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# Najib-Jokowi talks begin today

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**ANNUAL CONSULTATION:** Labour, trade among key issues that will be discussed



LOKMAN  
MANSOR

JAKARTA

**H**IGH-LEVEL talks between the Malaysian and Indonesian leaders today will address several key issues that have affected bilateral ties in recent years.

They include migrant labour in general, and maids in particular; encroachment of maritime borders by fishermen; transboundary haze that blankets the region annually; and economic cooperation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, arrived in Jakarta here yesterday for a three-day working visit.

His delegation includes ministers and government officials.

"The delegation for the Annual Consultation includes ministers from Defence, Plantation Industries and Commodities, International Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Agro-base Industry, Human Resources, Natural Resource and Environment and Education," said Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim.

The visit is in conjunction with the 11th Malaysia-Indonesia Annual Consultation and 12th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF).

The Annual Consultation will take place today, followed by WIEF from tomorrow to Thursday.

The annual consultation — the first for Najib with Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) — is an opportunity for the leaders to discuss and resolve sensitive issues.

Indonesians make up the largest

group of foreign workers in Malaysia. There were 792,571 Indonesians who had foreign workers' permits as at Feb 29.

Indonesia recently announced plans to stop sending new live-in maids abroad beginning next year as their government seeks to improve their working conditions.

Their demands include workers living in dormitories, regular hours and public holidays and days off.

"Maids and migrant labour are part of the discussions.

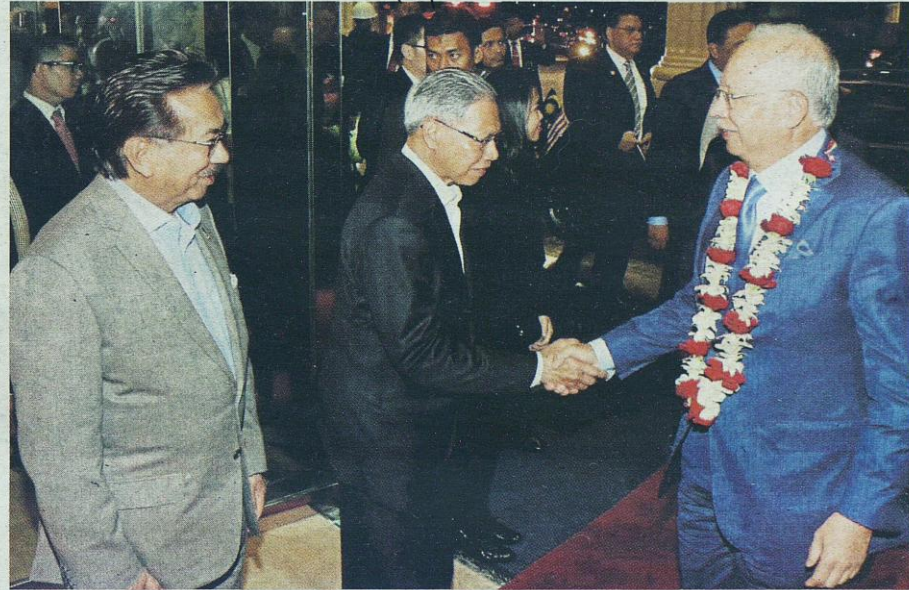
"It is not just a matter of government to government, but also business to business. The demand for labour is still there," Zahrain said yesterday.

He said Malaysia was the second largest investor in Indonesia and seventh largest trading partner, with a bilateral trade of US\$15.25 billion (RM60.16 billion) last year.

Besides traditionally strong investments in the plantation and oil and gas sectors, Malaysian companies have also expanded into the services sector — CIMB and Maybank in banking, and Axiata in telecommunications.

Bilateral trade, however, has fallen short of target due to the drop in the prices of commodities and oil.

"At the last annual consultation in Kuala Lumpur, the target for annual bilateral trade was set at US\$30 bil-



International Trade and Industry Minister **Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed** receiving Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** in **Jakarta** yesterday. With them is Sabah Chief Minister **Datuk Seri Musa Aman** (left). Pic by Aizuddin Saad

lion. Last year, we achieved US\$16 billion. The leaders may discuss measures to meet the target."

The leaders will also witness the signing of the bilateral agreement between Bank Negara and Otoritas Jasa Keuangan Indonesia under the Asean Banking Integration Framework, as well as the agree-

ment between the Indonesian government and the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) on the CPOPC Secretariat.

At WIEF tomorrow, Jokowi will deliver the opening address, followed by Najib's speech as WIEF patron. The theme for this year's forum is "decentralising growth, em-

powering business".

Zahrain said Najib was expected to touch on the threat of Islamic State and terrorism and how it would impact the economy.

Najib is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of Tajikistan, Guinea, Sri Lanka and Jordan.