

**My Relationship with Jokowi is Very Good – Najib
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By Azeman Ariffin**

JAKARTA, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak says he has a good relationship with President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and can work agreeably with the Indonesian leader to strengthen existing bilateral ties.

"He is affable and sincere. We have similar perspective in many issues," said the Prime Minister in an exclusive interview with Metro TV, aired here last night.

He described Jokowi as a 'man of the people' even before he became president and saw after he assumed the presidency, how important it was for both countries to work closely with each other.

No doubt, certain issues such as maritime border and the detention of Malaysian fishermen by Indonesian authorities were still pending but these, he said, could be settled diplomatically and would not dampen relations between the two countries.

When asked about the people's regard for him as Prime Minister, he said he was thankful that he was still favourably received whenever he goes to the ground.

"I meet the people and I see the rousing welcome when I go to the ground and Alhamdulillah, it makes me feel happy.

"Even though the accusations are numerous, which is normal in politics, the reality is, we must get the support and confidence of the people," he said.

Although he was forced to take unpopular actions such as fuel subsidy rationalisation, Najib said he was confident that the people would eventually understand that it had been the right decision in the interest of the country.

On Malaysia's success in fighting terrorism, he said it was because Malaysia believed on pre-emptive action and giving power to the court to institute pre-emptive punishment.

"We need to do it through many ways. Firstly, we must realise that it is a real threat and give pre-emptive power to the authorities to take action, don't give pre-emptive power to

the executive," he said.

He said in this way, the authorities could detain anyone suspected of terrorism and bring the evidence to the court.

If the government were to "wait for something to happen" and only then act, it might be too late and detrimental for the people and the country, the prime minister said.

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