

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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## Sabah's 'floating' fire station

**SEMPORNA:** Malaysia's first "floating" fire station, located at the tourist jetty here, began operations yesterday.

The facility, built at a cost of RM200,000, is expected to speed up response time in the event of fire and other emergencies.

Sabah Fire and Rescue Department director Kamarulzaman Malik Abdullah said for the initial phase, the post would have three boats.

"It would operate with 20 personnel, together with three supervisors and a station chief. The three main functions of the post are to

put out fires, conduct search-and-rescue operations and provide water ambulance facilities.

"We are expecting a bigger firefighting boat with three tonnes of capacity to be placed here," he said at the document signing ceremony and handover of keys.

Present were Semporna district officer Benedict Asmat, deputy state Fire and



Sabah Fire and Rescue Department director Kamarulzaman Malik Abdullah (fourth from left) at the Semporna fire station yesterday. With him is Semporna district officer Benedict Asmat (second from left). PIC BY ABDUL RAHEMANG TAIMING

Rescue department director Zuraidah Latip and district police chief Superintendent Sabarudin Rahmat.

Benedict said the post facility could expedite operations.

"There are more than 10 water villages here. Should a fire break out, it could cause fatalities and serious damage to properties," he said.