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PM to visit affected areas today

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak will visit Sabah today to see the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake that rocked Ranau on Friday.

In his blog NajibRazak.com, the prime minister said the government would allocate funds to repair damaged infrastructure caused by the quake, which measured 5.9 on the Richterscale.

"God willing, I will visit Sabah tomorrow morning (today) to check the areas affected by the disaster. Funds will be allocated and channeled to repair damaged infrastructure and buildings there.

"Financial assistance and counselling services will also be provided to those in need," he said yesterday.

On his Twitter page, Najib expressed sorrow over the loss of lives from the tragedy and said those who risked their lives in the search-and-rescue operations would be remembered.

"Today, we commemorate the

lives of those who perished in the earthquake. The sacrifice of those who risked their lives for the search-and-rescue operations will always be remembered. #SabahBerkabung (#SabahMourns)," he tweeted.

Three districts in Sabah — Ranau, Kota Belud and Tuaran — were badly affected by the earthquake, which damaged schools, homes, mosques and clinics. Tremors were also felt in Penampang, Kudat, Kota Marudu, Kunak, Tenom, Papar, Kudat, Keningau and Beaufort.

Najib returned yesterday from a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

He said his official visit to the kingdom went smoothly and he had presented a memorandum to the Saudi government on the quota of haj pilgrims from Malaysia.

"May the good relations between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia facilitate the pilgrimage of Malaysians to the holy land to fulfil the fifth pillar of Islam," he said on his blog.



Family and loved ones **paying their last respects to mountain guide Ricky Masirin**, who was buried in Kampung Kauluan in Ranau yesterday. Pic by Malai Rosmah Tuah