

## **Press Release**

### **Government committed to preserve the Central Police Station**

In response to recent comments on the proposed heritage tourism development at Central Police Station, the Government today reiterated its commitment to ensure that the preservation of the historic buildings on the Central Police Station Compound will be well preserved as it takes forward this project.

A Government spokesman said, “During the consultation on the tendering arrangements, the key concerns raised by the community were: preservation requirements, traffic and environmental considerations, public access to the site and local involvement in monitoring the project. All these concerns have been fully taken into account in finalizing the implementation arrangements.”

The spokesman stressed that the Antiquities Advisory Board has been fully consulted on the preservation requirements and their advice has been included in the draft tender documents. All the 17 buildings with historical value will be preserved. Only a few without historical value (in particular, late additions constructed since 1950s, the design and construction of which is incongruous with the other historical buildings) would not be covered by the mandatory preservation requirements.

“Preserving the historical buildings has always been Government’s primary objective,” the spokesman added.

Responding to comments that financial gain is over-emphasized and may outweigh the benefits of the project to the community, the spokesman stressed that in assessing the tender proposals, the majority of the assessment criteria will focus on the qualitative aspects of the proposals, including heritage conservation; environmental & traffic considerations; and economic & tourism benefits. He explained that the weighting given to the premium will only become an issue once proposals have been determined to conform to the mandatory heritage preservation requirements, and achieved the necessary pass in respect of

the heritage conservation aspect.

The spokesman pointed out that the Government has widely consulted the public including the Legislative Council and the Central and Western District Council on the implementation framework, including the assessment criteria, for the project. A workshop was held in March 2004 to gather views from the public on the project.

“We will continue to listen to views from interested parties in the project,” he said.

End

**Tourism Commission**  
**Economic Development and Labour Bureau**  
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