

**RMAF EC725 Sent To Mount Kinabalu To Rescue Climbers - Hishammuddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- A Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Eurocopter EC725 has been despatched to Laban Rata in Mount Kinabalu to help save climbers who were stranded on the mountain as a result of an earthquake which shook several areas in Sabah today.

This was stated by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein on his Twitter, in response to a request by Sabah Tourist, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

He said the aircraft was also bringing food and water for the stranded hikers.

Masidi had requested for military helicopters which could be utilised in extreme weather conditions for the rescue effort.

Hishammuddin said the Defence Ministry and the Malaysian Armed Forces were always ready to assist Sabah.

An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Ranau in Sabah at 7.15 am today, causing tremors in several areas including Tambunan, Tuaran, Kota Kinabalu and Kota Belud.

The quake's epicentre was 16km north west of Ranau.

Following the incident, the Sabah Parks has cancelled all climbing activities at Mount Kinabalu for safety reasons.

A source from the Kinabalu National Park said 138 climbers are stranded on the mountain.

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