

Malaysia to re-look safety protocol for Mount Kinabalu climbers, says Khairy
The Malaysian Insider
June 9, 2015

The Sabah earthquake "changes everything" and Malaysia will have to re-look safety protocol for those climbing Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, said Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

Khairy visited Tanjong Katong Primary School on Tuesday and extended his condolences to the victims of the quake on behalf of the Malaysian people and the government. He was received by Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Education Indraneel Rajah.

He said the incident came as a "big shock" to the country.

"This changes everything, because previously we've never had an earthquake with an epicentre so close to the mountain. I believe we will ensure that future climbers will be safe when the new protocols are in place."

Meteorologists and geologists will have to assess the impact of seismic movements in Sabah as part of efforts to re-look safety aspects, the minister added.

Asked about the idea of restricting Mount Kinabalu climbers to those aged 15 and above, Khairy said: "Before we come to a conclusion about limiting the age of climbers, we have to understand what's taken place and seismic threats that confronts us.

"Once that's done and once we have the comprehensive review of the situation, then we are able to put in new security protocols which may or may not include an age limit to climbers in future."

He added that the authorities hoped to conclude search-and-recovery operations by Tuesday, after unfavourable weather conditions over the last two days.

As for criticism over rescue efforts, Khairy said the authorities had "done our best from the start".

"We have ensured that our emergency services were deployed from the start. I think the helicopters were unable to land in the first place because of the weather conditions," he said.

Sixteen people were killed in the 5.9-magnitude earthquake early last Friday, among them mountain climbers and guides who were trapped on Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia's tallest mountain and a tourist attraction.

Of the 16, six were from Malaysia, seven from Singapore, one from the Philippines, one from China and one from Japan. Two Singaporeans are still missing. – Bernama, June 9, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/malaysia-to-re-look-safety-protocol-for-mount-kinabalu-climbers-says-khairy>