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Mahathir - Sabah

RAMOS TO CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS TO DROP SABAH CLAIM

JITRA, Jan 29⁹³ (Bernama) -- Philippine President Fidel Ramos has said he will not go back on the efforts of his predecessor, Corazon Aquino, to resolve the question of his country's claim to Sabah.

He said this to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during their meeting yesterday.

"He will try to go forward but he feels that he needs time, + Dr Mahathir told reporters here today.

Aquino had moved to drop the claim but her efforts were stifled by the Philippine Senate.

The Prime Minister said he had not expected his meeting yesterday with President Ramos to resolve the issue.

This was because the issue not only involved the Philippine Government but also people in certain areas of that country including those who claimed to be heirs of the Sultan of Sulu who claimed he had proprietary rights to Sabah.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia remained steadfast in its stand that Sabah was an integral part of the country.

Asked about the Philippines' move to set up an Advisory Council on the Sabah claim issue, Dr Mahathir said: "That is their way of resolving the problem. We do not interfere in this." -- Bernama

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