

27 JAN 2001

Malaysia-India

MALAYSIA EXTENDS US\$100,000 AID FOR INDIA QUAKE VICTIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has extended an immediate relief assistance of US\$100,000 (RM380,000) to help the victims of yesterday's earthquake in India that has killed up to 15,000 people.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Kuala Lumpur had also offered to send its specially-trained SMART relief team to India to assist the authorities and other volunteers in the search and rescue operations.

"The SMART team would leave for India as soon as approval is received from the Indian government," he said in a statement today.

Syed Hamid said no report of any Malaysians affected by the earthquake, which occurred in the western Indian state of Gujarat, had been received so far.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had sent a message of condolences to his Indian counterpart, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia.

Syed Hamid, meanwhile, sent a similar message to his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh.

"I would like to convey my profound condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families of the victims for the loss of their beloved ones. We pray and hope that the Government and people of India would find strength and courage in this most trying time," the minister said.

-- BERNAMA

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