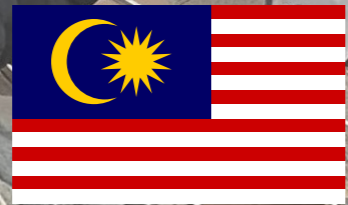


# Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART)



# MAS-01

Immediately after the 7.8M devastating earthquake hit southern Turkey on Feb 6th morning, the Malaysian Government offered assistance by deploying a classified Heavy USAR INSARAG team consisting of 70 members from the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART), known as MAS-01. With a very high level of readiness for deployment, the team managed to arrive at the entry point of ground zero in Adana within 48 hours after the disaster event. Upon arrival, the team provided support to the RDC by assigning 3 RDC officers at Adana Airport. Following a meeting with the AFAD disaster coordination sector, MAS-01 was assigned to Gaziantep Province to support the SAR operation, establishing their Base of Operations (BoO) at the Stadium of Nurdagi.



The time immediately following the event requires a fast response to save lives in imminent danger. Therefore, the first assessment team was deployed right away to the affected area in Nurdagi. Despite the challenging worksite, extreme weather conditions, safety and security issues, language barriers, and pressure from locals searching for their missing loved ones, the team continued to demonstrate professionalism and enthusiasm in the rescue mission. Their hard work paid off when MAS-01 successfully pulled five people alive from the rubble on February 11, 5 days after the event.

The success of the MAS-01 team undoubtedly relied on both internal and external factors. In addition to the well-organized, self-sufficient, and highly trained USAR specialists, internal support came from the coordinated efforts of NADMA, the NDMO of Malaysia, the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, and the Malaysia Embassy in Turkiye, with additional support from the Prime Minister of Malaysia himself. He flew to Gaziantep, spent time visiting the Base of Operations (BoO).

External factors that made the mission run smoothly relied on great support and arrangements by the Government of



Turkiye including providing translators. Working according to INSARAG Guidelines was important as well, especially coordination from SCC and UCC and the use of ICSM for reporting.

Another key to success is the art of dealing with local responders, NGOs, and the public. Besides providing support in specialized search and rescue equipment and manpower, the culture of respecting and listening to locals should be the way to ensure the international team is accepted by local responders and affected people on the ground.

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