

**Sabah Earthquake: 17 Still Missing In Mount Kinabalu**  
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RANAU, June 6 (Bernama) -- Fourteen Mount Kinabalu climbers and three mountain guides are reported to be still missing following the 5.9 magnitude quake which hit here yesterday, said Ranau district police chief, Superintendent Mohd Farhan Lee Abdullah.

Mohd Farhan also confirmed that a mountain guide from Sabah and a Singaporean female student had died in the mountain area in the incident last night.

The guide was identified as Robbi Sapinggi, 30, from Kampung Kiau, Kota Belud, and the girl, Wee Ying Peony Ping, he told a press conference at Kinabalu Park operations centre here, Saturday.

A source said that of the 14 climbers missing, eight were from Singapore, three Malaysians and the others from China, the Philippines and Japan.

Search and rescue operations at Mount Kinabalu was intensified since 5.30 am today, with helicopters mobilised to transport SMART team members to the scene in locating the missing victims.

"If it is not possible by flight due to weather conditions, we will travel by land," said Mohd Farhan.

He added that 20 victims were admitted to Ranau and Queen Elizabeth hospitals for treatment.

Mohd Farhan said the authorities were desperately trying to complete SAR operations today.

So far a total of 173 of the 187 climbers and 107 staff managing the mountain lodge had been brought down safely.

The magnitude 5.9 quake, which struck Ranau at 7.15 am yesterday was the strongest recorded so far in Malaysia.

The moderate earthquake which was followed by slight tremors until last night was also felt in Tambunan, Tuaran, Kota Kinabalu and Kota Belud.

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