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A bigger DB say in Legco this year

DISTRICT Board members may be nominated to the Executive Council (Exco) next year, while more board members are expected to enter the Legislative Council (Legco) this August, it was learned yesterday.

A source told The Standard yesterday that the appointment of district board members to Exco, possibly in 1985, would depend on "developments" then.

"The government certainly will not consider nominating district board members to Exco in 1984," the source said, adding that more district board members would be nominated to Legco in August when the terms of 11 existing unofficial members expire.

"It is hoped this move will help promote district board elections," the source said.

The colony-wide district board election will be held in 1985.

The appointment of more board members to Legco, the source said, will encourage more people to stand for elections, to register as voters and to cast their votes.

The move, the source said, will also be a step towards the colony's "democratisation."

The source said it was too early to estimate how many board members would be nominated to Legco in August.

It is not yet known how many will be reappointed from among the 11 Legco members whose terms are due to expire.

Three district board members were nominated to Legco last year.

They are Miss Maria Tam, who is also an Exco member, Mr Chan Ying-lun and Mrs Pauline Ng.

The source said that in the coming appointments, the government will also consider district board members from the New Territories.

There has been a feeling that the "quality" of New Territories board members was lower than that of their counterparts in the urban areas.

The source said that with the development of district administration, New Territories board members will also be considered for nomination as Legco members.

"In view of the fact that more young intellectuals and overseas graduates are standing for district board elections, the quality of board members has risen substantially," the source said.

A government spokesman said yesterday that the terms of the 11 unofficials will expire on August 31.

The 11 are Mr Francis Tien, Mr Alex Wu, Mr Peter Wong, Mr Wong Lam, Mr Charles Yeung, Mr Ho Kam-fai, Mr Allen Lee, Mr Andrew So, Mr Hu Fa-kuang, Mr Wong Po-yan and Mr John Swain.

The spokesman said the governor would be writing to them in the latter part of August.