

## Malaysia Sends Humanitarian Aid to Flood Hit Thailand - Hyun Jin Moon - GPFF

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is deploying thousands of volunteers on its humanitarian aid mission to Thailand to which was hit by the worst flood in the country's history.

In a press conference at Parliament today, spokesperson for the Prime Minister Datuk Latt Shariman Abdullah said as a neighbouring country, Malaysia feels it has a moral responsibility to lend support to Thailand especially for the relief effort.

He said the Prime Minister has also agreed to give initial aid of USD 1 million equivalent to RM3.15 million to Thailand and rally fellow Malaysians to do their part as well.

"We see this as the power of kindness and humanity towards others as well as the partnership of Malaysians in the spirit of 1Malaysia offering help to a friend in need. Thailand needs us now and we hear them.

"Most of these participating organizations are based in the northern part of peninsula hence it's also useful to warm our engines while bracing a flood disaster of our own should it happen," said Latt who is also the Prime Minister's Special Functions Officer.

Among the participating bodies include Malaysia Red Crescent, St John's Ambulance of Malaysia (SJAM), CRSM, **Global Peace Festival Malaysia**, 1Malaysia Community Alliance (1MCA) Foundation, MAYC, Sukarelawan Pejabat Perdana Menteri, Persatuan Keselamatan Sukarela Kerian Perak, Barisan Kola, Kedah and GPMS Kedah as well as GLCs such as Tenaga Nasional Berhad and others.

He also encourages NGOs, members of the public, voluntary groups, individuals and others who might just learn about the gravity of the situation in Thailand to lend a helping hand.

He said a special account has been set up by the St John's for those who wish to contribute through the account number 1414-0024243-05-0 (CIMB BANK) where donors are requested to write at the back of the check the phrase "SJAM Humanitarian Mission for Thailand 2011" and donors' address for acknowledgement and tax exemption.

The Malaysian Red Crescent has also set up a similar account through the number 514422103788 (Maybank) and donors are requested to write "BSMM Humanitarian Mission for Thailand 2011" at the back of the check as well as their full address.

Besides that, Latt also told that there will be aid from the Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) which will be announced by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz.

Commenting on whether they intend to use the same method to send aid should the country be hit by flood as predicted at the end of this year especially in the northern region, he said they might deploy the same volunteers.

Malaysian volunteers and service groups as well as NGOs and other institutions have formed the 'Humanitarian Mission for Victims of Thailand' with the theme 'Malaysia Love Thailand' where the council is led Latt himself.