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## **\$10 departure tax likely next month**

Travellers are likely to face a \$10 departure tax at the Shumchun border by the middle of next month.

Mr Gordon Wu, managing director of Hopewell Holdings Ltd, said yesterday the tax is intended to cover the building costs of the new high-rise customs complex.

The complex, scheduled to be partially open by June 14, is a joint project between the Shumchun authorities and his company.

Hopewell holdings has about a 10 per cent stake in the total investment, he said.

Phase one development costs amounted to about HK\$170 million. Later developments that will include a road network and a multi-storey hotel will cost more than HK\$500 million, Mr Wu said.

Shumchun officials have refused to comment on the issue. Earlier reports said even if the departure tax is approved, it won't take effect until the new complex has been in use for a while.