



# ACEH TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **MAS (MALAYSIAN AIRLINES SYSTEMS) & ROTARY LEND A HELPING HAND TO THE TSUNAMI CASUALTIES IN ACEH**

One of the greatest challenges with any relief works in any kind of disasters is the issue of logistics. Mobilisation of resources and distribution of relief aids need to be addressed promptly especially if the magnitude of the disaster is like the recent Tsunami tidal waves that hit many places along the Indian Ocean.

The Aceh Disaster Relief Efforts Committee of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central was quick to approach Malaysian for help to transport relief aids to Medan, Sumatera. The Aceh Province in Indonesia is the worst affected area with the highest death toll that is increasing by the day.

'Dato Fuad, the Managing Director of MAS, was very responsive when I spoke to him to ask for help on 31 December 2004. Without hesitation, he made that split second decision. I am impressed with his convictions to help the needy', said Rotarian Steve Ng, Head of Fundraising in the committee.

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central was overwhelmed by the tremendous support and immediate response given by MAS. Three days later, a total of 1,640 kg of medical aids were flown out of Kuching to Medan via Kuala Lumpur. Medan is the main city nearest to the Aceh Province in North Sumatera that is served by MAS twice daily from KLIA and once a day from Penang.

MAS has infact extended their cooperations by allowing other Rotary Clubs in any parts of Malaysia and Singapore to send medical aids to any destinations that are affected by the Tsunami for as long as the routes are served by MAS.

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central, one of the four Rotary Clubs located in Kuching city, has taken up the lead to raise funds and to provide coordination and logistics to would-be donors for the benefit of the Tsunami victims in Aceh. The club is partnering with the Rotary Club of Langkat which is located 80km North of Medan between Banda Aceh and Medan. It is the nearest Rotary Club to the affected areas.

#### ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR MONETARY DONATIONS:***

Monetary contributions should be in the form of a crossed cheque made payable to '***Rotary Club of Kuching Central***' with the contact person & address and the following words written at the back of the cheque '***Aceh Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund***'. Receipts will be issued accordingly.



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***About Rotary Club of Kuching Central (for more details please visit the club's website at [www.kuchingcentralrotary.org](http://www.kuchingcentralrotary.org)):***

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central was established in December 1986 and currently has 36 members of various professions. For the past 11 consecutive years, the club has bagged the Rotary International Presidential Citation Awards for its fine achievements and fine performances as well as having received several Rotary International District 3310 recognitions.

***About Rotary International ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)):***

Rotary International is the first non-profit making organization in the world where **business** and **professional people** are united worldwide to provide **humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations** and **promote peace and goodwill in the world**. It was established in 1905. In 1985, Rotary International initiated the PolioPlus Campaign, a major worldwide project to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth by 2005, the Rotary Centennial Year. One of the partners in this project is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, founded by Bill Gates, the Chief Software Architect of Microsoft. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation committed to match dollar to dollar for every dollar committed to PolioPlus campaign up to a maximum of US\$25 million. There are 65 Rotary Clubs in Rotary International District 3310 covering, Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, Labuan, Melaka, Johor and Singapore.



Members and families of the Rotarians providing a helping hand to load the 144 cartons of medical aids from the supplier onto the lorry of Sinar Mekar Sdn Bhd for repacking.



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David Siaw of Sinar Mekar Sdn Bhd supervising the loading of the cartons of medical aids after they were repacked at Sinar Mekar's warehouse and to be transported to MAS Cargo Complex at Kuching International Airport.



Part of the 144 cartons going to Medan for onward distributions in the Aceh province, Indonesia.

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