

CNS6981

U GE 14-03 00131 EA070

aae tbe.

Mahathir-army \*

NO POLITICAL MOTIVE IN STATIONING SOLDIERS IN SABAH, SAYS DR M

bm

LANGKAWI, March 14 (Bernama)-- The stationing of army personnel in Sabah was not driven by political motive but for the maintenance of security, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We have not stationed many soldiers there, only the usual number to ensure order owing to incidence of piracy and robberies," he told reporters when asked to comment on news reports on the matter today.

Fifth Brigade commander Brig Jen Datuk Jelani Asmawi had said in Kota Kinabalu yesterday that some people in Sabah were uneasy with the presence of soldiers helping to maintain peace and order in the state. -- more

♥14/03/20-11MST

CNS6983

U GE 14-03 00156 EA071

aae tbe

Mahathir-army 2 (last) Langkawi

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the difference of opinion between Lord President Tun. Hamid Omar and Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar on the role of the courts.

The Prime Minister said the minister had explained the matter.

He also said that all decisions touched on public interest but the perception of the public might differ from the perception of the judiciary.

In a recent statement, Syed Hamid had said that the courts should adopt a new approach to sentencing to fulfill the people's aspirations rather than strictly adhering to the letter of the law.

Asked to comment on the move by the Royal Malaysia Air Force (RMAF) to withdraw the services of pilots and crew seconded to the Johor and Pahang palaces, Dr Mahathir said this was the prerogative of the RMAF. -- Bernama

♥14/03/20-27MST