

Effort to solve southern Thai conflict takes time - Dr Mahathir

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From Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa

BANGKOK, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- There is no timeline set to solve the southern Thai conflict as effort to come up with solution to the problem could take some time, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said this was because the conflict involved many parties and groups.

“We cannot say about the timeline because we don’t know the response as the response is not just from one group. There are several groups, sometimes you get one agreement, but the others may not agree. So it (the solution) takes time,” he told the Malaysian media at the end of his two-day visit to Thailand here today.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian government really wanted to help Bangkok in finding the best solution to the conflict as it was Malaysia’s turn to help the neighbouring country after Thailand helped Malaysia in solving the terrorism issue not too long ago.

He said the newly-appointed facilitator for the southern Thai peace talks, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, was also someone with vast experience in handling communist insurgency.

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