

# Bones could be of several marine animals: Geologist

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Fishermen from Membakut are likely to have stumbled upon the bones of several marine animals on a beach at the Survivor island of Pulau Tiga, which caused some confusion as to what creature they had discovered.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah School of Science and Technology associate professor Dr Felix Tongkul said the area where the fishermen found the bones was a small bay at the northern part of island where numerous debris was washed ashore.

"What the fishermen found

## UMS researchers check out skeletal remains of prehistoric marine reptile

KOTA KINABALU: The skeletal remains of a prehistoric million years ago, fisherman Helmi Hassan said

### ■ Our report yesterday

could been likely the bones or carcasses of one, two or even three marine creatures," he said when contacted yesterday.

Dr Tongkul, who combed the Tanjung Pogong Pogong beach on the island at Pulau Tiga on Friday, said he could not find any more bones that could connect a small skull to a number of large bones found by the fishermen on March 30.

The geologist said he had

passed on the information he had about the find to the UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute and the university's marine biologist Dr Ridwan Ahmad said a researcher would be sent to check out the bones now being kept at Kampung Binsuluk, some 80km from Kota Kinabalu.

The discovery of the bones had caused a stir among the villagers as one of the fishermen

who found the remains said the skull that was washed up on the Pulau Tiga beach resembled the picture of a skull of the prehistoric Plesiosaur marine reptile dating back to over 200 million years ago.

The fisherman, Helmi Hassan said the skull they found was about the size of a sepak takraw ball with a beak-like mouth measuring about 0.3m.

Among the other 30 pieces of bones they found over a 10m stretch were two pieces each measuring more than 2m while another 12 pieces each measuring about 1m appeared to be rib bones.