

Misuari has put us in difficult spot, says Dr M

PHILIPPINE Muslim leader Nur Misuari has put Malaysia in a difficult spot by fleeing to Malaysia, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He has soured our relations with our neighbours," he said.

Sneaking to reporters in the Parliament lobby, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was ready to send the former Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) governor back to the Philippines, but the negotiations with the Philippines government was still ongoing.

"He had put us in the a difficult spot. Why can't he run away somewhere else?"

The Philippines' ambassador to Malaysia, Jose Brillantes, told AFP yesterday that Manila was not ready to take Misuari out of Malaysia for the moment.

In Kota Kinabalu, striving to distance itself further from Misuari whom it removed as leader last April, the MNLF Council of 15 is hoping to finally gain recognition from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

MNLF Council of 15 member Abou Amri Taddik said yesterday the council was also hoping that MNLF Foreign Affairs chief Dr Farouk Hussin would also be recognised by the OIC as the new governor.