

Malaysia, Asean nations don't recognise Chinese claims in South China Sea
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Malaysia and the other Asean member nations do not recognise China's duplicating claims in the South China Sea as they are not in line with the provisions of international law.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin said the claims based on the "nine-dash line" were also not in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982.

"With regard to the duplicating claims in the South China Sea involving Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, the Philippines and China, there has been no negotiation so far," he told the Dewan Rakyat today.

He was replying to a question from Datuk Ahmad Hamzah (BN-Jasin) on the list of international boundary disputes still at the negotiation stage and measures by the ministry to resolve the conflicts.

Hamzah said the government gave special focus on the boundary issue as it could give a negative impact on bilateral relations if they were not handled properly.

"Malaysia's stand is that the boundary issue must be resolved peacefully through negotiations based on international law.

"Referring to a third party such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or the Arbitration Tribunal would be the last resort in reaching a solution," he said.

For the land boundary, he said, there were still areas whose boundaries had yet to be decided and negotiations to determine the boundary were going on with Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand.

With regard to the maritime boundary, he said Malaysia had duplicating claims on the maritime areas with Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

"Malaysia and Indonesia are negotiating on the maritime boundary in the South China Sea in Sulawesi, that is the southernmost area in the Malacca Straits and Singapore Straits," Hamzah said. – Bernama, June 15, 2015.

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