depends to a great extent on people from all walks of life seeing politics as a necessary process through which the territory's public policies are shaped. After all, those politics affect us all.

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Legislative Councillor

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