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Dr M: No basis to claim

NST-16/3/2013

KUALA LUMPUR: Jamalul Kiram III should abide by and respect the long-standing agreement that Sabah is a part of Malaysia.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday Malaysia's payment of cession money was, in itself, to honour the agreement.

"We have always honoured our agreements. But that does not give (them) the right to the land... there's no legitimate basis for them to try to 'repossess' Sabah."

Dr Mahathir said he was saddened by the whole incident.

"It is unfortunate that there are people who have some fantastic idea (of intruding into Sabah), and this has resulted in the death of our se-

curity personnel and, of course death of their people (the terrorists)," he said after handing over RM80,000 on behalf of Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) to the Royal Malaysian Police Welfare Department.

Dr Mahathir, who is PGPF president, stressed that the aim of the foundation was about making war a crime.

"The current situation is a defensive war and thus cannot be regarded as a crime. We are not invading anybody, we are defending our country.

"Even if it means loss of lives on both sides, we have to accept it because we have a legitimate right to defend our country."