

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Distribution

MERCY MALAYSIA PROVIDES EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE IN LEYTE, PHILIPPINES

Kuala Lumpur, 14th July 2017 – On 6th July 2017, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake occurred in the island of Leyte in the Philippines, causing major damages in Barangays of Ormoc City particularly upland Barangays including six upland Barangays namely Tongonan, Cabaon-an, Milagro, Lake Danao, Cabintan and Gaas. Over 700 aftershocks have been recorded (ranging from magnitude 1.5 to 5.8), including a major aftershock measuring 5.8 magnitude (previously pegged at 5.4) on the 10th of July, in the days that followed.

To date, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Philippines reported two (2) deaths with 329 injured. A total of 1,136 families' homes have been affected, resulting in large displacement of civilians of upland Barangays mentioned to relocate to temporary shelters in open spaces, covered courts, chapels and some schools without any access to proper water, hygiene and sanitation.

MERCY Malaysia expresses its deep concern over the safety of civilians affected by the earthquake in Ormoc Philippines. "With the increasing number of displaced people in temporary shelters and no access to proper water, hygiene and sanitation, the displaced community risk exposure to various diseases such as respiratory infections, skin diseases, fever, acute watery diarrhea, and headaches, hence the vital need for hygiene kits is deemed crucial in order to help the displaced community to maintain proper daily personal hygiene in order to prevent contracting communicable disease especially when living in a close proximity with each other. Equally important are non-food items such blankets, sleeping mats, used clothing to keep individuals affected warm as they are located mainly in upland areas and additionally the commencement of heavy rain and wet weather has added to the level of discomfort these families are facing," said Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, President of MERCY Malaysia.

Align with our mission in providing health-related humanitarian aid for vulnerable communities regardless of race, religion, culture, political affiliation, or geographic boundaries, in disaster-stricken situation as its main mandate, MERCY Malaysia has been responding to the situation through our Philippines Country Office located in Ormoc since day one. The emergency response team from Malaysia, consisting of two (2) team members, our logistics specialist volunteer Mr. Hapis and Programme Officer and team leader Mr. Aizat, have been deployed to Ormoc on Sunday 16 July 2017 to join our two (2) other personnel from our Philippines office in order to further enhance our respond efforts to the crisis.

Apart from the distribution of hygiene kits and non-food items to families affected by the earthquake, the deployment also aims to conduct further assessment for recovery phase and prepare for further intervention according to our capacities and mandate in view of the latest situation for two (2) weeks commencing on 16 July to 23 July 2017.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude towards Maybank Foundation for their generous contribution of RM150,000 to support our Emergency Response for this disaster. Maybank Foundation is the CSR arm of the Maybank Group. Maybank, through Maybank Philippines, Inc has been in the country for 20 years with a total of 80 branches in the island nation.

MERCY Malaysia is continuously calling for the public to support our humanitarian efforts by contributing to our Philippines Relief Fund. Donations can be made through our website at www.mercy.org.my or to our bank account at,

MAYBANK: MERCY Humanitarian Fund

ACC NO: 5621 7950 4126

Swift Code: MBBEMYKL

CIMB: MERCY Malaysia

ACC NO:8000-7929-08

Swift Code: CIBBMYKL

ENDS.

For more information, please contact:

Syahirah Sulastri Asman, Communications Officer, MERCY Malaysia

E: syahirah.asman@mercy.org.my T:+603-21422007 (Ext:244) F:+603-2142 1992 M:+6019 228 3634

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About MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia is a non for profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations, both locally and internationally. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. For more information, please proceed to www.mercy.org.my

How is MERCY Malaysia funded?

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% if its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.