

**Ahmad Zahid Urges Malaysians to Have High Spirit of Patriotism**  
**Bernama**  
**Aug 6, 2016**

TAWAU, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today urged Malaysians to have high patriotism spirit to ensure national sovereignty is always preserved.

He said with the patriotic spirit, even though Malaysia was just a small country, it would continue to be respected internationally.

Thus, Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, said that although there were some who might have differences in opinion and political ideologies, when it comes to national sovereignty, these differences need to be set aside.

"Set aside the differences for the sake of our motherland. In national matters, love for the country must come first," he said when launching the national-level Merdeka Month and "Fly the Jalur Gemilang" campaign here Saturday night.

About 30,000 people attended the event which among others saw the "Fly Jalur Gemilang" campaign kick-off and cultural performances of Sabah's ethnic groups.

Also present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak and Sabah Cabinet ministers.

Ahmad Zahid said the differences in opinion were allowed as Malaysia was a democratic but good manner and morals must be observed.

Recalling the bloody incident in Kampung Tanduo, Lahad Datu, he said it resulted the best showing of patriotism by Malaysians.

The Deputy Prime Minister said during the incident, Malaysians from different states had united to defend the sovereignty of the country, especially in Sabah, which had gained respect abroad.

He said during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak visit to Indonesia recently, he had also asserted Malaysia's stand of never supporting foreign interference in the

sovereignty of any country.

Ahmad Zahid said Malaysia's assertiveness on its sovereignty had made the country continue to be respected and recognised globally with important roles given in world bodies.

Malaysia is currently the chairman of the United Nation's Security Council.

However, he reminded Malaysians that the high patriotism spirit should not only be for the National month, but it should remain high at all times.

--BERNAMA

Copyright © 2016 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1270357>