



MEDIA STATEMENT

9 December 2016

RLA FOUNDATION TO MOUNT SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HUMANITARIAN AID FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN ACEH AND RAKHINE STATE

1. The “Blessings-To-All” Mosque Committee, representing all mosques in Singapore and in supporting the aims of the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, is organising a special fund raising effort to offer humanitarian relief to affected communities in Banda Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia and Rakhine State, Myanmar.
2. On Wednesday, December 7th, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck the Pidie Jaya Regency in Aceh. According to authorities, the death toll has risen to more than 100 as of this morning (Friday, December 9th). In Rakhine State, there has been an outbreak of violence following attacks by militants on three border police posts on October 9th.
3. To facilitate the community’s expression of compassion and ethos of Blessings to All, the Foundation, working closely with mosques in Singapore, will conduct a special collection to extend aid to the affected communities. RLAF donation boxes will be placed at all 70 mosques beginning next **Monday 12th December to Monday, 19th December 2016**. All boxes will be marked “Humanitarian Relief Effort for Aceh and Rakhine State”.
4. Members of the public can also offer their donation in cash or by cheque. All cheques should be made payable to “**RLAF**” with the words “Humanitarian Relief Effort for Aceh and Rakhine State” written on the back. Cash and cheques can be delivered to Muis Building at the Singapore Islamic Hub, 273, Braddell Road Singapore 579702. Online donations can also be made at the Muis website <https://zakat.sg/ePayment/donations.aspx>. All donations will be divided in equal portions for distribution to our partners who are providing humanitarian relief to both affected communities.
5. In the meantime, the Singapore Muslim community prays that the affected communities in both countries will be given the strength and resilience to face these tragic and challenging circumstances.
6. For clarification, please contact Mr Ibrahim Sawifi at 6359 1405 or Mr Asri Sunawan at 6359 1432.

RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN FOUNDATION (RLAF)

ABOUT THE RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN (BLESSINGS TO ALL) FOUNDATION

The Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in July 2009 to coincide with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) and the official opening of the Singapore Islamic Hub.

'Rahmatan Lil Alamin' is the Arabic for 'Blessings To All' which is the inspiration behind the establishment of the RLAF as it seeks to fund activities that bring blessings to all irrespective of creed, race or religion including the environment.

The Foundation was established by Muis to provide grants for humanitarian and community development projects and initiatives. The Foundation aims to spread the message of compassion for all humanity and concretising within the Singapore Muslim community the ethos of being a community that is a blessing to all. Through the grants, the Foundation hopes to build capacity and deeper interest amongst youths, and empower them to have the skills, capabilities and passion to volunteer and participate in humanitarian work both locally and beyond.

ANNEX B

Since 2004, the mosques and RLAF have collected over **\$5 million** from the community for international **humanitarian relief projects**.

- 1) 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami (Aceh)
- 2) 2005 Kashmir Earthquake
- 3) 2006 Java Earthquake
- 4) 2007 Lebanon Conflict
- 5) 2007 Jakarta Flood
- 6) 2008 Cyclone Nargis (Myanmar)
- 7) 2008 Sichuan earthquake
- 8) 2008 Yemen Cyclone
- 9) 2009 Gaza Humanitarian Conflict
- 10) 2009 Typhoon Ketsana (Philippines)
- 11) 2009 Earthquake in Sumatra
- 12) 2009 Typhoon Morakot (Taiwan)
- 13) 2009 Earthquake in West Java
- 14) 2009 Karachi Flood
- 15) 2010 Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami
- 16) 2010 Haiti Earthquake
- 17) 2011 Japan's Tohoku and Miyagi Earthquakes/Tsunami
- 18) 2011 East Africa Drought (Somalia)
- 19) 2011 Floods in Thailand
- 20) 2011 Floods in Cambodia
- 21) 2011 Philippines Floods
- 22) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Myanmar
- 23) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
- 24) 2012 Philippines Floods
- 25) 2013 Philippines Floods
- 26) 2013 Philippines Typhoon Haiyan
- 27) 2014 Syrian Refugees in Turkey
- 28) 2014 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
- 29) 2014 Kashmir Floods
- 30) 2014 School Project in Syria
- 31) 2015 Floods in Malaysia
- 32) 2015 Earthquake in Nepal
- 33) 2015 Floods in Myanmar
- 34) 2015 School Upgrading Project in Gaza
- 35) 2015 South India Floods
- 36) 2016 Japan & Ecuador Earthquakes