

A matter of who comes first 22-9

It is only a simple matter of precedence but, for the moment, the Provisional Regional Council seems to be slightly ahead of its counterpart, the Urban Council.

In two separate gazette notices yesterday, which announced the governor's appointments to the Council for Recreation and Sport and the Council for the Performing Arts, the representative of the Provisional Regional Council came before the representative of the Urban Council vice the Chairman of the Urban Council or his representative.

In the same announcements, however, the director of Urban Services or his representative came before the director of Regional Services or his representative.

A government spokesman said the order of names were been printed without taking into consideration the question of precedence.

And the official precedence list now

being used for protocol purposes is due to be revised and updated and will be ready early next month.

The chairman of the Provisional Regional Council is not on the present list since his appointment was only announced recently.

But, the spokesman added, the chairman of the PRC, Mr Cheung Yan-lung, is not likely to go on the precedence list in this capacity.

He is already on the list as a Legislative Councillor and, as such, placed ahead of the Chairman of the Urban Council, Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen (who is not a member of Legco).

Whether the chairman of the PRC will go on the precedence list in future will largely depend on who will assume that post.

The precedence list is based on the individual and his name only appears in his more senior capacity on government protocol.