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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	6/3/2013

Manila, KL agree to label Sulu gunmen as 'terrorists'

NST-6/3/2013

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and the Philippines yesterday agreed that the Sulu gunmen who killed eight Malaysian security personnel in the east coast of Sabah be labelled as "terrorists".

Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said Malaysia considered the gunmen as terrorists following the atrocities and brutalities committed in the killing of two Malaysian policemen in Lahad Datu

and six in Semporna.

"Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Senator Albert F. Del Rosario agreed that this group be labelled as terrorists.

"Malaysia also needs the clarifications about the law that these terrorists will be charged with in the Philippines and for the law to be studied by our attorney-general," he said in a statement.

Anifah said action must be taken

against Sulu sultan Jamalul Kiram III for his statements inciting hatred and violence.

During their meeting on Monday, Anifah said Del Rosario had given an assurance that the Philippine government would charge the Sulu group involved in the Sabah incident.

However, the matter discussed was still subject to the final approval by both governments.

He added that the meeting was also to convey Malaysia's appreciation of the stance taken by the Philippine government and President Benigno Aquino in calling on the terrorists to surrender and return to their families and homes.

"We (Malaysia) have tried our best to persuade them to leave.

"We had offered a peaceful solution and extended the deadlines several times. Unfortunately, the group

chose to attack and kill our security personnel last Friday and Saturday."

He also told Rosario that Malaysia wanted to see an end to the stand-off as soon as possible.

Rosario was also informed that Malaysia understood the Philippines' positions to resolve the situation.

"(Still) we have a responsibility to protect our interest, our security and our peace.