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Date: 2 May 2015

Providing Relief in Response to the Nepal Earthquake Emergency

(Updated information on the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund, procedures for supporting relief efforts, and online contribution possibilities)

The Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund is set up by the Government of Nepal for search and rescue, and to provide relief to people hit by natural disaster and calamities. Funds received from the Government of Nepal or any other national and international source for the purpose of relief is deposited into the Fund. The fund cannot be used to provide donations or any other administrative and overhead costs including facilities and allowances to civil servants or other office-holders.

The Fund's activities are coordinated at the central level by a committee headed by the Vice Chairperson of the National Planning Commission, and comprising of secretaries of eight ministries. The procedure for release of funds is as follows: only after unanimous decision of the committee funds are released through the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Chief District Officer, who is also the Coordinator of the District Relief Fund. To ensure accountability and transparency, all expenditures under both the central fund and the district fund are audited annually by the Auditor General of Nepal.

The Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund should not be confused with the Prime Minister's Assistance Fund. The Relief Fund's operations are guided by the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund Operation Regulations (2006) of the Government of Nepal. Overall, the purpose of the Fund is to ensure effective rescue and relief following natural disasters through a "fast track" method which reduces administrative hassles and procedural delays. The Fund seeks to provide a one-window service to the affected people by consolidating amounts, avoiding duplication of effort, and ensuring proportional and equitable access to relief by needy victims in all affected persons.

It has also come to the Government's attention that several individuals and agencies have responded to the 25 April 2015 great earthquake by establishing their own bank accounts and soliciting donations. While the Government appreciates any and all genuine initiatives to help victims, it also has a duty to regulate the raising of the public funds and contribution in the name of disaster, so that benevolent donations are not misused and the rights of victims are protected. In this context, the Nepal Rastra Bank, following the advice of the Government, had issued a directive on 29 April 2015 directing that all funds thus raised be deposited with the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund and that no withdrawals from the related accounts be made.

U. G. Malego



Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers



Singha Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

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It has become necessary to clarify that the directive does not affect the operation of accounts maintained before 25 April 2015 by development organizations, relief agencies and other social organizations. In order to ensure optimum utilization of funds and equitable distribution of relief to the affected people, the organizations involved in providing relief are asked to conduct their activities in close coordination with the Government's central and district level agencies.

Further details about the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund can be obtained at <http://opmcm.gov.np> or by directly contacting Coordinator of the Fund and Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Prof. Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel at mobile number 98511-00407 or Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Mr. Narayan Gopal Malego at mobile number 9841516505.

Robust banking arrangements are being put in place to help facilitate easy transfer of contributions by Nepali and non-Nepali individuals and institutions, using online card payments. Contributions and donations may be deposited through SCT network within Nepal, and by using VISA or Master Card from outside Nepal. Donors and contributors may also choose to pay through bank transfer, with information for which is available at <http://pmrelief.opmcm.gov.np>.

Narayan Gopal Malego
Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, and Member-Secretary of the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund