

## MANAGING NATURAL CATASTROPHE: MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

The presentation discusses about the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) in Malaysia, which was established in 2015 to manage disasters in the country. Some key points:

- NADMA took over disaster management duties from the National Security Council, with the aim of having a separate dedicated agency at the national level for disaster management.
- NADMA acts as the National Focal Point for national, regional and international disaster management. It also manages the Special Malaysia Disaster and Rescue Team (SMART) and National Disaster Command Center (NDCC).
- NADMA's policy framework is shaped by its Directive No. 1, which replaced the earlier National Security Council Directive (MKN) No. 20. This directive, first issued in 1997, was prompted by the Highland Towers collapse in 1993 and later revised in 2012. The current directive, effective from 2024, aims to guide disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. It defines the responsibilities of various government bodies, including federal, state, and district disaster management committees, in coordinating multi-agency efforts.
- The presentation outlines Malaysia's vulnerability to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, tsunamis, and earthquakes. Specifically, major floods in 2014/2015 and 2021/2022 resulted in significant losses, affecting hundreds of thousands of victims, causing billions in damages, and presenting challenges in communication, utilities, and road access.
- NADMA emphasizes the importance of community awareness, NGO involvement, and multi-agency coordination to improve disaster response. Going forward, the agency aims to enhance mitigation efforts and foster a culture of preparedness across all sectors.