

I look forward to attending the meeting on 21 September. I want to state my views bluntly.

Confirmation of plans to extend Route 7 will be a setback to the credibility of this government. It would be taking the wrong decision for the people of Hong Kong and will be perceived by the public to be doing so for dishonourable reasons.

The Wrong Decision

1. Population centres should be linked to the urban transport network by rail to avoid congestion in the urban areas.
2. Air pollution and noise will seriously harm Hong Kong as a pleasant place to live and visit and will reduce property values.
3. Rail solutions have been demonstrated to be more economic. It is the better financial solution.

Public Perception

1. To stop phase one at Pokfulam to serve just the new Cyberport will compound the public's perception that this government plays to the tune of Li Ka Shing. Is it not blindingly obvious that for one family to be seen to have so much influence in a city is bad for the so called level playing field and enterprise in Hong Kong?
2. Rail competes with buses, and bus companies are owned by the Hong Kong establishment.
3. Once the road is extended, rail will be for ever excluded, and the policy of 'Rail before Road' will be seen as just words.

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