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\$34m proposed across the boards

By FRANK CHOI

A sum of \$34.13 million has been proposed for the 18 district boards this fiscal year.

The figure shows a healthy growth of more than seven per cent on last year's allocation, despite the Government's move to cut down spending.

But the growth will be countered by the City and New Territories Administration's new move not to hold anything in reserve this year to avoid district boards over-committing themselves on too many projects.

This will ensure that the boards examine their own budgets carefully before making further commitments.

According to the Principal Assistant Secretary (General) of the CNTA, Mr C.M. Leung, the proposed sum is for district boards to carry out environmental improvement and community involvement projects this financial year.

Mr Leung said there would be no headquarters reserve this year in order to maximise, from the very start, the resources allocated to the boards.

The amount, if approved by the Legislative Council, would mean an increase of \$2.43 million, or 7.67 per cent, over last year's figure.

He said the increased amount would be shared between the 18 boards, making an average increase of three per cent for the eight NT boards and 15 per cent for the 10 urban boards.

"This will help urban boards expand their activities and bring them more into line with allocations for NT boards," he said.

Of the total, \$19.65 million will be allocated to the NT boards and \$14.48 million to the urban boards.



Mr Leung

"Although there is still disparity between urban and NT boards, it is hoped that the difference will be further reduced in the years to come," he said.

In the New Territories, Tsun Wan will get the biggest share of \$5.54 million, followed by Yuen Long with \$2.99 million, Shatin with \$2.59 million and Tuen Mun with \$2.49 million.

The Islands and North districts will get \$1.55 million each, while Taipo will have \$1.49 million and Sai Kung \$1.45 million.

In the urban areas, Kowloon City will get \$2.1 million and Wong Tai Sin \$2.08 million.

Eastern, Kowloon City and Shamshuipo will each get \$1.65 million, followed by Southern with \$1.35 million.

The remaining four districts — Central and Western, Wanchai, Mongkok and Yaumati — will each get \$1 million.

Mr Leung said the allocations were mainly determined

by the size of the population and the increased demand for activities and environmental improvements in the districts.

Referring to next year's district board elections, Mr Leung told the SCM Post there were a number of proposals submitted by individual district offices for the revision of constituency boundaries.

If all the proposals were accepted, the present 122 constituencies would be increased to 139.

He said the CNTA headquarters had to examine carefully the size of population, social and housing mix, sense of belonging and spread of community facilities before a decision is made.

The 17 proposed constituencies are Tsun Wan (1), Shatin (4), Tuen Mun (4), Taipo (2), Islands (2), Yuen Long (1), Yaumati (1), Mongkok (1) and Eastern (1).

Proposals for re-delineation of constituency boundaries were also submitted by five urban districts — Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kuen Tong, Wanchai and Southern.

Mr Leung said these proposals would be put forward to the Executive Council next month for a final decision to enable all possible changes to take place before the voters' registration period starts in August.

He told the SCM Post that an extra \$2 million would be allocated to all district offices to arrange campaigns for boosting registration.

Concerned Government departments — including the CNTA and Government Information Services — have already outlined a territory-wide promotion strategy and will soon launch a territory-wide publicity campaign to get more people to register as voters.