

# Tsunami threat only assumption: Madius

**Jo Ann Mool DE 6.11.2016 |**

**KOTA KINABALU:** Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau (pic) said the impending tsunami threat on Sabah as mentioned by a senior meteorology officer is merely hypothetical.

“Although the statement is based on scientific reasoning it is a hypothetical scenario whether it’s going to happen or not,” he said. However, it was better for the people to be kept on their toes and prepared for anything.

Madius said although it was not confirmed whether a 50-meter high tsunami was going to hit Sabah as discussed by a meteorologist during a programme on RTM, it was best that precautionary measures including getting people prepared for the disaster were taken.

“We want to create awareness and educate the people on what to do when the siren is sounded and when disaster strikes,” he said after the prize presentation of The Art of Nation building programme in Suria Mall here on Saturday.

He added that earlier on Saturday, a tsunami drill was conducted at Putatan. He also said in terms of technology and equipment preparedness, the government had no problem.

“Our resources are adequate and will be able to detect a movement in real time,” he said.

However, Tangau said it was the awareness and preparedness of the people, which needed to be prioritised right now.

“I remember during the latest drill in Lahad Datu, when the siren was aired, the people went searching for the source of the siren instead of evacuating and leaving the area,” he said.

Meanwhile, Prof Dr Felix Tongkul from the UMS’ Natural Disaster Research Centre had also been reported as saying that it was unlikely such a gigantic wave would hit Sabah.



# Tsunami

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"A 50m-high tsunami will only be produced if the whole mass of a submarine shelf falls at one go. This is quite a rare occurrence. I personally think the chance of this happening is very, very low," said Tongkul.

He said this after a Malaysian Meteorological Department official spoke of the possibility of a giant wave hitting the northern Kudat coast if a massive undersea landslip happened.

Dr Tongkul said the 50m-high tsunami prediction was based solely on a simulation of a giant undersea landslide of a submarine shelf in deep waters in the South China Sea near Brunei.