

09 FEB 1999

DR MAHATHIR SADDENED BY SANDAKAN LANDSLIP TRAGEDY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is now in Jamaica attending the G15 leaders' summit, has sent a message of condolence to the next kin of victims of last Sunday's landslip tragedy in Sandakan.

In his message conveyed to Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok yesterday, the prime minister said he was grief-stricken and saddened by the tragedy.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that the Sabah state government would relocate the survivors to safer grounds and extend relief aid to the next of kin of the victims, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office here today.

In the incident in Kampung Gelam near Sandakan, 17 people were buried alive when tonnes of mud and boulders, from a height of 50 metres, rolled over four squatter homes early Sunday morning.

-- BERNAMA

ZKS RN