

# POLICE PROBE INTO SULU CLAIMS

Prime minister says all action to be based on the rule of law and will not oppress any party

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**P**OLICE have begun investigations into the so-called heirs of the Sulu Sultanate, the arbitrator

they appointed, their lawyers and “related parties” under Section 124K of the Penal Code for sabotage in relation to the claims they made against Sabah and Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, however, gave the assurance that any action would be based on the rule of law and would not oppress any party.

“The Malaysian government will not compromise on aspects of sovereignty and national security, with a focus on protecting national assets from external threats.

Anwar stressed that the government would not hesitate to take action.

“This includes (against) Malaysian citizens who turn their backs on the interests and security of the country by providing any direct or indirect support or assistance, or collude with the party making the claims,” he said at a special briefing on the Sulu claimants case in the Dewan Rakyat.

Anwar said Malaysia would continue to ensure that the factual narrative was being disseminated to everyone regarding the issue, including the international community, through the government’s official website and certain platforms.

“We are committed to acting proactively to end the issue of these claims, in addition to ensuring that the interests of

Malaysia and its sovereignty are always preserved.”

On the development regarding the claims, Anwar said the government was awaiting another important decision in relation to the Sulu claimants’ case.

“The decision, to be delivered by the Dutch Court of Appeal regarding the applicants claim to recognise and enforce the ‘final award’ in the Netherlands, is expected to be delivered on June 27.”

Anwar said Malaysia would continue its efforts to defend the country’s sovereign rights in relation to the issue in all relevant jurisdictions, including the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg and any other jurisdiction where the final award was recognised and enforced.

Anwar said Malaysia had, on June 6, secured a landmark victory at the French court in a case brought by the self-proclaimed heirs of the long-defunct Sultan of Sulu, regarding territorial claims related to Sabah.

“This is a landmark decision for Malaysia and proves the seriousness and determination of the Malaysian government in dealing with the issue.”

Anwar added that although the decision was in favour of Malaysia, the government had received information that the parties making the claim would continue their efforts to enforce the final award in other countries.

Meanwhile, Anwar said there was no evidence that the Philippine government was involved in any way in the matter.

“I have discussed this twice with Philippine President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr... the Philippine government is not involved in the matter (claims made by the Sulu group).”

Anwar said this in response to a question from Datuk Khair Mohd Nor (PN-Keteroh), who asked if the claims made by the so-called Sulu heirs have anything to do with the Philippine government.  
**Additional reporting by Qistina Sallehuddin**