

PM: Security forces in Sabah to maintain peace and order

By Saiful 
Azhar Abdullah

LANGKAWI, Sun. -The security forces are in Sabah to maintain peace and order, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

Their presence was vital because of frequent incidents of piracy and robbery, the Prime Minister added.

"We need to have security forces in Sabah because we have to ensure there is peace and order in the State.

"The **presence** of the forces is **because** there are **pirates** and robbers in Sabah. We have to make sure a peaceful situation prevails in the State," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to newsmen at the Langkawi International Airport after a day-long visit of Langkawi to inspect the progress of several development projects and the preparation for this year's Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace

(Lima 93) Exhibition.

His remarks were in reply to questions on reports that some people in Sabah were unhappy with the presence of the security forces.

Yesterday, Fifth Brigade army commander **Datuk Jelani Aswami said in Kota Kinabalu that some people were unhappy with the presence of the army.**

Dr Mahathir said there was no political motive behind the deployment of security forces in Sabah.

He said the force was at normal level and that there was no massive deployment.

Asked about the withdrawal of the services of 23 Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) pilots and ground crew seconded to fly and maintain the aircraft of the Sultans of Pahang and Johor effective from May 1, Dr Mahathir said it was the decision of the air force.

RMAF acting chief Major General **Datuk Abdul Ghani**

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Aziz said yesterday that the 23 pilots and ground crew would be posted to regular duties.

The 23 were responsible for flying the Sultan of Pahang's helicopter and Sultan of Johor's Lear executive jet and helicopter.

The decision was in line with the recent Cabinet directive to withdraw all perks and privileges enjoyed by Rulers which were not provided for under the law.

On the judicial issue which became a topic of debate between Law Minister **Datuk Syed Hamid Albar** and Lord President **Tun Abdul Hamid Omar**, Dr Mahathir said the two men held different views.

"It is a differing of views. The minister has clarified the matter. There is no problem," he added.

Dr Mahathir said all court sentences were made in the public interest.

Syed Hamid had said on

March 3 that there was public dissatisfaction over the inconsistencies in sentencing and the problem of backlog cases.

He said the courts should adopt a new approach in meting out sentences in order to reflect the wishes of the people because the country's judicial system was created to fulfil the people's aspirations.

Hamid, in response to the statement, said it was of utmost importance for the public to appreciate that in the country's judicial system, the court shall act in accordance with and within the confines of the law.

He said in the case of imposing sentences, the courts must be guided by well-established principles, adding that courts were not dealing with policy but law and that it was a matter for the courts to construe the spirit and intention of a particular law.