KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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FOUND NEAR EXCAVATOR

Remains of limestone quarry landslide victim found

IPOH: The skeletal remains of a victim who was buried under the debris of a landslide that occurred at a limestone quarry in Keramat Pulai, Jalan Simpang Pulai-Cameron Highlands here six months ago have been found.

Perak Fire and Rescue Department operations assistant Muhamad Shahrizal Aris said the remains were found by the quarry company workers, firemen and police at 11.45am yesterday.

Shahrizal said firemen received a call from the Simpang Pulai police station at 10.20am, saying that the quarry company workers had found an excavator previously buried under the earth.

"Firemen were dispatched to the scene and found the excavator.

"We dug deeper at the same location and moved the excavator before we found the skeletal remains.

"Besides the remains, there were also bits of cloth. The excavator was discovered about four metres below ground," he said in a press conference at the scene yesterday.

Shahrizal said rescuers were conducting a search using dogs from the K9 unit to locate the second victim, believed to be located near where the first victim was found.

"The skeletal remains, whose identity has yet to be confirmed, were handed over to the police before being taken to the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital for further action."

He said that authorities would be stationed here to continue the operation until they find the next lead.

A landslide at 9.30am on March 8 led to two men being buried under the debris.

The trapped victims were identified as Itam Bah Lasoh, 43, and Kheow Loo Siew Soon, 49.

Perak Mineral and Geoscience Department director Datuk Ahmad Zukni Ahmad Khalil had said unpredictable weather coupled with incessant consistent rainfall had triggered soil movements that led to the landslide at the limestone quarry.