

# Find common legal ground, say experts

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Analysts say Malaysia and Indonesia must have a mutual understanding of each other's policies and procedures when dealing with law offenders.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (politics and government) Professor Dr Jayum Jawan said Malaysia should take advantage of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's first official bilateral visit since he was elected president to discuss both countries' standard operating procedure when handling criminal acts.

"We should use this time to discuss matters pertaining to treatment or actions that can be taken against Malaysians who break the law in Indonesia, and vice versa.

"By having an in-depth discussion, both countries will understand their neighbour's policies and not be overly sensitive when the law is enforced," he said.

Citing Indonesia's recent approach in tackling illegal fishing activities, Jayum said both parties should come up with better methods to handle security issues.

Jayum hoped that Joko, who is known to be people-oriented, would use this approach to find better solutions and look for common ground in order to foster a harmonious relationship.

He said Joko's visit also signified the republic's endorsement of Malaysia's chairmanship of Asean.

Political and foreign policy analyst Dr Muhammad Fuad Othman said Joko's three-day visit extended the long tradition of bilateral diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Indonesia.

"A new Indonesian president will always make Malaysia his first stop before going to other countries. This signifies a diplomatic understanding of how regional politics are being done in this part of the world," he said.

Fuad said Joko's visit was the best time to resolve long-standing bilateral issues between both countries.

Joko's trip began yesterday, with Malaysia being his first stop in a three-leg tour that will take him to two other nations.

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*Dr Jayum Jawan  
Universiti Putra  
Malaysia Professor*