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Newspaper	The Star
Date	5/3/2013

# Morale still high among cops despite losses

The star - 5/3/2013

**FELDA SAHABAT (LAHAD DATU):** Morale continues to be high among the police force, despite the loss of eight of their comrades, as they confront many fronts in Sabah's east coast.

"They are determined to end the standoff with the armed Sulu group at Kampung Tanduo. That is the general feeling among my men," said Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar.

"We have lost some men but the

enemy has more losses," he told the media here yesterday.

Two police VAT 69 commandos were killed in a skirmish at Kampung Tanduo on Friday while six other policemen died in an ambush in Semporna a day later.

Eighteen gunmen have been killed at both flash points.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi flew into Sabah

amid the rising concern over the deaths of the eight policemen.

Soon after touching down at the Lahad Datu airport, they went to the operations room to be briefed on the situation by Ismail and armed forces chief Jen Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin.

Dr Ahmad Zahid said that besides getting the latest information, they were there to give moral support to the men in uniform.

"We were briefed that the situation in other parts of Sabah is calm,

except in Tanduo and Tanjung Batu," he said.

"We were told that the locals are still carrying on with their daily activities."

Security has been beefed up in Sabah with five battalions in Lahad Datu and one each in Semporna and Sandakan.

Dr Ahmad Zahid is expected to brief Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak when he returns to Kuala Lumpur.