

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 2000, grants totalling \$208,665,000 had been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 Grants totalling \$21,230,000 have been made so far in 2000–01. The contingency nature of the Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. No estimate of payment is made after 15 December 2000 and for 2001–02 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

5 Receipts for 2000–01 and 2001–02 are estimated at \$21,518,000 and \$28,000,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1999–2000	Revised estimate 2000–01	Estimate 2001–02
	\$' 000	\$' 000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
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	—
090	Relief programme for cyclone victims in India—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	500	—
091	Relief programme for flood victims in Vietnam—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	500	—
092	Relief programme for flood victims in Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam—grant to Medecins Sans Frontieres Hong Kong.....	350	—
093	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	1,500	—
094	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Jian Hua Foundation Limited	500	—
095	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Yunnan Province, Mainland—grant to Salvation Army	820	—

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1999-2000	Revised estimate 2000-01	Estimate 2001-02				
	\$' 000	\$' 000	\$'000				
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont' d.							
096	Relief programme for flood victims in Mozambique—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	2,500	—				
097	Relief programme for flood victims in Mozambique and nearby regions—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross.....	—	750				
098	Relief programme for flood victims in Mozambique—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	1,200				
099	Relief programme for snowstorm victims in Mongolia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	1,000				
100	Relief programme for famine victims in Ethiopia—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,780				
101	Relief programme for famine victims in Ethiopia—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	2,000				
102	Relief programme for drought victims in India—grant to Oxfam Hong Kong.....	—	1,000				
103	Relief programme for drought victims in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti)—grant to Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children' s Fund ..	—	3,000				
104	Relief programme for flood victims in Shaanxi Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,360				
105	Relief programme for flood victims in Henan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,500				
106	Relief programme for flood victims in Henan and Guangxi Provinces, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited.....	—	1,300				
107	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	1,840				
108	Relief programme for flood victims in India—grant to Cedar Fund	—	1,000				
109	Relief programme for flood victims in Bangladesh—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	—	2,000				
110	Relief programme for flood victims in Hainan Province, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	500				
	<i>Head 800: total</i>	31,620	21,230				
<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;">31,620</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 3px double black;">21,230</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 3px double black;">—</td> </tr> </table>				Total (Payments)	31,620	21,230	—
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DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Revised estimate 2000-01	Estimate 2001-02
	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	1,000	2,000
Refund of grants	1,518	—
Transfer from General Revenue	19,000	26,000
Total (Receipts)	21,518	28,000

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
OPENING BALANCE	8	19	10	19	22	22
Expenditure	20	38	38	32	21	—
Revenue	1	2	3	4	2	2
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(19)	(36)	(35)	(28)	(19)	2
Transfer from GRA	30	27	44	31	19	26
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	11	(9)	9	3	0	28
CLOSING BALANCE	19	10	19	22	22	50

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	20	38	38	32	21	—
Total Expenditure	20	38	38	32	21	—

Note: The contingency nature of the Disaster Relief Fund will mean variable calls on the Fund. The payment figure for 2000 represents grants actually made. No estimate of payment is made after 15 December 2000 and for 2001-02 as there is no predictable pattern to disasters.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment income	1	2	3	4	1	2
Refund of grants	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total Revenue	1	2	3	4	2	2