

UMS training villagers to prepare for natural disasters

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KOTA KINABALU: The Natural Disaster Research Center (NDRC) of Faculty of Science and Natural Resources (FSSA), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) conducted a site visit to prepare for natural disaster emergency training in Kampung Melangkap Baru, Kota Belud recently.

Director of NDRC, Associate Professor Dr Carolyn Melissa Payus said the site visit was a preliminary preparation for the Natural Disaster Public Education Program which will be held on August 19, 2023.

"Among the contents of this public education program will be emergency training for natural disasters such as floods, fires and earthquakes.

"Flood emergency training will be given by the Civil Defense Force (APM) of Kota Belud, fire emergency training will be given by the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department (JBPM) Kota Belud, while earthquake emergency training will be given by the NDRC," she said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to Carolyn, the site visit is also to determine the location that will be used for training, including seeing the infrastructure, and geographical features relevant to the disaster that will be simulated.

"Among other things, this training is held to improve the security system and emergency handling of natural disasters in the Kampung Melangkap area as well as train the community to



Site visit for flood emergency training at the Polumpung Melangkap Camp Site.

deal with disaster emergencies such as earthquakes, floods and fires.

"It is also to prepare them to be more prepared to face any natural disaster around them in the future," she explained.

The visit was also filled with a discussion session with the village heads and chairmen of Village Development and Security Committee from Melangpa Baru, Melangpa Tomis, Melangpa Tjong, Melangpa Kapa and Melangpa Nariou.

Among the issues and proposals discussed were the installation of flood warning

sirens, establishing a safety guideline for tourist centres, the establishment of an Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the proposal to establish a Voluntary Fire Brigade (PBS) for villages in Melangkap.

Carolyn was grateful for the commitment shown by JBPM and APM Kota Belud for participating in the site visit and discussions with the village heads and Village Development and Security Committee chairmen.

"NDRC is always supportive and ready to provide training services, advice and be a

coordinator if the suggestions expressed in the discussion are continued by the Melangkap community," she said.

Also present were Senior Fire Officer I Kota Belud, Thomas Bolu; Training Management Division (CPL) APM Kota Belud, PBT (PA) Mohd Fazrul Ihwan Laip; UMS Faculty of Engineering Senior Lecturer/NDRC Principal Research Fellow, Dr Janice Lynn Ayog; FSSA Senior Lecturer, UMS/NDRC Research Fellow, Ts. Dr Hardianshah Saleh and NDRC Research Officer, Eldawaty Madran.