

# A quake look at the past

**July 26, 1976**

A 5.8-magnitude earthquake hit Lahad Datu, Sabah, leading to homes being severely damaged.

**Dec 26, 2004**

A devastating 9.1-magnitude earthquake struck in the Indian Ocean, off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggering tsunamis and killing over 230,000

people in 14 countries. In Malaysia, northern coastal areas like Penang were also hit by the tsunami while others in the Peninsular felt tremors, with reported incidents of furniture shaking and so on.

**April 11, 2012**

An 8.6-magnitude quake off Sumatra, Indonesia caused a tsunami warning to be issued. Tremors were felt all over Peninsular Malaysia. People in

several shopping malls in Penang and the main government hospital in Kuantan were ordered to evacuate the buildings.

**June 5, 2015**

Mount Kinabalu in Sabah and the surrounding areas, including Ranau, were jolted by a series of earthquakes, with the first measuring 6.0. The incident killed 18 climbers, including four mountain guides. To date, it is the strongest quake recorded in Malaysia.

Sources: Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and others

**Oct 8, 2009**

Eight minor earthquakes occurred at Bukit Tinggi, Pahang between 4.45am and 12.05pm.

**March 2, 2016**

A 7.9-magnitude earthquake hit west of Sumatra, Indonesia, leading to a tsunami warning which was later called off for Indonesia and Australia. In Malaysia, tremors were felt in Johor, Selangor and Kelantan.

**Aug 26, 2016**

A three-second tremor sent residents, climbers and hotel guests into a panic when a 4.0-magnitude earthquake hit the Mount Kinabalu area, some 16km west of Ranau.

**Jan 16, 2017**

A 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck near Medan, Indonesia. Residents in Penang and other areas in Peninsular Malaysia felt tremors from the incident.

## The situation in Sabah

- Malaysia is categorised as a **country with relatively low seismicity**, except for Sabah where earthquakes of local origin are known to occur.
- Sabah is **located on the south-eastern Eurasian Plate**, bordered by the Philippine Plate and the Pacific Plate.
- **Low to moderate seismic activities** occur in Sabah because of the interaction between the three plates and several active fault lines.
- **A total of 182 earthquakes**, with magnitudes ranging between 2.9 to 6.0, were recorded in Sabah between 1900 and 2016.

