

Appointed councillors head attendance list

By DOREEN CHEUNG

THE elected Urban Councillors have been lagging behind the Governor-appointedees in their attendance records on the 40-member municipal assembly.

The 15 appointed members scored an average attendance rate of 94.8 per cent from when the council's current session began three years ago until last month.

The tallies for Urbco's 10 district board representatives and 15 directly-elected members stood at 89.8 per cent and 86.8 per cent respectively.

The Shamshuipo District Board's nominee in Urbco, lawyer Mr Ambrose Cheung Wing-sum, was at the bottom of the list with a 63.8 per cent attendance rate.

He was unavailable for comment.

Others who fell below the 70 per cent mark include two directly-elected councillors, Mr Frederick Fung Kin-kee, and solicitor Mr Daniel Wong Kwok-tung.

Mr Wong, who is seeking a second term in Yau Tsim, said many Urbco meetings just dealt with routine matters and were a waste of time and resources.

He turned up at 126 of his 190 expected meetings. The number of expected meetings excludes those in which members have served a notification of absence.

"There are some overlaps in the committees' functions. The council should be streamlined to reduce its number of meetings," Mr Wong said.

Mr Fung, 38, on the other hand, attended 93 out of his 136 expected meetings.

He attributed this to his local involvement in support of the 1989 student movement in Beijing.

Mr Fung, a post-graduate

student at the Chinese University, said his examinations also prevented him from attending more meetings.

"Clashes may also arise from handling cases of public complaints. I attach priority to the residents' well being over attending meetings," he said, adding that his ward office had handled 660 cases from 1989 to 1991.

However, veteran councillor Mrs Elsie Tu, who runs the most popular ward office handling about 1,600 cases a year, has attended more meetings than she was supposed to.

An elected Urbco member since 1963 and also a legislator, Mrs Tu attended 146 meetings, 11 more than expected.

She said she had to attend a monthly average of 60 meetings, including her ward office session.

"There are only occasional clashes between the Legislative and Urban Council meetings. Most Urbco meetings begin at 8.30 am, they seldom clash with those in Legco, which normally start in the afternoon," the school supervisor said.

Seven other appointed members - chairman Mr Gerry Forsgate, vice-chairman Mr Stephen Lau Man-lung, Mr Tong Kam-biu, Mr Samuel Wong Ping-wai, Mr Lo King-man, Mr Paul Young Tze-kong and Mr Jason Yuen King-yuk - also attended extra meetings.

Mr Mok Ying-fan, who is seeking a second term in Wong Tai Sin South, admitted he did not attend the meetings between last January to March because of his district board election campaign.

He attended 114 of his 152 expected meetings, adding that it was not easy for councillors with dual memberships to fare well in both.

Urban Council attendance from June 1, 1988 to March 31, 1991

	Attendance			No. of committees joined
	Expected	Actual	%	
APPOINTED MEMBERS				
Gerry Forsgate	70	228	100.0+	2
Stephen Lau Man-lung	176	260	100.0+	12
Lo King-man	121	140	100.0+	4
Paul Young Tze-kong	269	284	100.0+	14
Tong Kam-biu	207	211	100.0+	11
Jason Yuen King-yuk	126	128	100.0+	6
Samuel Wong Ping-wai	131	132	100.0+	5
Ronald Leung Ding-bong	185	178	96.2	7
Victoria Chan Ying	151	143	94.7	6
Marvin Cheung Kin-tung	123	116	94.3	6
Ronnie Wong Man-chiu	176	163	92.6	7
Eleanor Ling Ching-man	149	135	90.6	9
Stan Cheung Tsang-kay	120	106	88.3	8
John Fan Kam-ping	246	214	87.0	13
Philip Kwok Chi-kuen	101	79	78.2	6
AVERAGE			94.8	
DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS				
Elsie Tu	146	157	100.0+	10
Peter Chan Chi-kwan	141	143	100.0+	8
Brook Bernacchi	147	146	99.3	6
Hilton Cheong-Leen	129	128	99.2	5
Man Sai-cheong	169	166	98.2	7
Chan Kwok-ming	132	125	94.7	6
Lam Chak-piu	168	158	94.0	7
Joseph Chan Yuek-sut	176	160	90.9	9
Cecilia Yeung Lai-yin	155	130	83.9	9
Pao Ping-wing	128	105	82.0	7
Ma Lee-wo	137	107	78.1	8
Mok Ying-fan	152	114	75.0	9
Chow Wai-keung	188	134	71.3	7
Frederick Fung Kin-kee	136	93	68.4	6
Daniel Wong Kwok-tung	190	126	66.3	8
AVERAGE			86.8	
INDIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS				
David Fong Pui-sheung	142	142	100.0	5
Stephen Ho Fei-chi	206	200	97.1	10
Arthur Cham Yau-tong	214	204	95.3	9
Christina Ting Yuk-chee	166	156	94.0	9
John Wu Man-keung	172	157	91.3	7
Albert Poon Shun-kwok	157	143	91.1	7
Dickson Pang Kam-fai	162	145	89.5	9
Fung Kwong-chung	168	150	89.3	6
Chan Tak-chor	151	130	86.1	10
Ambrose Cheung Wing-sum	149	95	63.8	6
AVERAGE			89.8	

A government spokesman said councillors who were absent for three consecutive meetings without a reason would be disqualified. So far, no-one has been expelled in this way.

The number of expected meetings for each councillor

can vary because there is no hard-and-fast rule on how many committees and working parties a councillor must join, she said.

Members are free to join the assembly's standing committee of the whole council, 11 select commit-

tees, and 18 sub-committees and working parties.

Meanwhile, the Urban and Regional Councils have printed 1.8 million copies of a leaflet outlining their work for electors in the May 5 elections to the two assemblies.