

Govt approves additional RM500,000 to assist disaster victims in central Sulawesi

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PORT DICKSON, Oct 3 (Bernama) – The Cabinet today approved additional assistance of RM500,000 for victims of the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, bringing the total amount to RM1 million.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the additional amount entailed usage of money channelled by the Finance Ministry to the National Disaster Fund.

“The Cabinet meeting this morning got the nod from Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding the matter,” she told reporters after opening the “Majlis Cakna Mangsa Tsunami (Concern for Tsunami Victims) event here today.

On Monday, the government had channelled RM500,000 to assist residents in Central Sulawesi who were affected by the disaster on Friday.

According to the latest reports, the death toll due to the disaster currently stands at 1,407 people.

Earlier, in her speech, Wan Azizah, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, conveyed her condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the disaster and reiterated that Malaysia was committed to assist the best it could.

She also said the government welcomed monetary donations from non-governmental organisations that wished to help the victims and urged them to channel these to the National Disaster Fund.

“Anyone who wishes to help the victims of the disaster in Sulawesi, we will give publicity on television,” she said.

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