

A fine mixed blend of the old and new

22-9
 THE composition of the future Regional Council is similar to "old wine in a new bottle" in view of the mix of "old" members of the Provisional Regional Council with the newly-elected members of the Regco.

At least 22 of the 24 PRC members will retain their seats in the 36-member Regco.

They include seven appointed members and three ex-officio members of the Heung-Yee-Kuk who were nominated in April last year for a three-year term until 1988.

Seven district boards in the New Territories have also agreed that their representatives, currently at the PRC, may well be their first representatives to the Regco in March next year.

Only the Yuen Long, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi boards declared a preference for a fresh election before the establishment of the Regco.

The decisions were reached after heated discussions during district board meetings held during the past six months.

The issue for extended membership was highlighted when members of five NT district boards opposed a section of the Regional Council Bill, which passed into law in July last year.

The Bill stipulated that current representatives from district boards on the PRC would get an automatic extension of their tenure of office for two years at the Regco.

Members claimed the section contravened the legal spirit of the representative government.

An amendment was made before the ordinance became law, allowing district boards to decide whether a fresh election should be held.

Some board members in favour of a re-election said that it was necessary since the PRC and Regco were different from each other. Members of the Yuen Long district board discussed the amended bill during their August meeting.

During the meeting, there was disagreement over the extension of membership by several members, the reason being the differences between the Regco and the PRC.

A vote among members resulted in a call for a new election.

Similarly, the Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi board members agreed in their November meeting that another election should be held to give all board members a fair chance.

The Yuen Long, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi boards are expected to hold elections during their next meetings, to be held in early February and next Tuesday respectively.

But six district boards, including Tsuen Wan, Islands, North District, Tuen Mun, Sai Kung and Tai Po did not want a fresh election.

Members supported the "automatic" extension of membership of their representatives, regarding them as the ideal persons to hold the positions.

Some also said these members should stay to ensure continuity in their work.

The Shatin district board this time found themselves problem-free. Members agreed at the very beginning to grant their representative, Mr Wai Hon-leung, a term of three years in the PRC and the future Regco.

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H. K. Standford

Constituency	Possible candidates of Regco election			Rural Committee
	District board members	others		
Island	Wong Wai-kwan Yuen Chit-chi			Kwong Ping-yau
North	Tang Kwok-yung	Tik Chi-yuen Chan Lam-sang		
Sai Kung		Wong Chong-wah Wong Siu-sang		
Shatin East	Tony Kan Robert Chan Cheung Chi-yuen or Lam Hung-chiu	Chan Lo Ying-bing		
Shatin West	Choy Kan-pui Lau Kong-wah			
Tai Po	Cheung Hok-ming Michael Lai Yau Fook-ping			
Tsuen Wan	Yeung Fuk-kwong Albert Chan Cheung Chung-yan			
Tuen Mun East	So Shiu-shing			
Tuen Mun West	Ng Ming-yum Wong Kin-hong			
Yuen Long	Lee Kae-bun	Chan Yuen-wah Tang Yiu-cho Tang Tung-kwong Lee Wai-kwong Cheng Mui-tin		
Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi East	Lee Wing-tat Chow Sum			
Kwai Chung & Tsing Yi West		Wong Man-tai		Chan Tin-sung