

## **Anwar extends condolences to victims of Turkey quake**

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today extended his condolences to the victims of the massive earthquake in southern Turkey which has so far claimed over 1,500 lives.

In a statement tonight, he said he was deeply saddened by the huge loss of lives, injuries and massive destruction following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Kahramanmaraş province near Gaziantep in southern Turkey.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Malaysia, I wish to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims and families as well as to all countries affected by the disaster.

May Allah the Almighty grant the victims and bereaved with quick recovery and solace," he said.

The prime minister added that a team from the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART) is flying to Turkey tonight to assist the local authorities in the Search and Rescue (SAR) mission in the areas in the country.

A 7.8 magnitude quake knocked down multiple buildings in southeast Turkey and Syria early Monday.

The quake, which hit in the early darkness of a winter morning, was followed by a second, 7.7 quake in the middle of the day on Monday, as rescuers in both countries were still attempting to search for survivors.