

Newspaper	The Sun
Date	21 May 2015

Help Rohingya, orders PM

> Najib instructs navy, MMEA to assist Mercy Malaysia deliver humanitarian assistance

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdiit Razak has instructed the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) to assist Mercy Malaysia to deliver humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees either by sea or land, reports Bernama.

"It is basic human compassion that we insure the hungry will be given food and water while the sick will be attended to with medical treatment and supplies," he posted in his Facebook page last night.

Meanwhile, Song Boon Mim and Lee Choon Fai report that Home Ministry through the Immigration Department is ready to cooperate and accept all forms of assistance and donations from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and individuals in aiding Rohingya migrants stranded in Langkawi since May 10.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Rohingya migrant issue is a humanitarian one that is being

taken seriously by the people of Malaysia, and it is no longer just an issue involving Muslims alone.

"I urge all NGOs, regardless of religion and race, to come forward voluntarily to help the migrants. Although they tried to enter the country illegally, their welfare should not be ignored," he said in a statement yesterday.

Also lending support is socio-cultural adviser to the government Tan Sri Rais Yatim, who said the government has an obligation to receive stranded Rohingya refugees in accordance with international human rights standards.

He said a consensus was reached within Asean in 2008 that member nations are to render humanitarian aid to refugees as defined by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Rais said the government does not have to take all Rohingyas, but assistance must be given to those stranded at sea. This is to alleviate their sufferings, he added.

He said the Myanmar government cannot simply wash its hands off as the refugees problem originated from Myanmar, although many do not say so.

"Even Aung San Suu Kyi, who is a prominent human rights fighter, is silent I am surprised and shocked."



CRY OF ANGUISH ... A Rohingya migrant woman who arrived by boat cries at the port of Julok village in Kuta Binje, Indonesia's Aceh Province, yesterday.