

Flood control and prevention strategy and measures

The Administration has formed a Task Force to review the flood prevention programme and look at ways to ensure progress of flood prevention projects and to alleviate the flooding problems in the interim. The Task Force met on 13 June and 29 June 2001. At the meeting, the following issues were raised -

- (a) The Task Force asked the Drainage Services Department (DSD) to submit an independent investigation report to reveal the cause of flooding and see whether the construction works had aggravated the flooding.
- (b) The Task Force also asked the DSD and the Territory Development Department (TDD) to look into the possibility of speeding up the critical sections of the flood prevention projects currently under construction to provide early relief to the flooding problems in the Northern New Territories.
- (c) The Task Force appreciated the joint efforts by the relevant government departments in providing emergency relief assistance to help affected villages overcome their immediate difficulties.
- (d) The Task Force also noted that the DSD and the TDD had stepped up supervision on their project sites to ensure smooth flow of river courses. The construction site 24-hour emergency hotlines had also been strengthened. Contractors had also been instructed to provide labour and plant resources on stand-by outside working hours during inclement weather.

The Administration expects that the investigation will be completed in two months. The report will be made public and submitted to the Panel once available. The Administration is also in the process of gathering relevant information requested by the Panel. Members will be informed in due course.