

# SEVEN SIBLINGS STILL MISSING



Seven siblings were swept away in a mudslide near Sungai Labou in Tongod, Kinabatangan, on Friday. PIX COURTESY OF NST READER

Their parents and two other children survived mudslide on Friday evening

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**R**ESCUERS are still battling the raging waters of Sungai Labou in Tongod here in their search for seven siblings who were swept away in a mudslide on Friday.

The children, aged between 8 and 17, were among 11 family members living in a workers' quarters when the incident occurred following a downpour on Friday evening.

Their parents, who are estate

workers, and two other children, survived the incident deep in an oil palm estate in central Sabah, about six-hour drive from the interior district of Keningau.

At press time, the victims are still missing as the rescue team continues the search along Sungai Labou and nearby streams.

About 20 personnel from the Fire and Rescue Department, Civil Defence Department and police were deployed to several search areas.

Keningau Fire and Rescue Department chief Mudi Pengiran said the department received a call at 10.30am on Saturday, adding that the family was probably asleep during the incident.

"The incident was only realised in the morning when estate workers noticed one of the workers' quarters had vanished. There was only debris.

"Strong currents could have swept the victims further away and our search operation is focused on Sungai Penangah, which is two hours away from the scene, and Sungai Masarung, which is an hour away."

It was learnt that the survivors were seen clinging to trees before they were rescued by villagers from Kampung Alitang.

State Civil Defence Department director Colonel Muliadi Al-Hamdi Ladin said the department yesterday mobilised a team to Kampung Alitang to conduct a search along Sungai Milian.

"We were informed at 12.19pm on Friday and arrived at the scene five hours later. The road leading to the scene was inaccessible as the connecting bridge was damaged," he said, adding that assets, including boats, had been deployed.

## MUDSLIDE IN KINABATANGAN SWEEPS AWAY SEVEN SIBLINGS

1. A heavy downpour at an oil palm estate in Kinabatangan on Friday causes a nearby river's banks to burst. The raging waters flowed downstream, bringing along huge amounts of mud and logs.

2. The large volume of water and debris hit a workers' quarters located downhill, destroying the building and sweeping away seven siblings who were believed to be sleeping at the time of the incident.



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	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGRIB	ISYAK
Malacca	5:54	7:11	1:17	4:22	7:20	8:29
Penang	6:00	7:15	1:24	4:24	7:28	8:38
K. Lumpur	5:56	7:11	1:19	4:22	7:23	8:32
Johor Baru	5:48	7:05	1:11	4:17	7:14	8:23
Kuantan	5:51	7:05	1:13	4:16	7:17	8:26
Ipoh	5:58	7:11	1:22	4:23	7:26	8:35



The location of the mudslide near Sungai Labou in Tongod, Kinabatangan.