

**Malaysia-Indonesia Set Up Special Mechanism To Speed Up Maritime Border Talks**  
**Bernama**  
**Mar 16, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to set up a special mechanism to discuss and finalise the demarcation of maritime boundaries in the Sulawesi Sea.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin said the decision was made during a meeting between Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak during the former's visit here in February.

"Once the mechanism is set up, both countries will appoint special consultants to hold exploratory talks to find a solution to the demarcation of maritime boundaries in the Sulawesi Sea," he said when replying to a question from Datuk Abd Aziz Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim Bandar Baharu-BN).

Abd Aziz had wanted to know the government's plans to monitor the incidences of encroachment in the Malaysia-Indonesia waters.

"With the mechanism, we can finalise the maritime boundaries in the Sulawesi Sea between the two countries," he said.

On the encroachment of fishermen in the overlapping waters, Hamzah said Malaysia and Indonesia had agreed that they would not be arrested but would only be chased out of the encroached area.

"This is to avoid any tension that could arise between the two countries," he said.

On the issue of a Malaysian fishing vessel which was sunk by the Indonesian authorities, Hamzah said that based on the report from the Malaysian Fisheries Department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, the vessel was fishing in Indonesian waters.

"If they enter Malaysian or Indonesian waters, the fishermen are subject to the laws of the local authorities," he said.

He added that this was in line with the Memorandum of Understanding In Respect of the Common Guidelines Concerning Treatment of Fishermen by Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies which was signed by both countries in 2012.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1117364>