

# UMS to help villagers adapt in landslide-prone Kundasang

BP 2/6/2011 A2

**KOTA KINABALU:** Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun has urged Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to conduct a research on ways to teach villagers in Kundasang to adapt to living in the area known for its landslides.

"I asked whether it was possible for UMS to do a research on how to mitigate the problem of landslides in Kundasang and how the community could be taught very simple ways to mitigate the problem and at least stabilize the land movement there," he said.

The Karanaan assemblyman also pointed out that the landslides in Kundasang were not always caused by torrential rain as the unstable earth caused by the still 'growing' Mount Kinabalu was one of the contributing factors.

"I was speaking to Prof Dr Amran (Ahmed), deputy

Vice Chancellor of Academic and International about the matter and asked perhaps the university could come up with a very simple way of stabilizing the land.

"We cannot stop the problem altogether but we can do something with the natural resources available to minimize it; we can make it a community project so that the villagers can adapt to living in the condition and know what to do to prevent the worst from occurring," Masidi said.

The state government, he added, was willing to provide UMS with a grant for the purpose.

Dr Amran meanwhile said the UMS geology programme would follow up on Masidi's suggestion.

"We will find a way to help the community live with that kind of environment..., we cannot change the environment but we can guide them to adapt with the current situation," he said.