

Najib Satisfied With Rescue Operations For Earthquake Victims
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KUNDASANG, June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he was very satisfied with all the operations to save and rescue victims of the Sabah earthquake, especially on Mount Kinabalu, involving various parties.

He said all the allegations thrown at the rescue agencies including slow in reacting and on weaknesses were untrue.

"I wish to state that after being given a briefing and explanation this morning, on behalf of the government, I am very satisfied with all the operations undertaken by all parties. If there are those pointing the accusing finger over purported delays or weaknesses, these are not true."

Najib said this in his speech at the handing-out of aid to the next of kin of the mountain guides who were killed in the 5.9-magnitude earthquake that hit Ranau last Friday, with the tremors felt in several districts of Sabah.

He said all the actions and operations undertaken by the rescuers under the circumstances after the earthquake, were based on the weather conditions at the time.

The prime minister said all the earthquake victims on Mount Kinabalu who could be saved were rescued and brought down from the mountain, while some were fated to perish in the tragedy.

"I wish to say thanks to all those involved in the rescue operations. We have seen the state and federal government agencies cooperating very closely in the operations.

"For the state government and Sabah Parks, we have seen how the mountain guides showed extraordinary courage. (They had) sacrificed. When we mention self-sacrificing, the mountain guides are among them," he said to thunderous applause from those present at the ceremony.

Najib said the mountain guides had sacrificed whatever they had to although they could get killed in their task of rescuing the earthquake victims.

He also said that he had cut short his official visit to Saudi Arabia and to cancel his scheduled meeting today with the menteri besar and chief ministers to enable him to visit the victims and affected locations of the Sabah earthquake.

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