Lost hikers rescued
Ten Unimas students located at spot on Mount Santubong

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KUCHING: It was a hiker’s nightmare for 10 students from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) when they lost their way while descending Mount Santubong near here on Sunday.

Prior to the incident, about 70 hikers from the university including a teacher went for a hiking trip to the mountain at 8am.

Upon reaching the peak, all of them felt hungry and decided to go back to the foot of the mountain.

However, a group of 10 students — five males and five females — decided to stay longer.

According to Fire and Rescue Department’s spokesman Mohammad Raffy Saibi, they received a distress call at 7.55pm.

The first group, minus the 10 people who decided to stay earlier, arrived at the foot at 4pm.

A rescue team comprising the police, Rela members as well as the crew from Petra Jaya fire station and Civil Defence Department came to the scene and went uphill to search for the missing students.

It did not take long for the team to locate the students, who were at a spot 500m above sea level at around 9pm. All of them were brought down to safety.

Two female students in the group sustained minor leg injuries and were sent to Sarawak General Hospital for treatment.

In a similar incident on Feb 22, a group of Unimas students had to endure the cold for more than seven hours when they lost their way during a hiking trip to Mount Santubong. It is learnt that the students did not engage a guide for the climbing expedition.