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## Evacuation plan finalised for Malaysians in Pakistan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Malaysian High Commission in Pakistan and Wisma Putra have finalised an evacuation action plan for the 454 Malaysians, including students, there.

The action plan will be implemented by a team headed by Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak.

Fuzi, when contacted, said a special task force has been formed to monitor current developments in Afghanistan and their effects on Pakistan.

"The Wisma Putra Task Force 119, formed with our own human resource, will operate round the clock to carry out overall monitoring tasks.

"It also includes the action plan to facilitate evacuation work if the situation deteriorates further in Pakistan," he added.

He said they would be liaising with the High Commission and following the situation by the hour.

"With the special task force in operation, we will prepare daily comprehensive reports on the developments there," he said.

The daily reports will be submitted to the relevant authorities, including directly for the consideration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

It is understood that the Royal Malaysian Air Force has also assigned pilots and flight officers in case of any sudden evacuation from Pakistan.

A Wisma Putra spokesman said the plan would be activated if the situation warranted it.

The plan, which was drafted following the US attacks on Afghanistan yesterday, will be implemented the moment the High Commission finds the situation unsafe.

The spokesman said Malaysians in that country were safe for the moment. "Security at our High Commission in Islamabad has also been tightened," she said.

She said the High Commission had detailed records of the 454 Malaysians and urged all who had not registered with the High Commission to do so immediately.

She said Malaysians who wanted to come back here should get in touch with the High Commission.

The High Commission, together with Wisma Putra, would make arrangements to fly them back, she said.

On how the High Commission would fly them out since Malaysia Airlines had suspended flights to and from Pakistan, she said there were other ways.

"We have our own strategies but the details cannot be disclosed yet," she said.

She said Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan Datuk Sopian Ahmad would liaise closely with Wisma Putra on the matter.

Asked whether similar strategic plans were also in the pipeline for Malaysians in countries bordering Afghanistan, she said this did not arise at the moment.