

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Sixth Round of Anti-Epidemic Fund
Non-accountable Subsidy for Local Pleasure Vessels
Let for Holding Social Gatherings**

Purpose

Members are invited to note this paper which sets out details about the Government's provision of an additional one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$40,000 for local pleasure vessels let for holding social gatherings under the sixth round of the Anti-Epidemic Fund (AEF 6.0).

Background

2. In view of the continuous development of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government will disburse further subsidies to party boats under AEF 6.0. Each eligible local pleasure vessel let for hire or reward (pleasure vessels let for hire) will be given a one-off non-accountable subsidy of \$40,000. Details are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Vessels Eligible for the Subsidy

3. Pleasure vessels let for hire or reward that had continuously suspended operations since 7th January 2022 pursuant to the closure order under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), and that had been granted subsidy under the fifth round of Anti-Epidemic Fund (AEF 5.0) will be eligible for the new subsidy. To this effect, the current subsidy will be granted to vessels meeting the following criterion:

- A pleasure vessel let for hire or reward that was granted the subsidy under AEF 5.0 ;
- Holding a valid Certificate of Survey or certificate of inspection and a valid operating licence endorsed to be let for hire or reward on

- 14 February 2022; and
- Have ceased operation since 7th January 2022.

Form of Subsidy Provision

4. **Shipowners are not required to submit applications** for the above non-accountable subsidy. If necessary, the Marine Department (“MD”) will ask shipowners to provide further information in accordance with their circumstances to verify their vessel’s eligibility for the subsidy concerned. MD will start notifying eligible shipowners in writing from end of February 2022, and will request verification of information from them at the same time including the name and address of the payee (including the shipowner or his/her authorized representative). Upon receipt of confirmation of the payees’ particulars from the shipowners concerned, MD will grant each of these shipowners (or the shipowner’s authorized representative) the non-accountable subsidy in the form of a crossed cheque by post.

5. As to the eligibility of local pleasure vessels for the subsidy concerned, the MD’s decision shall be final.

Marine Department
25 February 2022