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# KL-Jakarta meeting sees progress

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**POSITIVE:** Najib, Jokowi agree to work together on regional issues



JAKARTA

**T**HE 11th Annual Consultation between the leaders of Malaysia and Indonesia has achieved progress on a wide range of bilateral issues.

This was the first such meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) under the annual consultation framework.

The session began with a four-eyed meeting between Najib and Jokowi at the Presidential Palace here yesterday, followed by a bilateral meeting between the delegations of both countries.

The Malaysian side included ministers from the ministries of defence, plantation industries and commodities, international trade and industry, agriculture and agro-based industry, human resources, natural resources and environment, and education.

At a joint press conference after the meeting, Najib said Malaysia and Indonesia had called for trilateral cooperation with the Philippines to address kidnappings and piracy in the Sulu Straits.

"We want the three countries to continue discussions on trilateral measures to address kidnappings in the Sulu Straits," said Najib, who is



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** (second from left) and Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** (right) leading a meeting between the two nations at the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday. Bernama pic

on a three-day working visit to Indonesia.

He said measures, such as coordinated naval and air patrols, had reduced piracy in the Straits of Malacca, and a similar approach could be taken by Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in the Sulu Straits.

This year, 18 Indonesians and Malaysians have been kidnapped in three incidents in the Sulu Straits. Reports said authorities suspected that the pirate gangs had close ties with the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

According to a joint statement released later, both leaders expressed deep concern over the growing maritime security challenges and threats in the region, in particular kidnapping, armed robbery and transnational crime.

"They reiterated the importance to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of security in addressing these issues. They also welcomed efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence," the statement said.

Najib said both leaders also called

for efforts to find a clear solution to define maritime boundaries between Malaysia and Indonesia, especially in the southern Sulawesi Sea, where fishermen from both countries had been caught for encroachment.

"There has been some progress, but still far from a comprehensive solution. We both agreed to give a new direction for a final comprehensive solution that is agreeable to both countries soon."

Since the last annual consultation in 2013, there have been four technical meetings on maritime boundaries between Indonesia and Malaysia.

On the issue of migrant workers, Indonesia welcomed Malaysia's rehiring and voluntary deportation programmes to address the issue of undocumented migrant workers from Indonesia in Malaysia.

Both leaders agreed to strengthen coordination between officials of both countries in reviewing and implementing the programmes.

Earlier, Najib and Jokowi witnessed the signing of two memo-

randas of understanding (MoUs).

The first was between Bank Negara Malaysia and Otoritas Jasa Keuangan (OJK) on the Asean Banking Integration Framework, and the second on establishing the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) secretariat here.

In the joint statement, both leaders encouraged CPOPC to plan and implement programmes to promote the image of palm oil globally.

Najib said the palm oil industry was important to Malaysia and Indonesia, the world's top two producers, as it was a major source of income for both nations.

"Maybe, we should also look at cooperation in research, not just marketing and countering anti-palm oil lobbies, to make palm oil a product that can be accepted worldwide."

Indonesia and Malaysia jointly account for 85 per cent of global palm oil production and 91.2 per cent of global exports.

Najib said both leaders also discussed economic cooperation, and reiterated their target to achieve

US\$30 billion (RM121 billion) in total bilateral trade in the near future. Malaysia is the second largest investor in Indonesia.

He said Indonesia had taken steps to be more investor-friendly under Jokowi's administration.

He highlighted Malaysian private-sector participation in large infrastructure development in the country, including the recently opened 116.8km Cikopo-Palimanan Highway and affordable housing projects.

PT Lintas Marga Sedaya, in which UEM Group has a 55 per cent stake, is the concession holder of the highway for 35 years.

Both leaders also exchanged views on the increasing security challenges and threats in the region, South China Sea, radicalisation and other global issues.

The 12th Annual Consultation will be held in Malaysia next year.

**Page 1 pic:** Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** and Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** at the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday.