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76 appointed to district boards

SEVENTY-SIX people, with similar backgrounds to those elected to the 10 urban district boards, have been appointed, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The newly-appointed members will take their places with members who were elected last month, along with Urban Council representatives and key government officials who will also sit on the boards.

The appointments are effective from October 1, 1982 to March 31, 1985.

While the average age of the appointees is the same as that of their elected counterparts - 44 years - they are also similar in background with just over 26 per cent coming from the business community, 15 per cent from the educational sector and 14 per cent from industry.

Additionally, there are 10 social workers, four doctors, three solicitors, two engineers and an estate surveyor as well as three factory workers, three housewives, two office workers, two student counsellors, a carpenter, a hawker and a retired man.

Of the new appointees, 49 are present board members while the new faces have been drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds and occupations, including those with experience in community and civic affairs.

A spokesman for the City and New Territories Administration said the appointments were made with the aim of producing balanced and effective boards which would command the confidence of the communities they served.

"The District Boards are now firmly established and the government is committed to acting on their advice wherever possible," the spokesman added.

At the same time, he announced that the final vacancy on the New Territories Boards had been filled with the appointment of Jonathan Gray to the Islands District Board, effective from November 1, 1982 until March 31, 1985.

Mr Gray has been in Hongkong for 30 years and has lived on Lamma Island since 1975.