

**Tanduo Bloody Incident Instils Spirit Of Patriotism Among Sabahans**  
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**By Siti Zubaidah Abdullah**

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The bloody tragedy in 'Tanduo', Lahad Datu following the intrusion by a group of armed terrorists from southern Philippines into the state had evoked a sense of awareness especially among the younger generation in the state to understand and appreciate the values and benefits derived from independence.

"We should be thankful and grateful that the sacrifices by the security forces have enabled us to enjoy independence, peace and prosperity even to this day," Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman had said.

Eight policemen and two soldiers were killed in the operation codenamed 'Operasi Daulat' following the incident in Lahad Datu while 68 terrorists were shot dead and the various groups perceived the incident as an 'eye opener' that provided a valuable lesson on the importance of defending the nation's independence.

The people of Sabah generally said the incident provided a very valuable lesson and should be remembered each time the independence day was celebrated.

A community leader from Tenom, Tukimin Tumin, 51, said that compared to the pre-independence era or early post-Merdeka period, the situation had changed significantly.

"In the past, we lacked many infrastructural facilities especially in the rural areas. Now, the situation of rural and urban roads has improved a lot and we see development enjoyed by a major section of the people in Sabah, including in the rural areas, who have clean water supply especially so under the leadership of (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak," he said.

He said many pledges made by the government had been fulfilled and the people were enjoying better development as a result of the independence which the past leaders had struggled for.

A contractor and businesswoman from Tandek, Kota Marudu, Suriannie Zulkiflie, 42, said the government had provided various opportunities to everyone regardless of religion and race.

"For the Bumiputera, we were given opportunities to do business and provided with capital aid and guidance," she said adding that economic growth in the state had also continued to be strong.

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