

**Malaysia Politicians Should Show Solidarity Over Lahad Datu Incursion: Dr Farish A. Noor**

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SINGAPORE, March 21 (Bernama) -- Despite the General Election in the air, Malaysian politicians are urged to show solidarity over the Lahad Datu incursion and be supportive of the security forces in ensuring peace and stability in the country.

In making the call, Dr Farish A. Noor, Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University said: "When you have a matter which is primarily a security incursion into your country, this is where the parties should come together.

"If it happens to Singapore ..let's say a bunch of pirates landed in Singapore, I think even the Workers Party and People's Action Party (PAP) will come together, deal with the problem first, then.. ok you can go back and fight," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the 'Sabah and Sulu: Historical Claims, Modern Borders and Non-State Actors' seminar organised by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs here.

He said this is where he expects the Malaysian politicians on both sides to behave in a matured manner.

"Don't politicise this issue because we don't want this prolonged. We want to normalise things because the ultimate goal of Malaysia and Philippines is to safeguard our sovereignty and overall peace in Mindanao," said Farish, who is part of the RSIS research cluster, 'Transnational Religion in Southeast Asia. There has been reports where some quarters from the opposition political parties alleged that it was a government plot when a group of armed men sent by Jamalul Kiram, a self-styled claimant to the throne of the so-called sultanate of Sulu, landed on the shores of Lahad Datu, in Sabah last month.

Noting that this had been used as political football, Farish, a Malaysian himself, said politicians from both sides should not politicise this because fundamentally this was a security problem.

Since the intrusion began on Feb 12, 63 terrorists have been killed including one who was shot dead yesterday while nine members of the Malaysian security forces died in combat while another died after his truck was involved in an accident.

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