

NPP nominates political novices

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 25 February 2015 07:41 -



Hung Tzu-yung, second left, and Chthonic lead vocalist Freddy Lim, second right, formally announce their candidacies representing the New Power Party yesterday morning in Taipei.

Photo: Lin Cheng-kung, Taipei Times

The New Power Party (NPP) yesterday kept to its promise to bring fresh faces to next year's legislative elections by adding two more political newcomers to its list of candidates — Freddy Lim (林煥堃) and Hung Tzu-yung (洪慈庸).

Hung, 32, gained national recognition after the 2013 death of her brother — army corporal Hung Chung-chiu (洪仲丘) — triggered an avalanche of protests demanding better protection of human rights in the military, while Lim, 39, is the lead vocalist of heavy metal band Chthonic and former chair of Amnesty International's Taiwan chapter.

The duo announced their candidacy at a small breakfast store in Taipei yesterday morning to symbolize their belief that politics "should not be viewed as something distant and removed from our everyday lives."

"Ever since my brother's incident, we have been helped by many people who stood with us on our quest for fairness and justice," Hung Tzu-yung said, adding that as a political outsider, she initially struggled with her decision to enter politics.

"It is my hope that whenever we encounter difficulties, we will not bow to fate or give up easily," she added.

Hung Tzu-yung won praise for her leading role in the campaign following the death of her brother, in which she led more than 200,000 protesters in a march to demand more transparency in the military's investigative efforts.

Their decision pits Hung Tzu-yung against Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Yang Chiung-ying (楊昌穎) in Taichung's third electoral district — which includes the city's northern Tanzi (潭子), Daya (大雅), Shengang (伸港) and Houli (后里) districts, while Lim is set to challenge KMT Legislator Chiang Nai-hsin (蔣乃辛) in Taipei's Daan District (大安).

Despite Daan's reputation as a KMT stronghold, Lim said that his decision to run there came “naturally,” as he was born and raised in the area.

Amid an explosion of candidates from minor parties entering the race, Lim could find himself competing for votes with the Social Democratic Party's (SDP) Fan Yun (范雲), a professor of sociology at National Taiwan University, who is reportedly considering running in Daan.

The launch of two activist parties — the SDP and the NPP — was the result of a split in civic group Taiwan Citizen's Union, after its members encountered irreconcilable differences regarding its legislative nomination mechanism.

Academia Sinica researcher Huang Kuo-chang (黃國昌), who played a leading role in the Sunflower movement protests last year, said that he fully supported the NPP's cause of pursuing reform in the legislature.

Huang said the two latest NPP candidates showed courage, as they differed from many local candidates who received backing from local “political dynasties” or large business conglomerates.

According to a report by the Liberty Times (the Taipei Times' sister paper) last month, Hung Tzu-yung's uncle, Hu Shih-ho (胡世宏), is also considering running as an independent in New Taipei City's Sinjhuang District (新莊).

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Lim and Hung Tzu-yung's decision to enter the race followed on the heels of human rights lawyers Hu Po-yen (胡伯元) and Chiu Hsien-chih (邱顯朝) — both attorneys in the Hung Chung-chiu case — who announced their decision to run on the NPP ticket last week.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2015/02/25](#)