

800,000 People Flee Kathmandu After Earthquake

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KATHMANDU, May 3 (Bernama) -- More than 800,000 people have fled Kathmandu over the last seven days since a massive earthquake hit the city and its adjacent districts on April 25, killing over 7,000 people.

According to police, over 800,000 people have left Kathmandu for various destinations via surface route since April 26 as they feared another quake.

"Our rough estimate is that more than 800,000 have left Kathmandu via land route and the number could go up if we add those who left via air," said Dil Baharu Chhetri, inspector at the traffic management department of Nepal police.

Fearing an epidemic and scarcity of essentials, the government itself has encouraged people to go out of the capital.

It arranged buses free of charge from April 27 to 30 to facilitate those who were willing to leave the capital.

Scarcity of essentials has already started to surface as most of the shops are closed and the public transport system has not fully resumed after the earthquake.

The capital city depends on supplies from outside as its production is barely sufficient for a month for about four million people.

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