

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
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Title : CHEQUE PRESENTATION OF MALAYSIA'S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

His Excellency Mamadou Toure
Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to Malaysia

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I am pleased to present to the Government of the Republic of Guinea a contribution of USD 50 000 to help finance humanitarian relief efforts for refugees and internally displaced persons.

2. Over the last decade, the Republic of Guinea has been host to several hundred thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons resulting from border clashes with neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Since September 2000, several border villages and towns situated in the southwest of the Republic of Guinea have been the target of attacks by rebel forces.

3. The escalating violence has brought a new wave of refugees. This ongoing turmoil in the region has affected the lives of over 1.25 million people including more than 300,000 internally displaced Guineans and 420,000 refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia. Almost 520 000 more are reported to be on the move in the forested areas in Guinea without the benefit of assistance from international relief agencies. The UNCHR has declared the crisis as its worst humanitarian emergency at the moment.

4. Malaysia's contribution is a manifestation of its concern for the situation and its support for humanitarian relief effort. It also reflects the warm and friendly relations between Malaysia and the Republic of Guinea.

5. In this regard, Malaysia would like to commend Guinea for its leading role in consolidating a climate of confidence among the countries in the Mano River Union. Malaysia is confident that these efforts will bring about a peaceful settlement of disputes and contribute towards enduring peace and stability in the region.

6. We hope that Malaysia's contribution today will help reduce the financial burden of the Government of Guinea in coping with the large presence of refugees and displaced persons in the country.

7. On that note, I would like to invite His Excellency Mamadou Toure, Ambassador of The Republic of Guinea to Malaysia to accept Malaysia's contribution of USD 50 000.

Thank you.