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Dr M: Violence in Sabah unlikely to escalate

The Star - 6/3/2013

SERDANG: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not think that violence will escalate in Sabah due to the significant number of foreigners-turned-citizens in the state, saying most of them are loyal citizens.

"Although a few may act against the country, most are loyal," he said after launching the Langkawi World Cup Asia 2013 logo at the Palace of the Golden Horses here yesterday.

He said people from other countries constantly migrated to Malaysia and became citizens.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a statement by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah who said Malaysia's failure to stop foreigners from entering and seizing territory could endanger Sabah.

On claims that the Moro National Liberation Front were trained by the Malaysian Government, Dr Mahathir said that was untrue.

"We did not train them. They only claimed to be trained by us."

He said there were some who felt that the Government acted too slow by cracking down on the Sulu intruders after 20 days of the standoff but pointed out that it was a complex situation.

"We cannot simply retaliate. There were innocent people who could become victims. We, however, had a right to fight back with weapons because they were violent," he said.



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