

Agents to join anti-graft briefings

ANTI-GRAFT briefings are to be extended to candidates' agents, a senior Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) official said.

Programme co-ordinator for the ICAC's "support clean elections" campaign, Rosaline Cheung, said agents had an important role to play and should have a better understanding of anti-corruption laws.

"An election agent will make important decisions

during the election campaign," she said. According to the law, a candidate is responsible for all the acts of his agent and may also be liable for any offences relating to the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Ordinance.

The anti-graft body provided individual briefings to each candidate for the first time in last September's district board election.

A total of 740 candidates out of the total 757 took part.

An invitation will be sent to all candidates and agents when they register for the election.

The ICAC will have a 35-member team for the briefings.

Ms Cheung said there were no major changes in the contents of the briefings, but some complaints such as making false statements might be pinpointed because there had been many in the district board election.

The ICAC received 286 corruption reports during the September election.

Each candidate will also be given an "election diary" containing details of election anti-corruption regulations in the briefing.

The 2.45 million voters will also receive a leaflet urging them to support clean elections.

There were 38 corruption reports over the 1991 municipal council elections.