

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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 1999, grants totalling \$177,045,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 Grants totalling \$24,950,000 have been made so far in 1999–2000. The contingency nature of the Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. No estimate of payment is made after 10 December 1999 and for 2000–01 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

5 Receipts for 1999–2000 and 2000–01 are estimated at \$34,600,000 and \$21,196,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1998-99	Revised estimate 1999-2000	Estimate 2000-01
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
052	Relief programme for people suffering from starvation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—grant to Cedar Fund Limited	1,000	—
053	Relief programme for drought victims in Mindanao, the Philippines—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	350	—
054	Relief programme for people suffering from a cholera epidemic in Mozambique—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong	500	—
056	Relief programme for displaced people in Sudan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	500	—
057	Relief programme for flood victims in Jiangxi and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	3,000	—
058	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to Salvation Army	3,000	—
059	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan, Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces, Mainland—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong	5,390	—
060	Relief programme for flood victims in Jiangxi, Hunan and Hubei Provinces, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	3,000	—
061	Relief programme for flood victims in Hubei and Jiangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	4,000	—
062	Relief programme for flood victims in Hubei, Hunan, Anhui, Heilongjiang, Jilin Provinces and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund	3,000	—
063	Relief programme for flood victims in Shaanxi, Guangxi and Yunnan Provinces, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong ...	1,000	—
064	Relief programme for flood victims in Hubei Province, Mainland—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong ...	1,630	—
065	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	510	—
066	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan and Heilongjiang Provinces, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	500	—
067	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	1,500	—
068	Relief programme for people suffering from starvation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,000	—
069	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	1,500	—
070	Relief programme for hurricane victims in Nicaragua—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong	2,000	—
071	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces, Mainland—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong ...	2,000	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1998-99	Revised estimate 1999-2000	Estimate 2000-01				
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000				
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.							
072	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,230	—				
073	Relief programme for hurricane victims in Nicaragua and Guatemala—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong	460	—				
074	Relief programme for flood victims in Jiangxi and Anhui Provinces, Mainland— grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	500				
075	Relief programme for flood victims in Hubei Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,000				
076	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Turkey—grant to Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund ..	—	2,500				
077	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Turkey—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	1,800				
078	Relief programme for typhoon and flood victims in the Philippines—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong .	—	1,210				
079	Relief programme for flash flood victims in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Mainland—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong	—	890				
080	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Taiwan—grant to Salvation Army.....	—	2,500				
081	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Taiwan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	3,120				
082	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Taiwan—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	1,000				
083	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Taiwan—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	2,000				
084	Relief programme for East Timor refugees—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	1,000				
085	Relief programme for flood victims in Anhui Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,500				
086	Relief programme for refugees within East Timor and in West Timor—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong	—	900				
087	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	530				
088	Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	1,500				
089	Relief programme for flood victims in Vietnam—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	1,000				
	<i>Head 800: total</i>	38,070	24,950				
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Total (Payments)</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 3px double black;">38,070</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 3px double black;">24,950</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 3px double black;">—</td> </tr> </table>				Total (Payments)	38,070	24,950	—
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DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Revised estimate 1999–2000	Estimate 2000–01
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Investment income	3,600	2,196
Transfer from General Revenue	31,000	19,000
Total (Receipts)	<u>34,600</u>	<u>21,196</u>

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
OPENING BALANCE	20	8	19	10	19	29
Expenditure	49	20	38	38	25	—
Revenue	2	1	2	3	4	2
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(47)	(19)	(36)	(35)	(21)	2
Transfer from GRA	35	30	27	44	31	19
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	(12)	11	(9)	9	10	21
CLOSING BALANCE	8	19	10	19	29	50

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	49	20	38	38	25	—
Total Expenditure	49	20	38	38	25	—

Note: The contingency nature of the Disaster Relief Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. The payment figure for 1999-2000 represents grants actually made. No estimate of payment is made after 10 December 1999 and for 2000-01 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment income	2	1	2	3	4	2
Total Revenue	2	1	2	3	4	2