

J. C. W. P.

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(Appointed members dominate elections

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The election of representatives to the Provisional Regional Council continued to be dominated by appointed and ex-officio members as yet another appointed member was chosen.

Mr Lam Kin-ming was elected to represent the Kwai Chung/Tsing Yi District Board on the council, which will be officially established on May 1.

It was the fifth of the nine New Territories district boards to elect a council representative since the exercise started on April 1.

So far, Mr Tang Pui-tat of Taipo is the only elected member to win a seat on the council.

Mr Lam told reporters after his election that he would study the revenue of the council.

He said the council would be funded by the rates collected on properties in the New Territories.

"Since all village houses could be exempted from paying rates, I doubt that the revenue of the council can meet its expected huge spendings," he said.

He said he would submit proposals to the regional council and the Government on new sources of revenue which could help to balance the council's budget.

Besides Mr Lam and Mr Tang, the other council members so far elected by district boards are Mr Tang Nai-man of Yuen Long, Mr Fong Loi of Islands and Mr Cheung Kuen of North District.

The nine New Territories district boards will each send one representative to the council.

The other four seats will be decided within the next seven days. Shatin will choose its representative today, Tuen Mun and Sai Kung on Friday and Tsun Wan on April 22.

Although Tuen Mun will not elect a chairman or a council representative until Friday, the two winners have already been selected behind the scenes.

Ex-officio member, Mr Lau Wong-fat, was uncontested in the chairmanship race and appointed member, Mr Ho Sun-kuen, will represent the district on the council.