

Zahid: FDI process takes nation's sovereignty into account
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The process of bringing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country always takes into accounts the interests and sovereignty of the nation, said Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

As such, he said, the question of the process jeopardising the country's sovereignty did not arise.

"What is carried out (in the matter of bringing in FDI) is the normal practice adopted by any country that needs FDI," he told reporters at the lobby of Parliament House today.

He was asked to comment on former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's claim reported by a news portal yesterday that several agreements signed by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak with China might jeopardise Malaysia's sovereignty.

Dr Mahathir was also reported to have said that the agreements could send the wrong signal to China on the dispute between the two countries pertaining to the South China Sea.

Ahmad Zahid said the question of claims in the South China Sea was related to history and should be considered separately from finalising FDI.

He said investments from China provided benefits in terms of returns and the country's growth and, as such, Dr Mahathir's interpretations should be set aside.

"In any FDI process in any country, including during the time he (Dr Mahathir) was the prime minister, priority was given to sovereignty," he said.

- *Bernama*