

SES sends condolences to accident victims

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Secretary for Economic Services (SES), Ms Sandra Lee today (February 15) expressed concern about the two serious tour accidents in the Mainland during the Chinese New Year period involving Hong Kong travellers. She sent condolences to victims and family members.

The Immigration Department has set up a hot-line 2829 3010 to assist the family members of the affected travellers and will facilitate the return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Beijing Office will send officers to Guangxi to assist those affected and their families. For the accident which occurred on February 12, all the injured have returned to Hong Kong except four who are still receiving treatment in the Mainland. For the accident which occurred on February 14, the injured will return to Hong Kong as soon as possible and Government will give them every assistance to do so.

SES stressed that the Tourism Commission will continue to work with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to improve the safety measures within the trade. In addition, the Government will liaise with the concerned authorities in the Mainland to explore further safety measures to protect travellers.

Early this month, the Commissioner for Tourism met the Guangdong Provincial Tourism Administration to discuss matters related to the arrangements for the Chinese New Year including the safety of travellers. Mainland authorities took our views seriously and indicated that they would work with local authorities to improve safety.

"We will continue to work with Mainland authorities further to improve safety of travellers in the Mainland," SES said.

End/Friday, February 15, 2002

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