

HKRMA's Recommendations on the Government's Relief Measures
Announced since August 2019

The Financial Secretary announced four rounds of relief measures in August, September, October and December 2019 respectively.

<u>Government Measures</u>	<u>HKRMA Suggestions</u>
1. Rent Concession on Government's Properties	
<p>50% rent concession for public market stalls, catering and retail stores leased by the Government for 6 months starting from October 2019.</p> <p>[1st Round]</p>	<p>To provide 100% rental concession for all retail and catering stores leased by the Government for 12 months starting from January 2020.</p>
2. Government Fees	
<p><u>BR & 27 Groups of Fees</u></p> <p>Waive business registration fee (BR), as well as 27 groups of government fees and charges for 12 months to benefit a wide range of sectors from maritime, logistics, retail, catering, tourism, construction, to agriculture and fisheries.</p> <p>[1st Round]</p>	<p>To continue waiving BR fee and these 27 groups of government fees and charges.</p>
3. Government Rates	
<p>Provide a rates concession in the fourth quarter of 2019-20 (i.e. January 1 to March 31, 2020) to all non-domestic properties with an ceiling of \$5,000 for that quarter.</p> <p>[4th Round]</p>	<p>To waive 100% of the Government rates for all non-domestic properties in the next financial year i.e. 2020/2021.</p>
4. Utility Charges	
<p><u>Water & Sewage Charges</u></p> <p>Waive 75% of water and sewage charges for non-domestic households for December 2019 to March 2020 at a monthly cap of \$20,000 for water and \$12,500 for sewage charge per household per month.</p> <p><u>Electricity Charge</u></p> <p>Subsidize each eligible non-residential electricity account with 75% of their monthly billed electricity charges, at a cap of \$5,000 per account per month for four months (i.e. \$20,000 in total per account).</p> <p>[4th Round; Pending for LegCo's approval]</p>	<p><u>Water/Sewage/Electricity Charges</u></p> <p>i) To implement them as soon as possible as they are still pending for LegCo's approval.</p> <p>ii) To extend their validity to December 2020 and suggest to remove the limitation on ceiling.</p> <p><u>Electricity Charges</u></p> <p>The two electricity companies raised the tariff in 2020, and this move has offset the effectiveness of the electricity subsidy provided by the Government. We propose that the effective date of the tariff adjustment should be deferred until the economy picks up.</p>

5. Tax Concessions for Enterprises and Employees	
<p>Reduce <u>salaries tax</u>, tax under personal assessment and <u>profits tax</u> to 100% subject to a ceiling of \$20,000</p> <p>[1st Round]</p> <p>Waive the surcharge on tax outstanding for up to one year for taxpayers who choose to pay by instalments. The waiver is applicable for the 2018/19 year of assessment, and covers profits tax, salaries tax, and personal assessment.</p> <p>[4th Round]</p>	<p><u>On Year of Assessment 2019/20</u></p> <p>To waive provisional tax for the 2019/20 assessable period.</p> <p>To provide tax refund under personal assessment and profits tax by 100% subject to a ceiling of \$50,000.</p> <p><u>On Year of Assessment 2020/21</u></p> <p>To reduce profit tax rate of the affected sectors for a certain period of time say a year or more.</p>
6. SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS)	
<p>To provide 90% guarantee for approved loan under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS).</p> <p>[1st Round]</p>	<p>To uplift the SFGS to provide 100% Government's guarantee and to extend the scheme to small scale listed companies, and/or their subsidiaries.</p> <p>To speed up the approval process and ease the stringent requirements such as directors as guarantors.</p>
7. Skill Upgrading for Employees	
<p>Specific training programmes to assist unemployed / under-employed workers in trades to upgrade their skills.</p> <p>[1st Round]</p> <p>Extend the "Love Upgrading Special Scheme" by ERB to increase the maximum allowance per trainee to \$5,800, expand the choices of trades and courses, in particular the provision of part-time "Vocational Skills" courses.</p> <p>[4th Round]</p>	<p>To equip the retail workforce and ensure readiness for industry transformation after the epidemic, we suggest to provide vocational training courses on new retail and related technology to affected employees.</p>

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