

>CNS8466

R GE 08-02 00205 EA852

eng

LEAD Mahathir-donation (replacing earlier item) ✓

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said the government is seriously concerned over the sufferings of the people in the war-torn lands of the Gulf region.

He said the government supported the fund donation drive of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) to ease the sufferings of those people.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this in a message at the launching of the MRCS fund raising campaign here by National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar.

He added: +Malaysia is neutral in the Gulf conflict. We, however, hope that the conflict will be resolved as soon as possible.+:

He hoped the funds collected would alleviate the hardship faced by the victims of the armed conflict.

Datuk Napsiah handed over a cheque for \$100,000, on behalf of the Government, to the Chairman of the Red Crescent Society of Malaysia Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed Tunku Besar Burhanuddin.

Datuk Napsiah also gave a personal donation of \$250 to the fund.

Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed said MRCS might send volunteers to help victims of the war. -- Bernama

♥08/02/17-35MST