<u>Public transport operators to enhance</u> <u>services for DSE commencing on Friday</u>

The Transport Department (TD) said today (April 22) that in order to meet the travelling needs of candidates sitting for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (DSE), which will start from April 24 (Friday), to examination centres within the same districts or in the vicinity, public transport operators will resume and strengthen public transport services, especially those in school areas during DSE period.

At the request of the TD, KMB will resume 18 bus routes serving school areas that were previously suspended. KMB will also resume the original service frequency of 53 major bus routes that serve the schools in the districts, and will strengthen the services as appropriate to meet the passenger demand. Citybus and New World First Bus will strengthen services of nine routes throughout the DSE period, and partially resume services of 13 routes on seven examination dates (April 24, 27 to 29, May 2 and 4 to 5).

New Lantao Bus will resume some departures of three routes and strengthen services of two local routes in Tung Chung on 14 examination dates (April 24, 25, 27, 28, May 2, 4, 7, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 25).

Service details of the above were set out in the Annex.

For MTR, heavy rail services (except the Airport Express and Disneyland Resort Line) will be gradually enhanced starting from 6.15am to 6.30am during DSE period. It is expected that around 30 extra trips could be arranged during the morning peak period per day. For Light Rail and MTR buses, services serving school areas will also be strengthened.

For green minibuses, the TD has reminded the relevant operators to closely monitor the transport demand and strengthen service as appropriate throughout the DSE period, in particular at the time when candidates leave homes for the examination centres in the morning.

The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre (ETCC) will closely monitor the traffic situation and public transport services and maintain close liaison with major public transport operators and relevant government departments. ETCC will co-ordinate with the operators to adjust frequency flexibly and strengthen services when necessary.

The TD appeals to all candidates to familiarise themselves with the public transport routes to be taken to examination centres in advance and allow sufficient travelling time.