

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Venue : WISMA PUTRA, PUTRAJAYA
Date : 6 JANUARY 2004
Title : SPEECH AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN BAM, IRAN

His Excellency Mohammad Ghasem Moheb Ali,
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Malaysia

YBhg. Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Hj Abdul Razak,
Secretary General of the Ministry

Datuk Dr. Jemilah Mahmood,
President MERCY Malaysia

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH AND GOOD AFTERNOON,

I would like to welcome all of you this afternoon to the Cheque Presentation Ceremony for the Earthquake Victims in Bam, Iran. I am encouraged by your presence as this certainly portrays the support towards the earthquake victims in Iran. Allow me to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for being with us today at this ceremony.

2. The Government and people of Malaysia are deeply saddened by the tragedy that struck our brothers and sisters in the ancient Silk Route city of Bam in the Province of Kerman, Iran on 26th December 2003. We deeply share the sorrow and grief of the Iranian people. The earthquake has brought untold miseries to the population and the total number of people died reached 28,000 and it has caused massive damage to buildings and infrastructures.

3. In expressing our condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the sad tragedy, the Government of Malaysia would like to extend a token contribution of USD 500,000, of which USD 250,000 in the form of cash and the other USD 250,000 in kind consisting mainly of medicines, which is very much needed now.

4. MERCY Malaysia, one of our NGOs, has been given the responsibility to deliver the medical supplies. To date, they have delivered RM 100,000 worth of medicines and medical equipment to Iran. Our Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) has also sent medical supplies to Iran. There are currently 8 MERCY volunteers and 2 MRCS volunteers as well as 5 volunteers representing Yayasan Salam Malaysia and the Malaysian Volunteer Fire and Rescue in Bam to assist the Iranian authorities in relief

works. Let me also take this opportunity to thank all the NGOs and volunteer organizations for their efforts in helping the victims.

5. In our capacity as the OIC Chairman, we have informed the OIC Secretary General to call for the OIC member countries to come forward and assist the Islamic Republic of Iran. Apart from Malaysia, we are happy to note that 22 countries are also extending assistance to Iran and hoped that all this assistance would to a little extent, help alleviate the sufferings of the people of Iran.

6. Let us pray to Allah SWT, to give the surviving victims the courage and strength during this trying times and difficulties and let us hope that they would rebuild their life back to normal.

WABILLAHIT TAUFIKWAL HIDAYAH, WASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI TAALA
WABARAKATUH.