Territorians Urged to Support Natural Disaster Victims

The Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson has urged Territorians to contribute what they can and help the victims of the natural disasters in the Philippines, Samoa and Padang.

Mr Henderson said thousands of people have lost family and friends and hundreds of thousands have been displaced as the death toll across the region continues to rise.

“I think every Territorian is shocked and saddened by this spate of natural disasters,” Mr Henderson said.

“So much death and destruction in our region is upsetting. My heart and thoughts go out to the Samoan, Indonesian and Filipino communities and to those who have lost family and friends.

“As Territorians, we have weathered our own natural disasters with cyclones and floods and we are generous. Please contribute what you can.”

Mr Henderson spoke to the Indonesian Consul Harbangan Napitupulu and Emma Sullivan from the Samoan community in Darwin to offer support and pass on the Northern Territory Government’s sympathies. His calls this week followed a similar call to John Rivas, the Honorary Consul for the Philippines, last week.

“The Territory Government is committed to helping in any way we can,” Mr Henderson said.

“Red Cross do a fantastic job and Government has donated $30,000 to help their relief efforts in Padang, Samoa and the Philippines.

“I thank those Territorians who have already donated and urge all Territorians to support other fundraising efforts. I understand the Filipino and Indonesian communities and Darwin High School are organising fundraising events.”

The Executive Director of Red Cross Sharon Mulholland thanked the Northern Territory Government for its donation.

“Asia Pacific is home to the highest proportion of natural disasters in the world and the recent disasters have affected already vulnerable communities,” she said.

“The Australian Red Cross has been responding in the affected areas since the first warnings in the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos Samoa, Tonga, Indonesian and India,” she said.

“We have also launched three appeals.
“The biggest priority for Red Cross is to ensure that people are safe and their basic needs are being met.

“We would like to thank those who have given generously and encourage people who want to help, that the best way they can do that is by donating to the appeals.”

Territorians can donate to any of the three appeals:

- via www.redcross.org.au
- by phoning 1800 811 700
- over the counter at any Commonwealth Bank or ANZ Bank
- sending a cheque or money order with a note stating which appeal the funds are intended to: Australian Red Cross Supporter Services, PO Box 2957, Melbourne, Victoria 8060

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