

5 more bodies found at Mt Kinabalu, death toll now 16
The Malaysian Insider
June 7, 2015

Search and rescue (SAR) teams today found 5 more bodies at Mount Kinabalu following Friday's earthquake that hit Ranau, said State Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

He said three of the bodies had been retrieved and flown to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu by helicopter while the remains of the other two victims had yet to be brought down.

"Positive identification of the two is difficult because there are only body parts.

"So we also really don't know whether the parts of that have been retrieved are of new bodies. That is why for the time being we list the two as still missing because we have not been able to make a positive identification of them due to the condition of the bodies," he said.

Masidi was speaking at a press conference at the Kinabalu Park Operations Centre today.

Masidi added that two other victims who were still unaccounted for are Singaporeans – a teacher and a student.

He said this brings to the total number of casualties to 18, 16 confirmed dead, six from Malaysia, Singaporeans (seven), Philippines (one), China (one) and Japan (one).

The minister also clarified that out of the six reported missing yesterday, one was still alive.

He said Mohd Khairulridzuan Abdul Kahalif, 39, a Malaysian, reported to be in the first group of 52 climbers, was safely brought down on Friday.

"He was in the first group but he was not accounted for, and he is now back in Kuala Lumpur," he said.

Meanwhile, Masidi said the SAR operation would be scaled down but would continue until all casualties have been accounted for.

"We will scale down the SAR operation until such time when we believe that all have been accounted for. The whole idea is that we need mopping up operations just in case we find other body parts," he added. – Bernama, June 7, 2015.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/5-more-bodies-found-death-toll-now-16>