

Allen Lee explains wife's passport bid

LOUIS WON

Allen Lee Peng-fei said yesterday his wife had applied for a British National (Overseas) passport for convenience when travelling, not because she lacked confidence in the post-1997 documents.

Maria Choi Yuen-ha applied for naturalisation shortly before March's deadline, the Preparatory Committee member and Liberal Party leader said.

"We now do more travelling than before, now our children have grown up and a lot of our friends have emi-

grated overseas. And she just thinks it is not very convenient to apply for visas for many countries," he said.

Mr Lee said he did not plan to apply for a full British passport, even though he was offered one in 1984. He would continue to use his Certificate of Identity and would apply for a Special Administrative Region passport in 1997.

He said he hoped the SAR passport would not be worse in terms of convenience than the certificate, which is issued by the Hong Kong Government to residents who are not British subjects.