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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Mississippi Insurance Department  
Jackson, Mississippi  
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**Insurance Claims Paid in Mississippi Nearing \$7 Billion Mark  
Claims Paid in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties Nears \$2 Billion**

Jackson –Commissioner of Insurance George Dale announced that as of today insurance companies have paid out nearly \$7 billion in hurricane related claims for Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The National Flood Insurance Program has now paid over \$1.5 billion in claims. The approximate total for claims paid now stands at \$6,829,792,100. Those numbers continue to rise as the Mississippi Insurance Department continues to work with companies and consumers on hurricane related issues. As of today, there have been approximately 502,193 total claims filed. Of those, 497,793 claims filed on Hurricane Katrina and over 4,400 claims filed on Hurricane Rita.

In the three hardest hit coastal counties, over 141,000 claims have been filed, with nearly \$2 billion paid in claims in those counties alone, the approximate total for claims paid in the three coastal counties is \$1,947,791,008. In Jackson County there have been over 45,000 claims filed and over \$423 million in claims paid. In Hancock County there have been over 24,000 claims filed and over \$350 million in claims paid. In Harrison County there have been over 72,000 claims filed and over \$1.1 billion in claims paid. These figures do not include flood claims.

The call center for the Mississippi Department of Insurance is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for consumers to call for Hurricane Katrina insurance assistance. The numbers are: Locally - 601-359-2453; In State 1-800-562-2957; Out-of-State - 1-866-856-1982.

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