

PM: Promote volunteer work among M'sians

KUALA LUMPUR: For the country's success, there is a need for Malaysians, particularly the younger generation, to embrace a spirit of volunteerism and sacrifice, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

One such example was that shown by the Malaysian Red Crescent's (MRC) 75-year track record in providing vital assistance in times of natural disasters and crisis, he said.

Anwar then called upon the relevant ministries to support and encourage more young people to participate in the endeavour of volunteer work.

He was speaking at the launch of the movement's 75th anniversary here yesterday, where he also officiated at the humanitarian organisation's national headquarters.

Anwar also announced an allocation of RM3mil towards emergency medical service, disaster preparedness and capacity development.



Happy anniversary: Members celebrating at the MRC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. - AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

He said the government had agreed to allocate RM1mil to the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry to revive its 999 emergency ambulance service via the Welfare Department.

A disaster preparedness grant of RM1mil has also been earmarked for the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma)

while another RM1mil is for capacity-building preparations at Malaysian Red Crescent headquarters and states.

He applauded the work of the Red Crescent movement and emphasised the importance of the values of universality, care and compassion which are strongly embedded in the philosophy of

the humanitarian body.

"The MRC has been around for 75 years, almost the same age as I am, and it has very extensive experience in voluntary and humanitarian acts as reported in the media.

"Its representatives are always there taking risks to help others during a tragedy, disaster and calamity, with some even sustaining injuries," he said.

Tunku Temenggong Kedah Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, who is the MRC national chairperson, said the movement had been serving the nation and other vulnerable communities at risk tirelessly ever since it was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948.