

'Malaysia will emerge victorious'
New Straits Times
21 March 2013
By AISYAH SULAIMAN

BASELESS: Philippines will lose if it stakes a claim for Sabah at ICJ

PUTRAJAYA: MALAYSIA'S leading historian believes that if the government and the Philippines were to stake their respective claims for Sabah at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Malaysia would emerge victorious.

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Khoo Kay Kim said historical records provided overwhelming evidence that Sabah was a part of Malaysia.

He believed that if the Philippines truly intended to pursue their claims over Sabah at the ICJ, it would lose, just like when it tried to stake a claim for Pulau Sipadan and Ligitan in 2002.

"The Philippines have not been in charge of the island since 1873. In addition, the people of Sabah have agreed to be part of Malaysia, as part of the findings of the Cobbold Commission before Malaysia was formed," he said after speaking at the Leadership Forum of the Razak School of Government titled, "Multiculturalism in Malaysia: Are things as they should be" at Menara Prisma here, yesterday.

"Why only question the matter now? There were no protests at the time when it was discussed."

He was asked for his views on a report that the Philippine government had engaged a team of lawyers to review its claim over Sabah.

Debate over the state's ownership had resurfaced following a recent intrusion by gunmen in Sabah's east coast.

Khoo, meanwhile, said it was unlikely for the self-proclaimed Sulu sultanate to bring their claim for Sabah to the ICJ as it wasn't a sovereign nation.

"Sulu by itself, cannot take on Malaysia. It is difficult to go to the ICJ, unless Manila wants to help them."

Copyright © 2013 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/malaysia-will-emerge-victorious-1.238918?cache=%253fpage%253d0%252f7.197525%253fkey%253dmalaysia>