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## All is not well in Islands constituency <sup>22-9</sup>

THE atmosphere of the Regional Council election campaigning in the Islands constituency is not as peaceful as it appears.

It is understood there has been dissatisfaction among the four candidates as two public forums organised for them had been postponed or cancelled because "not all of them could attend the events".

The organisers apparently have preferred to delay these forums until all candidates could attend, but some candidates preferred to go ahead.

They believe that such forums should be carried out as scheduled and candidates should decide whether or not they wish to attend.

It was learnt that the dissatisfaction stems from the fact that one candidate was too busy to attend forums as he has been fully engaged up till polling day.

A spokesman for the City and New Territories Administration said a public forum, which was initially scheduled for 2.30 this afternoon at Cheung Chau, was called off.

"We wanted to hold the forum on a Saturday afternoon since it would attract more residents. But a candidate informed us later that he could not attend. We decided we still wanted to hold the forum with all candidates present," the spokesman said.

It is understood that at a spring reception of the Islands District Office, three candidates agreed to change the Cheung Chau forum date to Tuesday afternoon, and the CNTA accepted the suggestion in principle.

But one candidate, Mr So Yiu-kwan, who was absent from the reception, complained he had not been consulted on the change.

"I think it would be a waste of resources and meaningless to arrange a forum at a time when most residents are away at work," Mr So said.