

Typhoon Lan underlines Sabah's need to be more prepared for natural disasters



Prof Kamarudin striking the gong to officiate the closing ceremony of the seminar, accompanied by Prof Felix (4th from right).

BY MOHD IZHAM HASHIM

NST 25.10.2017 2

KOTA KINABALU: The recent spate of extreme weather in the west coast caused by the side-effects of Typhoon Lan underlined the role of research to enhance Sabah's readiness and management in responding to natural disasters.

"The impact of fierce storms and strong winds wrought by the tail-end of the typhoon triggered flash floods and landslides in many districts, causing millions worth of damage to homes, properties and crops as well as threatening lives and livelihoods," said Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Prof Datuk Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin.

In his keynote address while officiating the closing ceremony of the Natural Disaster Seminar 2017 yesterday, he highlighted the crippling effects posed by natural hazards calls for urgent action to manage and reducing the risk from disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons.

"Developing an effective strategy to im-

prove Sabah's disaster response capabilities requires interdisciplinary research across various fields to improve studies on the factors, effects and mitigation measures needed," he said.

Furthermore, Kamarudin noted that research findings need to be shared with other experts to contribute to the pool of knowledge and improve understanding on issues relating to natural disasters.

Referring to the recent landslide on Mount Kinabalu UMS Geologist, Dr Felix Tongkul believed that more landslides would occur in the remote eastern side of the mountain and is unlikely to cause any threat to people.

"The only possible danger is the possible creation of artificial dams which restrict the flow of rivers, which over time will accumulate and cause another round of landslides, bringing mud and debris if breached," he said.

■ See Page 7