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EXPEDITION MEASURES KINABALU'S ACTUAL HEIGHT

KOTA KINABALU, June 22 (Bernama) -- Members of the Institute of Surveyors, Malaysia (ISM) today began an expedition to determine the actual height of Mount Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's highest mountain.

They began their journey here to Mount Kinabalu in Ranau, about 100km from here in the expedition code-named the '97 ISM Kinabalu Project.

The project was launched to measure height of the peak said to be increasing at five millimetres a year.

Kinabalu's height of 4,101 metres (13,455 feet) quoted currently was measured 87 years ago.

The expedition, organised by ISM with the cooperation of the Sabah Land and Survey Department and Sabah Parks, was flagged off by Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai at Padang Merdeka here.

Project chairman Ho Kin Wong said the expedition, ending on Friday, which would use modern satellite technology to determine Kinabalu's height to the nearest millimetre.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, who is joining the expedition, would begin the climb tomorrow.

"I have to mentally prepare myself for the climb, I have not prepared physically," he said in jest to reporters who met him after the ceremony.

Kinabalu's new height is expected to be formally announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad in August. -- BERNAMA

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