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'Go to Lahad Datu if you dare'

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Zahid Hamidi challenges Pakatan leaders to go to Sabah battlegrounds

IPOH: Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has challenged Pakatan Rakyat leaders to go to the battlegrounds in Sabah to experience for themselves the situation there.

He criticised the Opposition leaders, some of whom had reportedly described the deaths of policemen in the attacks as *mati katak*.

"They should also go there without being accompanied by security

forces. Don't just go for visit if they think this is a *sandiwara* (act).

"If they are *jantan* (men), go face the intruders themselves without the police or army," he said after opening the Barisan Nasional and Non-Governmental Organisation Carnival at Rapat Setia here yesterday.

Dr Zahid Hamidi also said the militants should be tried according to Malaysian laws for brutally and

inhumanely killing the policemen.

"Some of those who fell in battle were treated cruelly and had their fingers cut off and beheaded.

"This is a matter of national security. We must stand united and rally our support behind our armed forces," he said.

"The people should respect the efforts and sacrifices made by our security forces and not make fun of them if they are loyal to this coun-

try," he added.

Dr Zahid Hamidi said the security forces were still sweeping the areas in Kampung Tandu, Tanjung Batu and Tanjung Labian for the militants.

"We will ensure that no Filipino terrorists escape from our dragnet and we want them dead or arrested," he said, adding that there would be no compromise even if the self-proclaimed Sultan of Sulu



Jamalul Kiram III had called for a ceasefire.

Dr Zahid Hamidi said he believed the gunmen would not flee Sabah easily.

"I was at ground zero, I feel that the gunmen will not leave Sabah. They were promised money and land by Jamalul and other leaders," he added.