



TWO SESSIONS

NPC endorses State Council lineup

Talented, experienced officials also chosen as vice-premiers and for other roles, experts say

By **HU YONGQI** and **ZHANG YUE**

The 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature, decided on the new lineup of the State Council at the seventh plenary meeting of its first session on the morning of March 19.

Nearly 3,000 NPC deputies voted to endorse vice-premiers, State councilors, the secretary-general of the State Council, ministers, the governor of the central bank and the auditor-general, who were nominated by Premier Li Keqiang.

Among them, Han Zheng, Sun Chunlan, Hu Chunhua and Liu He were endorsed as vice-premiers, while Wei Fenghe, Wang Yong, Wang Yi, Xiao Jie and Zhao Kezhi were endorsed as State councilors.

They were officially appointed when President Xi Jinping signed a presidential decree.

Han, born in 1954, joined the Communist Party of China in 1979. He served as Shanghai's mayor for nine

years before becoming the municipality's Party secretary in 2012.

Sun was born in 1950 and joined the Party in 1973. She was head of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee from 2014 to 2017. Before that, she served as Party secretary in North China's Tianjin municipality and in East China's Fujian province.

Hu, born in 1963, joined the Party in 1983. He graduated from Peking University and worked for 19 years in Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. After that, he served as governor of the northern Hebei province, Party secretary of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, also in North China, and the Party secretary of South China's Guangdong province.

Liu, born in 1952, joined the Party in 1976. Liu graduated from Renmin University of China. He is also director of the General Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs.

The vice-premiers have diverse

academic backgrounds and political careers, said Li Junpeng, a public management professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance.

For example, Han has great experience in building pilot free trade zones, and Sun can help promote innovation and regional integration, Li Junpeng said.

Hu, after years working in Tibet and Guangdong, knows how to manage regions inhabited mostly by ethnic groups, build a world-class business environment and encourage public service, Li Junpeng said.

With strong expertise in financial and economic issues, Liu can help promote financial reforms and guard against systemic risks, he added.

The new vice-premiers have served in key posts, including Party secretaries in developed and less-developed regions, to accumulate experience in social and economic management, said Zhu Lijia, another public management professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance.

He said new vice-premiers will

help the State Council, China's Cabinet, in social and economic management with their well-structured academic backgrounds and insights into overall national development.

Peng Shou, an NPC deputy from East China's Anhui province, said he expects the new Cabinet members will bring thorough, concrete efforts to the restructuring of the State Council.

"I have been an NPC deputy for 10 years, and I think the State Council restructuring this year has been the most thorough," he said, adding that he has high hopes for the new Cabinet.

Zhu Ning, deputy director of the National Finance Research Institute of Tsinghua University, said he expects Vice-Premier Liu He to play an important role in financial regulation, especially in preventing and addressing financial risks.

"He is both an academic and an official, and was very well trained as an economist," said Zhu, who recently spoke to Liu and has known him

for years. "He has been very sensitive about financial risks and fluctuation. He has also done a lot of field research on finance."

Zhu said in the past year, the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs, where Liu serves as director of the General Office, has made tangible achievements in developing the real economy and promoting economic reform from the supply side against the backdrop of a changing world economy.

Zhu said Liu's working experience in the country's development planning commission may give him a better grasp of China's economic system and help him recommend proper steps in reform and economic upgrading.

Legislators also voted to approve the chairs, vice-chairs and members of eight special committees of the 13th NPC at the meeting.

All took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

PREMIER



Li Keqiang

Born in July 1955; member of Standing Committee of 19th CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, premier of State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members Group

VICE-PREMIERS



Han Zheng

Born in April 1954; member of Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee



Sun Chunlan

Born in May 1950; member of Political Bureau of 19th CPC Central Committee



Hu Chunhua

Born in April 1963; member of Political Bureau of 19th CPC Central Committee



Liu He

Born in January 1952; member of Political Bureau of 19th CPC Central Committee

STATE COUNCILORS



Wei Fenghe

Born in February 1954; member of Central Military Commission and Minister of National Defense



Wang Yong

Born in December 1955; member of 19th CPC Central Committee



Wang Yi

Born in October 1953; member of 19th CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs



Xiao Jie

Born in June 1957; member of 19th CPC Central Committee and Secretary-General of State Council



Zhao Kezhi

Born in December 1953; member of 19th CPC Central Committee and Minister of Public Security

Leaders of the 26 Ministerial-Level Central Government Agencies

Wang Yi, minister of foreign affairs

Wei Fenghe, minister of national defense

He Lifeng, head of the National Development and Reform Commission

Chen Baosheng, minister of education

Wang Zhigang, minister of science and technology

Miao Wei, minister of industry and information technology

Bater, head of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission

Zhao Kezhi, minister of public security

Chen Wenqing, minister of state security

Huang Shuxian, minister of civil affairs

Fu Zhenghua, minister of justice

Liu Kun, minister of finance

Zhang Jinan, minister of human resources and social security

Lu Hao, minister of natural resources

Li Ganjie, minister of ecological environment

Wang Menghui, minister of housing and urban-rural development

Li Xiaopeng, minister of transport

E Jingping, minister of water resources

Han Changfu, minister of agriculture and rural affairs

Zhong Shan, minister of commerce

Luo Shugang, minister of culture and tourism

Ma Xiaowei, head of the National Health Commission

Sun Shaocheng, minister of veterans affairs

Wang Yupu, minister of emergency management

Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China

Hu Zejun, auditor-general of the National Audit Office