

# Pak Lah: Malaysia hopes for lasting ceasefire

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**KEPALA BATAS:** Malaysia hopes the United Nations resolution to end the hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah will pave the way for a continuous ceasefire.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said while the resolution does not meet the Lebanese Government's demands "it can open the doors to a permanent ceasefire."

He said a ceasefire at the moment was of utmost importance.

"The parties that formulated the resolution must understand that any delay in doing so will allow Israel to dominate the situation and continue the aggression in Lebanon," he said.

Abdullah said the Cabinet would meet soon to discuss the necessary assistance that Malaysia could give Lebanon.

He was speaking to reporters after opening Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad branch at Pusat Budi Penyayang in Bertam, Kepala Batas, yesterday. He earlier launched the Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia Founder's Day and the Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood Gallery.

The UN Security Council's unanimous resolution on Friday calls for an end to the month-long war which has killed over 1,000 Lebanese and 121 Israeli citizens.

Abdullah said Malaysia would send a fully mechanised battalion as part of its peacekeeping troops to Lebanon once the UN gave the green light.

"I understand that Indonesia will also do the same. I will discuss the matter with Indonesia again," he said.

He said the proposal under the peace resolution was to have 15,000 troops under the UN Interim Force.