

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 2005, grants totalling about \$331,959,000 have been made from the Fund since its establishment.

4 As at 16 December 2005, seven grants totalling \$15,480,000 have been made in 2005–06. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2005–06 and 2006–07 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.

5 Receipts for 2005–06 and 2006–07 are estimated at \$29,167,000 and \$17,919,000 respectively.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2004-05	Revised estimate 2005-06	Estimate 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief			
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	—
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	—
168	Relief programme for tsunami victims in India—grant to Cedar Fund.....	500	—

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(Payments)

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2004-05	Revised estimate 2005-06	Estimate 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Head 800—Disaster Relief—Cont'd.			
170	Relief programme for tsunami victims in Indonesia—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	500	—
171	Relief programme for flood victims in Hunan and Guizhou Provinces, Mainland—grant to The Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited	—	1,000
172	Relief programme for flood victims in Sichuan Province, Mainland—grant to World Vision Hong Kong	—	2,000
173	Relief programme for flood victims in Chongqing, Guangxi, Guizhou and Xinjiang, Mainland—grant to Hong Kong Red Cross	—	5,000
174	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Pakistan—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	3,500
175	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Pakistan—grant to Mercy Corps Limited	—	1,500
176	Relief programme for earthquake victims in Pakistan—grant to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	—	980
177	Relief programme for earthquake victims in India—grant to World Vision Hong Kong.....	—	1,500
	<i>Head 800: total</i>	37,319	15,480
Total (Payments)		37,319	15,480

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(Receipts)

	Revised estimate 2005-06	Estimate 2006-07
	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income	674	1,519
Refund of grants	93	—
Transfer from General Revenue	28,400	16,400
Total (Receipts)	<u>29,167</u>	<u>17,919</u>

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Movement of the Account

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Opening Balance	11	29	32	34	18	32
Revenue	—	2	4	2	1	2
Expenditure	8	18	16	38	15	—
Surplus/(Deficit) before Transfer from GRA	(8)	(16)	(12)	(36)	(14)	2
Transfer from GRA	26	19	14	20	28	16
Surplus/(Deficit) after Transfer from GRA	18	3	2	(16)	14	18
Closing Balance	29	32	34	18	32	50

Revenue Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Investment Income	—	2	3	2	1	2
Refund of Grants	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total Revenue	—	2	4	2	1	2

Expenditure Analysis

	Actual				Revised Estimate	Estimate
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Payments	8	18	16	38	15	—
Total Expenditure	8	18	16	38	15	—

Note: The payment figure for 2005-06 reflects grants approved as at 16 December 2005. No estimate of payment is made for the remaining part of 2005-06 and 2006-07 as calls on the Fund in relief of disasters cannot be predicted.