

**Sabah's Sovereignty, Interests Should Be Preserved – DPM  
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KOTA KINABALU, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Defend Sabah from foreign intrusion to preserve national sovereignty and interests in various aspects, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The intrusion incident in Lahad Datu in 2013, should be a lesson to the people to be united against all forms of intrusion, he said.

"This is the reason why I am worried when a major power is seen making claims based solely on history, and is not even a member of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), does not recognise the 'Nine-Dash Line' (demarcation line in the South China Sea) and does not recognise the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of any country.

"We want the international community to be informed that the sovereign waters of our country under EEZ must be defended.

"We do not want our land to be seized by them (foreign countries)," he said when opening the 30th PBS Annual Delegates Conference here Saturday.

On illegal immigrants in Sabah, Ahmad Zahid, who is also home minister, said the establishment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Illegal Immigrants in Sabah was not in vain.

"I can confirm and assure the technical committee and main committee (to deal with management of illegal immigrants in Sabah) have conducted their tasks as entrusted," he said.

The main committee is chaired by Ahmad Zahid and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman while the technical committee is chaired by Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

Ahmad Zahid said several measures were taken, including integrated operations which saw 24,711 illegal immigrants repatriated from January to October this year.

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