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## Bid for a higher turn-out

THE forthcoming Urban Council and Regional Council elections are set to cost the Government about \$5 million.

The Principal Executive Officer for Electoral Services, Mr Wan Yiu-sing, said the Government had set up a 10-member inter-departmental committee to map out tactics to lure voters to the polling booths.

The committee was made up of officials from the City and New Territories Administration, Information Services Department, Urban Services and Regional Services Departments as well as the Radio Television Hongkong.

About \$1 million of the Government budget of \$4.8 million will be spent on election publicity and the rest on putting up polling stations and other election expenses, Mr Wan said.

The elections will be held on March 9 when 1.6 million eligible people will be able to vote in the 15 Urbco and the 12 Regco constituencies.

But the turn-out for Urbco elections has traditionally been low. In 1986, the rate was only 23.2 percent compared with a 27 percent turn-out for Regco.

When a by-election was held for an Urbco seat in the Yau Tsim constituency in October this year, the turn-out was unexpectedly low with only six percent of voters casting their votes.

"The turn-out at the by-election earlier this year could not be taken as any reference for the forthcoming elections as it was confined to Yau Tsim only," Mr Wan said.

"As the elections draw closer, there will be publicity, television and radio programmes to remind people elections will be held in their areas," he said.

In particular, the Radio Television Hongkong will produce special programmes for the elections. The Government Information Services are also working on a publicity campaign, he said.

The City and New Territories Administration would organise a seminar in each of the constituencies for candidates to explain their platforms, Mr Wan added.

Special supplements will be published by the administration as well to introduce the elections, in addition to the polling materials to be mailed to electors.