

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation in Nepal

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Mr Speaker Sir,

I wish to make a statement on the situation in Nepal following the devastating earthquakes.

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal during the night of Friday 03 November 2023, with the epicentre at Barekot Rural Municipality of Jajarkot, situated 500 km west of Kathmandu, causing the loss of lives and physical damage in the districts of Barekot and West Rukum.

According to information gathered as at 06 November 2023, the number of deaths stood at 157 and 375 were injured. Initial assessments indicate that thousands of buildings and houses were damaged exposing about 1.3 million people while 250, 000 people may be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Days after this tragic event, Nepal was hit by another strong earthquake with 5.6 magnitude yesterday. The epicentre of the quake was located 233 kilometres north of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh This event caused panic among residents in Delhi and the National Capital Region.

In response to the earthquake, the largest to impact Nepal since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015, the UN agencies in Nepal and neighbouring countries are assisting the Nepalese authorities in the remote and mountainous districts in the western part of the country.

The Government has conveyed its deepest condolences and sympathies to the Nepalese authorities and to all those who have been afflicted by this tragedy.

Mr Speaker Sir, My Ministry has been in contact with our High Commission in New Delhi and our Honorary Consul in Nepal, and they have informed that all the Mauritian citizens in Nepal are safe.

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