

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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Memorandum Note

On 1 December 1993 the Legislative Council established the Disaster Relief Fund by Resolution to provide a ready mechanism for Hong Kong to respond swiftly to international appeals for humanitarian aid in relief of disasters that occur outside Hong Kong. The Resolution provides that—

- (a) the Financial Secretary is the administrator of the Fund and he may delegate his power of administration to other public officers;
- (b) a Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Chief Executive to advise the Financial Secretary on disbursements from the Fund;
- (c) the Financial Secretary shall make a single grant of cash for each purpose advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (d) the Financial Secretary shall obtain the consent of the Finance Committee for a grant in excess of \$8 million;
- (e) the Finance Committee may amend the limit for which the Financial Secretary is required to obtain their consent;
- (f) the Financial Secretary shall credit to the Fund—
 - (i) appropriations from the general revenue approved by the Legislative Council for the purpose of the Fund;
 - (ii) donations received for the purpose of the Fund; and
 - (iii) other sums received for the purpose of the Fund including all moneys received as interest or dividends earned on moneys invested for the Fund;
- (g) the Financial Secretary may expend moneys from the Fund for the purpose of disaster relief as may be advised by the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee;
- (h) the Director of Accounting Services shall, under the authority of a funds warrant issued by the Financial Secretary, pay from the Fund such sums as may be required to meet expenditure from the Fund;
- (i) the Financial Secretary in his discretion may authorise the investment in the manner he may determine of any unexpended balance held in the Fund at any time; and
- (j) the Financial Secretary shall not transfer any moneys from the Fund to the general revenue.

2 On 10 December 1993, the Finance Committee approved an appropriation of \$50 million for the establishment of the Fund.

3 As at 31 March 2004, grants totalling \$294,640,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 31 January 2005, 20 grants totalling \$36,319,306 have been made in 2004–05. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2004–05 and 2005–06 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2004–05 and 2005–06 are estimated at \$21,955,000 and \$30,128,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

| Sub-head (Code) | Actual expenditure 2003-04 | Revised estimate 2004-05 | Estimate 2005-06 |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Head 800—Disaster Relief | | | |
| 140 | Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | 1,500 | — |
| 141 | Relief programme for earthquake victims in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited..... | 504 | — |
| 142 | Relief programme for flood victims in Sri Lanka—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | 1,000 | — |
| 143 | Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui and Jiangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | 3,000 | — |
| 144 | Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui, Guangxi, Hunan and Guizhou Provinces, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross | 5,000 | — |
| 145 | Relief programme for earthquake victims in Iran—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross | 2,000 | — |
| 146 | Relief programme for earthquake victims in Iran—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | 2,000 | — |
| 147 | Relief programme for earthquake victims in Iran—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited | 500 | — |
| 148 | Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | — | 1,000 |
| 149 | Relief programme for flood victims in Henan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong..... | — | 2,000 |
| 150 | Relief programme for flood victims in Yunnan and Hunan Provinces, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong..... | — | 790 |
| 151 | Relief programme for flood victims in Henan, Yunnan, Hunan and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross | — | 3,000 |
| 152 | Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong..... | — | 960 |
| 153 | Relief programme for displaced populations in North Darfur, Sudan—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres | — | 1,000 |
| 154 | Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited..... | — | 800 |
| 155 | Relief programme for drought victims in Kenya—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | — | 1,000 |
| 156 | Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong | — | 3,500 |
| 157 | Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong | — | 3,500 |
| 158 | Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong..... | — | 3,500 |
| 159 | Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Sri Lanka—grant to World Vision Hong Kong..... | — | 3,500 |
| 160 | Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross..... | — | 3,500 |

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

| Sub-head (Code) | Actual expenditure 2003-04 | Revised estimate 2004-05 | Estimate 2005-06 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd. | | | |
| 161 | | | |
| Relief programme for tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia | — | 721 | — |
| 162 | | | |
| Relief programme for earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong | — | 3,500 | — |
| 163 | | | |
| Relief programme for tsunami victims in the Republic of Maldives—grant to the Government of the Republic of Maldives | — | 1,000 | — |
| 164 | | | |
| Relief programme for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka—grant to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka | — | 1,000 | — |
| 165 | | | |
| Relief programme for tsunami victims in Thailand—grant to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand..... | — | 48 | — |
| 166 | | | |
| Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to Hong Kong Red Cross..... | — | 500 | — |
| 167 | | | |
| Relief programme for typhoon victims in the Philippines— grant to The Salvation Army | — | 1,500 | — |
| | <u>15,504</u> | <u>36,319</u> | <u>—</u> |
| <i>Head 800: total</i> | | | |
| | <u>15,504</u> | <u>36,319</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Total (Payments) | <u><u>15,504</u></u> | <u><u>36,319</u></u> | <u><u>—</u></u> |

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

| | Revised estimate 2004-05 | Estimate 2005-06 |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <u>\$'000</u> | <u>\$'000</u> |
| Investment income | 1,905 | 1,728 |
| Refund of grants | 50 | — |
| Transfer from General Revenue | 20,000 | 28,400 |
| Total (Receipts) | <u>21,955</u> | <u>30,128</u> |

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

| | Actual | | | | Revised Estimate | Estimate |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| OPENING BALANCE | 22 | 11 | 29 | 32 | 34 | 20 |
| Expenditure | 43 | 8 | 18 | 16 | 36 | — |
| Revenue | 3 | — | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA | (40) | (8) | (16) | (12) | (34) | 2 |
| Transfer from GRA | 29 | 26 | 19 | 14 | 20 | 28 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA | (11) | 18 | 3 | 2 | (14) | 30 |
| CLOSING BALANCE | 11 | 29 | 32 | 34 | 20 | 50 |

Expenditure Analysis

| | Actual | | | | Revised Estimate | Estimate |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Payments | 43 | 8 | 18 | 16 | 36 | — |
| Total Expenditure | 43 | 8 | 18 | 16 | 36 | — |

Note: The payment figure for 2004-05 reflects grants approved as at 31 January 2005. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2004-05 and 2005-06 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Revenue Analysis

| | Actual | | | | Revised Estimate | Estimate |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Investment income | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Refund of grants | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Total Revenue | 3 | — | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |