

Malaysia, Indonesia ties like family, helps in resolving issues, says Zahid
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Many problems involving relations between Malaysia and Indonesia can be resolved in the family spirit rather than through diplomatic channels, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today.

He said this followed the many similarities between the two countries which made the problems between them unique.

"We have been resolving problems with Indonesia through informal and personal approaches and not only via formal channels," he said.

He was speaking at a media conference after attending a gathering with Malaysian citizens in Jakarta at the Malaysian Embassy today.

"Informal relations can help resolve many problems which sometimes could not be settled formally. When the border issue cropped up, such as in Ambalat previously, continuity (informal relations) had eased the tension," he said.

As such, he urged government officers at the Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta and the government agencies to get closer to the Indonesian government officials, because this personal relation was better in resolving problems.

Zahid said the informal ties must also be established by students, businessmen and representatives of the Malaysian corporate sector in the republic.

Meanwhile, Zahid called on Malaysians abroad to obtain all facts concerning the current situation in Malaysia and make decisions based on them.

"For Malaysians abroad, please don't rely on information obtained from the anti-establishment groups, get your facts from the mainstream media for a balanced set of information.

"Now, about 87% of the information is channelled by the social media. In fact the mainstream media is also using social media. So, we must look at all angles in making our decision," he said.

Zahid also reminded those who frequently criticised the government and the prime minister to also be prepared to accept criticism.

"If we can criticise, we must also be prepared to accept criticism. Only then there is freedom of opinion. In this matter, they must be open.

"If they can demonstrate four times, don't get angry when others do it once. Don't say four times is not racist, but once is racist," he said referring to the Bersih 4 rally on

August 29 and 30 and the Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu on September 16, which were both held in the federal capital. – Bernama, September 20, 2015.

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