## <u>Government welcomes the implementation</u> of Hainan's 144-hour visa-free policy for foreign tour groups from Hong Kong and Macao

The Government today (July 30) welcomes the announcement issued by the National Immigration Administration regarding the implementation of Hainan's 144-hour visa-free stay policy for foreign tour groups from Hong Kong and Macao with effect from July 30, 2024. The implementation of the policy will further promote the integration of the tourism markets of the two places and inject new vitality into the tourism co-operation between Hong Kong and Hainan.

According to the announcement, citizens of countries that have established diplomatic relations with China and holding ordinary passports could travel to Hainan visa-free and stay for not more than 144 hours (for those with mutual visa exemption agreements signed with China or other visa exemption policies of the Chinese Government may follow the relevant requirements) if they enter as a tour group (with at least two people) organised by a travel agent registered in Hong Kong or Macao. The entry ports include all those established by our country in Hainan province that are open externally. The tour groups must enter and exit collectively, and their activities are limited to the administrative area of Hainan province. The stay time starts from the day following their entry.

The Government will communicate and co-ordinate with the relevant authorities of Hainan to ensure the smooth implementation of the policy.