



## **PRESS STATEMENT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

### **MALAYSIA AND RUSSIA STRENGTHEN DISASTER MANAGEMENT COOPERATION**

This morning, I had the honour of welcoming H.E. Colonel General Alexander V. Kurenkov, Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM), during his official visit to Malaysia.

This visit marks an important milestone in enhancing Malaysia–Russia cooperation in disaster management. I expressed appreciation for the strong working relationship between EMERCOM and our National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) - particularly in regional initiatives under INSARAG and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).

We also discussed progress on finalising the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Disaster Management**. I am confident that both sides are close to agreement, and I hope to see the MoU signed within the year. It will serve as a practical framework for joint training, knowledge exchange, and coordinated emergency response.

One of the visit's key highlights is the **joint search and rescue training** between Malaysia's SMART team and Russia's RUS-03 team. Such hands-on collaboration enhances operational readiness and strengthens mutual trust - essential when responding to real-world disasters.

A video conference between our **National Disaster Command Centre (NDCC)** and EMERCOM's **National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC)** is also scheduled today. I believe, this is a meaningful step

toward formalizing communication and enabling real-time coordination between our emergency response agencies.

I also welcomed Russia's offer of capacity-building programmes for Malaysian officers, including a specialised training course in Vladivostok this September. We are exploring broader collaboration, including technology transfer in UAV applications for disaster monitoring.

As ASEAN Chair this year, Malaysia remains committed to regional leadership in disaster response. Our SMART team was among the first to arrive in Myanmar following the recent earthquake, operating alongside international teams including EMERCOM's RUS-03.

Beyond technical cooperation, I also value the inclusion of EMERCOM's cultural ensemble as part of this visit - a gesture that enhances people-to-people ties and strengthens the foundation of our long-standing bilateral relationship.

I look forward to deepening this partnership in the years ahead, guided by shared goals and a common commitment to disaster resilience and humanitarian service.

**AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI**

Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

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