

Don't Politicise Army Assets - Ahmad Zahid
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MELAKA, March 4 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has urged politicians especially those in the opposition to avoid further politicising the army's assets, which could prove to be detrimental to national defence.

He said they ought to be aware of the fine line between national defence and politics.

"The opposition had raised issues about our defence assets for political capital which turned out to be without basis.

"They mocked me about the missing aircraft engines and as revealed, the culprits were not the defence minister nor the army chief. And we have pressed charges against the thieves.

"When they claimed a submarine failed to submerge, we invited (chief minister) Lim Guan Eng to join us underwater in it," he told reporters after the handing over of the ministry-owned SMD Ouessant Agosta submarine today to the Melaka state government which was represented by chief minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam.

Also present were French ambassador to Malaysia, Dorance Martine and Royal Malaysian Navy chief Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar.

The vessel, an underwater training platform for navy crew trainees before they start operating conventional submarines, is now a muzium exhibit at the Maritime museum complex in Klebang here.

Ahmad Zahid added, politicians should first get a clarification from the ministry on any issue before raising it publicly and confusing the people besides offending army professionals who had nothing to do with politics.

"I don't want them to unwittingly become agents for outsiders," he stressed.

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