

Scmp 9 MARCH 85

16 graft complaints probed

The Independent Commission Against Corruption is investigating a total of 16 cases of alleged corruption in the district board elections.

It has received at least 41 complaints — 28 are of alleged corruption, but only 16 are "pursuable".

An ICAC spokeswoman said that seven of the "non-pursuable" cases had been referred back to the City and New Territories Administration.

Of the 13 "non-corruption" cases, eight had also been referred to the CNTA.

The CNTA will also look into complaints about the listing of honorifics for election candidates on voting slips.

There had been criticism that a description such as "the Honourable" for a Legislative Councillor standing for re-election gave him an unfair advantage.

The Secretary for District Administration,

Mr Donald Liao, has said that the matter would be looked into.

He said the Government would also consider suggestions that there should be an English version of candidates' platforms so that their election messages could reach non-Chinese speaking voters.

Meanwhile, all candidates and their polling agents have been given a week to clear up their campaign posters and banners.

A spokesman for the (City) Urban Services Department (Cleansing), said that no extra manpower would be used for this job. They were relying on the candidates' sense of public duty and self-discipline.

Mr Liao has said no serious complaints about disturbances at yesterday's polling had been received.

He said minor complaints had been dealt with on the spot by the presiding officers at the polling stations concerned.