

For Immediate Release

PRESS STATEMENT

MERCY Malaysia deploys immediate aid as Tropical Storm Son-Tinh lashes PDR Laos

Kuala Lumpur, 25 July 2018...MERCY Malaysia is sending a team on the first flight out tomorrow morning to Vientiane, People's Republic of Laos, following severe flooding caused by the Tropical Storm Son-Tinh last week. Over 10,000 people are affected, with close to 400 families evacuated to temporary emergency shelter.

The heavy rains have caused floodwaters to rise rapidly in 41 districts across 10 provinces encompassing Attapeu, Savannakhet, Khammaouan, Xayabuly, Bolikhamsay, Luang Prabang, Bokeo, Sekong, Xiengkhouang and Oudomxay. The floods are worsened by an overflow from the Xepien-Xenamnoyu Dam, which inundated downstream villages, and damaged key public infrastructure such as bridges, roads, and schools. Over 250 houses are badly damaged, as rescuers race to evacuate families who have climbed to their rooftops or clung to trees to escape rising floodwaters.

Hundreds of people are reported to be missing, while thousands more are in urgent need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Total damage has yet to be ascertained, with access and telecommunications to many parts of the country being cut off as a result of the floods. The Laos government has since activated its Provincial Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, with the military and police conducting search and rescue operations with helicopters and rescue boats.

"We are sending a Rapid Assessment Team to meet with the relevant authorities and establish base camp within 24-hours. This will be followed by a medical team in 48-hours to conduct mobile clinics for people affected by the floods," says Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, President of MERCY Malaysia.

The team will be headed by Assistant Honorary Secretary of MERCY Malaysia, Mr Ahmad Faezal Mohamed, who has been previously involved in missions to Syria, Lebanon, Philippines, Myanmar and Kelantan. His experience in managing a humanitarian response during a disaster is invaluable in bringing the team into a less explored country such as Laos.

"We appeal for donations from caring Malaysians to help our neighbours in flood-stricken Laos. Your contribution will enable us to provide urgent relief aid, such as medical assistance, safe drinking water and temporary shelter," adds Dr Faizal. Donations can be made to MERCY Humanitarian Fund (MBB - 5621 7950 4126) on Malaysia's website www.mercy.org.my. All contributions are tax-exempted.

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About MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia is a non for profit organisation focused 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% of 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.