

# Dr M: Protection

for

~~STAR~~ Sabah<sup>2</sup> JUL 2009

# from claims

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will do whatever is necessary to protect Sabah from foreign claims, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

This follows the Philippines' intervention in the ownership dispute over Sipadan and Ligitan islands, off the Sabah coast.

Both Malaysia and Indonesia have objected to Manila's move to intervene in the issue.

The case is now being heard at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in the Netherlands.

"We have carried out all the necessary studies to plead our case before the ICJ," Dr Mahathir said when replying to a question during a dialogue with students after closing a symposium on the idealism of undergraduates at Universiti Malaya yesterday.

The Philippines, in its argument, had said that it was possible that any decision with regard to the two islands would have an impact on its claim to Sabah.

To another question, Dr Mahathir said the Government was in the process of defining job specifications for civil servants to ensure they know their responsibilities and to prevent them from denying the people their rights, for whatever reason.