

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Venue : [s.l]
Date : 7 JANUARY 2003
Title : ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

Your Excellency Dr. Marco Tulio Cordero,
Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador,

Y.Bhg. Dato', Tuan-tuan, dan Puan-puan,

As most of you are aware, on 3 November 2002, there was the eruption of the volcano "El Reventador", located approximately 100 kilometres from the capital of Ecuador. The volcanic eruption has affected the lives of approximately 2 million Ecuadorians, including 25,000 families which have been displaced. The eruption has also destroyed as many as 200,000 hectares of agricultural land as well as 180,000 animal livestock. We have been informed by the Government of Ecuador that it requires as much as USD 60 million to restore the damage caused by "El Reventador."

2. We in Malaysia are deeply saddened by the calamity and our sympathies are with the many people who were made homeless, as well as those who have lost their main source of income as a result of destruction to their agricultural land and livestock. In view of this, the Government of Malaysia, as an expression of its solidarity with the people of Ecuador, has decided to present a sum of USD 50,000.00 to help alleviate the burden of the Government of Ecuador in the reconstruction efforts.

3. Malaysia and Ecuador have enjoyed cordial and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries. We have strived to ensure that bilateral ties are enhanced and strengthened through high-level visits and people-to-people contacts.

Excellency,

4. It is my hope that your Government with the help of the international community would be able to overcome the problems created by the recent calamity. In the spirit of friendship and cooperation, I would like to now present this cheque to you. I wish your Government the very best in its efforts to restore and reconstruct your country.