

20 NOV 2002

Landslip-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR OBSERVES SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION AT LANDSLIP SITE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad observed the search and rescue operation at the landslip site where the bungalow of former Defence Forces Chief Jen (Rtd) Tan Sri Ismail Omar in Taman Hillview in Ampang here collapsed early today.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived at the scene at 5pm spent 30 minutes observing the operation to locate the remaining five victims still trapped in the rubble.

He was briefed on the operation by Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk Mohamed Noor Hamat.

Present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

As at 6.30pm, three bodies have been recovered and five others have been rescued alive.

In the 4.35am incident, 13 people were in the double-storey bungalow.

Two of the three bodies have been identified as that of Ismail's son-in-law, Shamsul Azhar Safei, 35, and Zurian Aishah, 5. The third body has not been identified.

Rescued alive were Ismail, his daughter, Intan Jasmin, who is Shamsul Azhar's wife, and their three children, Mohamed Shazwan, Ilya Syamira and Syamir Izzat.

The search and rescue operation is to locate Ismail's wife, Puan Sri Azizah Abdul Aziz, their son, Hijaz, and his wife, Zaradina Zaini and their son, Shazman, 1. Two maids, identified as Su and Tini, were also trapped in the rubble.

-- BERNAMA

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