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Action planned on DB absentees

District board members who frequently miss board meetings without adequate reasons may lose their seats.

The Regional Secretary for the New Territories, Mr Adolf Hsu, said yesterday the administration is looking into the issue of low attendance rates at board meetings by some members.

He said the Government will consider revoking the terms of these members, whether they are elected or appointed, if they cannot justify their frequent absences.

Mr Hsu was speaking in response to a question from board member Mr Tsoi Yuk-wa at a Tsun Wan District Board meeting yesterday.

Frequent absentees face no disciplinary action at present.

Discussing the future regional council, Mr Hsu said the Government hopes to appoint one elected member from each of the nine New Territories districts.

The council will have 12 appointed members, and Mr Hsu said it is also hoped

some members will be appointed from functional constituencies in the New Territories.

"We have not yet decided who should be appointed," he said.

"But we think the most important thing is to appoint people who are interested in serving the community."

Several district board members suggested the provision for more elected members in the planned regional council.

Mr Chan Po-fong said that, in line with the goal of Hongkong people ruling Hongkong after 1997, the number of appointed members on the regional council should be gradually reduced.

"Eventually all members of the regional council should be elected," he said.

Mr Chan's view was echoed by Mr Ho Tung-ching, who said the work and composition of the regional council should be reviewed by the Government in 1988.

On current Government planning, the full regional council to be set up in 1986 will have 36 members.

These will include 12 ap-



pointed members, nine members elected from the nine New Territories district boards, three senior Heung Yee Kuk officials and 12 members elected from constituencies.

Mr Ho suggested future unofficial district board chairmen should become ex-officio members of the regional council.

But Mr Ngai Yau-ki disagreed, saying this might overload the chairmen.

Board members were also split on their views as to whether district board members should be allowed to participate in regional council elections.

Some said it would be unfair to bar district board members from serving on other consultative bodies.

Others, however, argued that confusion would result if board members enter regional council election.

They said it would not be desirable for the administration to hold by-elections to fill vacancies left by board members who are elected to the council.

Current Government thinking is that district board members should give up their seats if they want to be directly elected from constituencies to the regional council.