



31 JAN, 2025

## Strong M`sia-Indonesia ties pivotal for regional stability, growth: Envoy

The Sun, Malaysia



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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia and Indonesia share a unique and long-standing diplomatic relationship deeply rooted in historical, cultural and economic ties, said Malaysia's Ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Syed Md Hasrin Tengku Hussin.

He said as founding members of Asean, both nations play a pivotal role in shaping regional stability and development.

Speaking on Bernama TV's programme *Bernama World* on Wednesday, he highlighted the evolving nature of Malaysia-Indonesia relations and its significance to Asean's future.

"There is good chemistry between President Prabowo (Subianto) and His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia as well as with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"This closeness will pave the way for stronger

bilateral cooperation."

Syed Md Hasrin said public expectations remain high on both sides, with citizens eager to see deeper collaboration and stronger diplomatic engagements in the future.

"If Malaysia and Indonesia are not on good terms, it would pose challenges to regional cooperation within Asean.

"Over the past few years, our relations have been strong, and we share many common interests, whether at the political or economic level. This contributes to greater cooperation in Southeast Asia."

He also touched on pressing geopolitical issues, including tensions in the South China Sea, where Malaysia and Indonesia share a commitment to peaceful dispute resolution through dialogue.

He added that a unified stance by both countries would strengthen Asean's role in international diplomacy.

On environmental concerns, including transboundary haze caused by Sumatran forest fires, he said both nations have made significant efforts to curb open burning and enforce stricter policies.

"In the past few years, transboundary haze has significantly decreased. Our companies in Indonesia remain committed to combating open burning in line with Indonesian regulations."

He highlighted Asean's regional framework for haze mitigation as a crucial platform for ensuring continued cooperation in addressing this recurring issue.

He said with the relocation of Indonesia's

capital to Nusantara in Kalimantan, environmental sustainability has become a more pressing issue.

Syed Md Hasrin said collaboration between Malaysia and Indonesia must prioritise climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to build environmental resilience.

He said maritime pollution is another area for cooperation, where both countries could work together on ocean conservation and waste management strategies for the benefit of the broader Asean region.

"There is already cooperation in electric connectivity, and there is significant potential for hydro and other renewable energy sources. We also aim to contribute to the Asean power grid while addressing climate change."  
 - Bernama