

**Quake: Najib Announces Aid And Suggestions To Boost Security**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced several aid and suggestions to boost security at the Kinabalu Park after seeing for himself the effects of the earthquake on Gunung Kinabalu, Ranau and Kundasang in Sabah.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, announced an allocation of RM10 million to the State Government of Sabah for work to repair Kinabalu Park which was damaged by the earthquake on Friday.

When speaking during the handing over of contributions to the victims and next-of-kins of the victims of the earthquake in Taman Kinabalu, Kundasang, Sabah, Najib was quoted as saying the revival of the park was crucial because it was a national and world heritage site.

He also drew attention specifically to the people of Sabah to a three-prong proposal to boost security of Taman Kinabalu including increasing sensors of the latest technology to detect tremors and provide early warnings.

The second proposal was to ensure all mountain guides carried the 'walkie-talkie' which were useful during emergency and, thirdly, all existing helicopter pads be enlarged to accommodate landings of military helicopters.

In the meantime, Najib also expressed the appreciation of the government and its desire to reward the mountain guides who had exhibited the spirit of 'sacrificing anything' by demonstrating their bravery and extraordinary sacrifices when rescuing the victims of the strongest earthquakes ever experienced by Malaysia to date.

The Prime Minister said he had discussed with Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman on the matter and the State Government would suggest the names of the recipients.

Najib also expressed his utmost satisfaction at the rescue operation of the earthquake victims in Sabah, specifically Gunung Kinabalu, which was implemented with the cooperation of all quarters.

He also denied all accusations hurled at the rescue agencies including delay in rescuing the victims.

In addition, he also announced that his counterpart in Singapore Lee Hsien Loong had sent a letter of appreciation on Malaysia's effort to assist a Singapore citizen who was a victim of the earthquake in Sabah.

Najib said he had sent a letter of condolence and sadness to the Prime Minister of Singapore on the tragedy befalling its citizens due to the earthquake while visiting Sabah.

The visit by Najib, who wore a white shirt, in Ranau and Kundasang, was also much awaited by the local communities including the mountain guides who were excited at meeting the nation's number one leader.

Prior to this, Najib, in the midst of his busy schedule in conjunction with a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia from Saturday, also monitored the development of the incident, and flew to Sabah upon his return from Jeddah, Monday.

The earthquake, measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale, took place at 7.15am on Friday and 16 locals and foreign nationals were confirmed killed, to date.

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