

Win-Win Situation To Resolve Maritime Border Dispute, Says Najib

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MATARAM (LOMBOK), Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak said that he and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono have given clear instructions to resolve the maritime border dispute in the South Sulawesi Sea.

The instruction given was to find an option based on a win-win situation and something that was acceptable to the people and governments of Malaysia and Indonesia.

"We take note that the technical committee that had met 20 times (since March 2005) had managed to narrow down the differences especially in terms of the continental shelf in the 12-nautical mile area.

"The difference previously was 7km and now it has been narrowed down to 3km only, and this means that there has been positive development," he said at a media conference at the conclusion of the delegates bilateral meeting of the Malaysia-Indonesia annual consultations, here Thursday.

In a joint statement at the end of the annual consultations, both leaders reiterated the continued commitment of both countries to work closely in resolving land demarcation and maritime boundary delimitation through negotiations.

Both leaders held discussions on land and maritime boundary issues, in particular, the Indonesia-Malaysia land borders in Kalimantan and maritime boundary in the Sulawesi Sea, Straits of Melaka and Singapore, as well as the South China Sea.

"Both leaders agreed on the urgency to resolve these issues and tasked officials of both countries to intensify the technical meetings and expedite the ongoing negotiation process," the joint statement said.

The negotiations shall be in accordance with the principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, it said.

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