

Lahad Datu: Sulu gunmen determined to fight on, says Dr Mahathir
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PETALING JAYA: The Sulu gunmen are very determined to fight on and will not listen to anyone even their leader, the self-proclaimed Sulu Sultan Jamalul Kimram III, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Furthermore, he said, the statement by the Sultan for a ceasefire was very ambiguous.

"That is the problem. The militants may not even listen to him," he told reporters after attending a public lecture at Universiti Teknologi Petronas in Seri Iskandar.

On calls by UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon for an end to the violence and for both sides to start a dialogue, Dr Mahathir said the must also stop killing Malaysian soldiers.

"Our policy is not to shoot at them but when they killed two of our policemen people became very angry.

"Of course, if we don't fight back, people will become very disappointed with the government's handling of the situation.

"But I hope both sides will listen and stop these killings," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the incident should not affect on the outcome of the coming general election.

He also did not think that the polls could be further postponed.

"Parliament is coming to the end of its term, so the elections must be held soon," he added.

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