

**Government Will Continue To Beef Up Defence In Sabah - Rahim  
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KUDAT, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- The government will continue to beef up the defence capability of Sabah by beefing up the manpower and assets to face threats against the country.

Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri said this is in line with the defence enhancement programme announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in the 2015 Budget.

"The Hawk fighter jet squadron will return to Labuan, one battalion in Tawau will be beefed up, helicopters equipped with "Gatling gun" will be placed in Lahad Datu and Lahad Datu airport will be expanded to become a forward base," he said at a Chinese New Year function, here Sunday.

He also presented gift packets to 400 people and aid to 65 fire victims families donated by the Ministers and Deputy Ministers Wives Welfare Association (Bakti).

Other initiatives undertaken include placing the Gempita 8x8 armoured vehicles in Sabah, build forward bases offshore (sea basing) and operate mobile sea bases.

Rahim, who is also the Member of Parliament for Kudat, said the ban on movement at a particular time in certain areas (curfew) will continue until the situation becomes more stable.

"The people are reminded to remain vigilant and to channel information to the authorities so that immediate action can be taken against these criminals."

Commenting on the fighting in southern Philippines recently, he said the government will continue to monitor the situation to ensure it does not affect the security of Sabah.

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