

Malaysia Appreciates Thailand's Aid in Bringing Back Bodies of Mishap Victims – Ahmad Zahid Bernama
Dec 23, 2015

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian government thanked the Thai government for helping to facilitate the process of bringing back the bodies of 13 Malaysian citizens who were killed in a road mishap in Chiang Mai on Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, when expressing this today, said the cooperation extended included those from the police and immigration departments as well as the more than 1.6 million baht compensation, or about RM200,000 to the victims' next-of-kins.

"On behalf of the Cabinet, I offer my condolences to all the families of the victims and we hope they will not be traumatised by the incident," he told reporters after receiving a courtesy call from Zambian vice-President Inonge Mutukwa Wina here, today.

On Sunday, 13 were killed when a bus with 22 Malaysian tourists skidded into a ravine after being involved in a collision with a pick-up at 11.30 am (12.30 pm Malaysian time) while heading to Chiang Mai from Chiang Rai.

All the 13 bodies arrived at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Subang, Selangor early this morning before being taken by vans to Batu Pahat for burials.

Chiang Mai governor, Pawin Chamniprasarn on Monday said the Thai government agreed to pay a compensation of 1.6 million baht to the next-of-kins of the 13 victims while those injured received compensations of 50,000 baht each, or about RM6,000 for medical treatments.

On the compensation, Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, said it was a sign of the concern of the Thai government and regarded it as a good gesture.

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