

**OFFICIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS & CLOSING REMARKS
INSARAG EXTERNAL RECLASSIFICATION (IER) 2026
SPECIAL MALAYSIA DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESCUE TEAM
(MAS-01 SMART)**

DATE : 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

VENUE : BANQUET HALL, THE EVERLY HOTEL,
PUTRAJAYA

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Good Afternoon and Salam Sejahtera.

YBhg. Dato' Sri Ts. Nor Hisham bin Mohammad

Director General

Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia

YBhg. Datuk Muhammad bin Abdul Halim

Timbalan Pengarah Gerakan Operasi, KDNKA

Ms. Rei Wang

Representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)

Mr. Belit Tasdemir

Representative of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
(INSARAG) Secretariat

Mr. Li Li,

Team Leader for Classifier

Deputy Director General and Senior Officials of NADMA;

Our Esteemed INSARAG Classifiers, Our Primary Mentors; and

And most importantly, **the courageous officers and members of our
MAS-01 SMART Team.**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be here today to officiate the closing ceremony and official luncheon of the **INSARAG External Reclassification, or IER 2026**.

First and foremost, let us thank the Almighty for giving us the strength and opportunity to be here today and to celebrate this important achievement in Malaysia's disaster management journey.

Saya mengucapkan tahniah dan syabas kepada seluruh kontigen **MAS-01 Pasukan Mencari dan Menyelamat Khas Malaysia (SMART Team)** atas kejayaan mengekalkan pengiktirafan sebagai pasukan Heavy Urban Search and Rescuer (USAR) ini.

Hari ini, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan telah membuktikan sekali lagi bahawa Malaysia mampu berdiri teguh bersama pasukan mencari dan menyelamatkan bertaraf dunia.

Sepanjang minggu ino, dan khususnya semasa penilaian lapangan selama **36 jam**, keupayaan pasukan ini telah diuji dengan sangat ketat.

SMART telah dinilai berdasarkan **173 kriteria**, meliputi aspek perintah dan kawalan, tindak balas perubatan, pencarian teknikal, logistik, serta keupayaan untuk menjalankan operasi antarabangsa.

Untuk mencapai kejayaan ini, ia memerlukan lebih daripada kemahiran teknikal.

Ia memerlukan ketahanan fizikal, kekuatan mental, disiplin, dan kerja berpasukan yang tinggi.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success we celebrate today did not happen overnight.

It was the result of **years of hard work, training and preparation**.

To prepare for IER 2026, SMART conducted three full-scale exercises, readiness assessments, equipment inspections, and reviews of its standard operating procedures.

This shows our **whole-of-government approach to disaster management**.

SMART and NADMA does not work alone.

SMART is supported our emergency services, government agencies, and many strategic partners.

Together, we work as one team to strengthen Malaysia's disaster response capability.

No country can face disasters alone.

International disaster response depends on **cooperation, trust, and sharing of knowledge and experience.**

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our international partners.

Our thanks to **UN OCHA and the INSARAG Secretariat**, especially **Ms. Rei Wang and Mr. Belit Tasdemir**, for their support and for helping us maintain international standards.

We also thank our **Primary Mentors from Australia—Mr. David Lewis, Mr. Tim Hassiotis, and Mr. Scott McNamara**—for their guidance, technical support, and many years of mentorship.

Our sincere thanks also go to the **International Classifiers**, led by **Mr. Li Li**, with **Mr. Vasily Evseev** as Deputy Team Leader, and all classifiers from Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Norway, Singapore, Russia, and Algeria.

Thank you for your professionalism, fairness, and commitment throughout this process.

I would also like to thank our **Regional External Players and Observers** from Russia, Brunei, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, and Türkiye.

Your participation has made this exercise more meaningful and has strengthened cooperation in disaster response within our region.

To the Members of the MAS-01 SMART Contingent,

Tahniah sekali lagi.

Kejayaan ini adalah hasil daripada kerja keras, disiplin dan pengorbanan tuan-tuan dan puan-puan.

Apabila memakai lencana **MAS-01**, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan membawa bukan sahaja nama SMART, tetapi juga **kepercayaan rakyat Malaysia dan penghormatan komuniti kemanusiaan antarabangsa**.

Kekalkan sifat rendah diri.

Teruskan meningkatkan kemahiran dan keupayaan.

Dan sentiasa bersedia.

Remember, your real success is not measured by a certificate or an award.

It is measured by the **lives you save and the hope you bring to people when they need help the most**.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Disasters do not respect borders.

They can happen at any time and anywhere.

Therefore, Malaysia remains committed to strengthening our disaster response capability and maintaining our readiness to support international disaster response.

Reclassification is not the end. It is a new commitment to humanity.

Malaysia will continue to invest in our urban search and rescue capabilities.

We will continue to improve our equipment, training and coordination between agencies.

We are ready not only to protect our own people, but also to support our neighbours and international partners when assistance is needed.

To all our international guests, classifiers, mentors and delegates, I hope you have enjoyed your time in Putrajaya and experienced the warm hospitality of Malaysia.

I wish you all a safe journey home.

May our friendship and cooperation continue to grow, and may we always be ready to work together to save lives and serve humanity.

With great pride and gratitude, I hereby declare the **INSARAG External Reclassification 2026 for MAS-01 SMART** successfully concluded.

Thank you.