

## Cross Border Agreement as an Indonesia-Malaysia Political Policy to Overcome the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic

**Bakran Suni<sup>1\*</sup> | Nurfitri Nugrahaningsih<sup>2</sup> | Fuzy Firda Zhan<sup>3</sup> | Sugino<sup>4</sup>,  
Jumadi<sup>5</sup> | Ori Fahriansyah<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup> Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak 78124, Indonesia

Received 08-04-2024

Revised 09-04-2024

Accepted 29-04-2024

Published 30-04-2024



Copyright: ©2024 The Authors. Published by Publisher. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

### Abstract:

This research offers novelty in looking at the political policies that regulate Cross Border Agreement between Indonesia and Malaysia to overcome post-Covid-19. This research aims to analyze cross-border agreements and political policies in regulating border crossings between Indonesia and Malaysia after the Covid-19 pandemic. Cross-border political policies in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic support the profile of the business ecosystem in both countries, which in turn supports society's need to rise and adapt as a result of the policies in place between the two countries to deal with the pandemic. The method used to analyze the data found by researchers in this article is a qualitative descriptive approach. Researchers found that the Cross-Border Agreement agreed upon at the 43rd General Border Committee has had several impacts on border crossers, namely the border communities of West Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sarawak (Malaysia), resulting in stronger commitment between countries regarding border security and the community's economy, and socio-politics of border communities.

**Keywords:** Covid-19; Cross Border Agreement; Political Policies

### Introduction:

This year, 14 border posts between Indonesia and Malaysia that were closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic will be reopened, as agreed upon. With seven posts in each of Indonesia and Malaysia, these border posts are located in the Kalimantan region. This was indicated by the agreement reached during the General Border Committee (GBC) meeting, which held its 43rd session on October 12, 2023, in Jakarta, Malaysia, and Indonesia. A significant development for the relationship between these allies is that the session was presided over by the defense ministers of both nations, Prabowo Subianto and Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan (Wijananto, 2023).

According to Minister of Defense Prabowo Subianto, one noteworthy accomplishment that needs to be emphasized is the effectiveness of cooperative patrols between the agencies of the two nations via a coordinated patrol mechanism. In addition, following the Covid-19 pandemic, the two nations were able to successfully reactivate the joint border post between the Indonesian national army and the Malaysian armed forces. In addition, the two nations have been successful in promoting socioeconomic management programs and border management operations in Indonesia's border regions. Figure 1 below illustrates how the General Border Committee is being implemented.

**Figure 1. The 43rd General Border Committee (GBC MALINDO)**



Source: Kemhan.go.id, 2023

Regulating the flow of people, products, and capital is vital because the border region between the two nations is extremely strategic and vulnerable (Samin & Poti, 2022). Thus, the cross-border agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia has helped to foster positive relations between the two nations by establishing rules governing life along the border. For Indonesia and Malaysia, the cross-border agreement is crucial because it serves as the foundation for managing cross-border activities involving people and goods in their respective border regions.

On April 1, 2022, the borders of Kuching and Pontianak opened, which was the precursor to the opening of border crossings between the two countries at the central government level in Indonesia (Jakarta) and Malaysia (Putra Jaya) Since both countries' borders were opened, how are the relations between the two allied border communities? Because the borders of the two countries have opened, the allied communities are unable to conduct their previous activities. Nonetheless, it remains constrained by the impact of the second wave of the Covid-19 transmission scenario, particularly since

Omicron, a Covid-19 variant, continues to impact both nations as well as the majority of other countries worldwide.

Covid-19 caused chaos for those living along the Indonesian border, particularly after the country enacted a social distancing policy. Although it is still permissible for people to work outside the home to support themselves daily, group gatherings at Pontianak markets are prohibited (Anuar, 2022). The society of Malaysia does not like this policy. Due to the implementation of a lockdown in response to Covid-19, borders in Malaysia are forbidden from leaving the house, and markets in Kuching are closed. The way that Indonesia and Malaysia have handled Covid-19 has not been good for the Indonesian border communities. As a result, differences in social and economic status arise (Nurdin, Sudjito, & Arsana, 2023).

With the world's fourth-largest population, Indonesia was severely impacted by the pandemic. Furthermore, Indonesia announced on July 15, 2021, that it had the highest daily total of newly confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 worldwide. Table 1 below shows the data for the top ten Asian countries with the highest death rates, including Malaysia and Indonesia.

**Table 1. Ten Asian Countries With The Highest Total Death Cases of Covid-19**

No	Country	Total Death Cases
1	India	531.913
2	Indonesia	161.879
3	Iran	146.301
4	Türkiye	102.174
5	Japan	74.694
6	Philippines	66.499
7	Vietnamese	43.206
8	Malaysia	37.158
9	South Korea	35.111
10	Thailand	34.371

Source: Darmawan, 2023

This gives Indonesia and Malaysia more impetus to uphold their shared goal of maintaining security and stability including along the borders of Kuching and Pontianak. Recognized as a success, the mobilization of Indonesian and Malaysian patrols through Coordinated Patrols is necessary to address the unique dynamics and obstacles that exist along their shared borders. The implementation of cooperation through the Malaysia-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol event has been proven to create more harmonious relations between neighboring countries and is considered capable of demonstrating professional interoperability, in maintaining and ensuring the security stability of border waters, especially in the Malacca Strait (Wardani, 2023). Strong ties between Indonesia and Malaysia are demonstrated by their cooperation on their shared border.

This background informs the research's analysis of political policies and cross-border agreements governing border crossings between Indonesia and Malaysia to overcome the post of Covid-19 pandemic. This study can add to the body of knowledge on political policy in contexts where borders are crossed and its applicability to various organizational settings. The study's findings may theoretically add to the body of knowledge on political policies and cross-border agreements that govern border crossings between Indonesia and Malaysia in the post of Covid-19 pandemic and promote the inter-country trade ecosystem. In the end, this research's conclusions are in favor of the political ties between nations being restored following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Previous research that has been carried out by other researchers is research in 2022 which was carried out to analyze the obstacles to trade and development in the Entikong-Tebedu border region posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and unresolved border disputes, as well as the contribution of Sosek Malindo to the region's increased integration and seamless connectivity. The findings of this study revealed that the Sarawak government is providing cross-border humanitarian aid to West Kalimantan residents who have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, even though border mobility is constrained (Anuar & Raharjo, 2022). The novelty of this

research compared to previous research lies in the difference in loci. This research was conducted to see the impact of cross-border agreements to overcome Covid-19 in Sarawak, Malaysia, and West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

### **Literature Review:**

#### **Indonesia Malaysia Cross-Border Agreement in Facing Covid-19**

A cross-border region is, to put it simply, a territory that is made up of neighboring subnational units that are situated between two or more nation-states (Nelles & Durand, 2014). The development of economic, social, and cultural ties on both sides of national borders is significantly influenced by the physical boundaries dividing two or more countries (Bie et al., 2013). Clear management and regulation of the border area are required due to its strategic importance and vulnerability (Samin & Poti, 2022). One important tactic or political process that can help promote territorial integration is cross-border cooperation by taking advantage of opportunities in border areas (Villanueva, 2020).

Regarding Indonesia and Malaysia, it is well known that a soft border strategy has been used to control the border region by placing significant facilities like immigration, customs, and quarantine there, which control capital, goods, and people movement (Anuar & Raharjo, 2022). Because of the existence of significant laws governing border living and relations between the two neighboring countries, a cross-border agreement between Indonesia and Malaysia has thus been established.

On the other hand, border regions have been indirectly reinforced by a pandemic of disease that could spread widely. Establishing national borders and exercising extraordinary control over territorial boundaries have become characteristics of the Covid-19 era. A few examples of this include Stern, the border city of El Paso, Texas, which placed all US-Mexico cases of endemic typhus under quarantine (Boyce & Nevins, 2022). To lower the risk of widespread transmission, lockdowns were imposed in every nation in the post of Covid-19 pandemic. Nineteen countries, territories, and areas worldwide have implemented 45,427 new restrictions and

measures aimed at restricting transnational mobility, one month after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic.

In the second quarter of 2020, 91% of the world's population, in various countries have restricted international entry access and 39% percent live in countries that have completely closed their borders to foreign citizens or non-permanent residents (Dadusc, 2019). Conversely, cross-border agreements, like those spanning the border between Malaysia and Indonesia, are impacted by bolstering security in border regions. The Covid-19 pandemic has impeded efforts to enhance the economic and political ties between Indonesia and Malaysia (Anuar & Raharjo, 2022). Border arrangements are affected by the ways that the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia handled Covid-19 differently.

### **Political Policy Arrangements Across Indonesia-Malaysia:**

By definition, a policy is a succinct description of a range of actions, from decision-making and implementation to assessment and evaluation (Savage, 2020). Since policies are frequently improved upon, responded to, and repeated, they are not always implemented linearly and logically. This process frequently results in institutional regeneration and transformation (Ball, 2015). Local political authorities from each bordering country are typically combined in the political policies adopted in the context of cross-border arrangements (Nelles & Durand, 2014). The process of developing cross-border policies is influenced by a wide range of factors. Demonstrates in the case of the Kashmir border that local non-federal and non-state actors have a significant influence on the direction of policy concerning cross-border cooperation (Mahapatra, 2017). Three essential elements (clear goals and plans, political openness and commitment to decision-making, and boosting connectivity and mobility between cities) underpin the effectiveness of development policies in bordering European countries (Castanho, Loures, Fernández, & Pozo, 2018).

Regarding Indonesia, particularly the border between Indonesia and Malaysia, political decisions made,

particularly about border area development, have changed socio-cultural ties, which has an impact on socioeconomic inequality and conflicts of interest (Arifin, Putro, & Firman, 2022). The issue of conflicts of interest involving border communities and economic disparities in border areas have been the subject of several studies (Hidayah, Klau, & Prima, 2022; Rahim, Priyarsono, Rustiadi, & Syaikat, 2022; Abao, 2019; Karim, 2019; Singgalen, Sasongko, & Wiloso, 2018). Decentralization and central-regional dynamics issues also affect the formulation of cross-border regionalism policies.

Both the Indonesian and Malaysian governments struggle to manage and decide on the direction of policy in border areas due to the complexity of the issues there (Prabowo, Indrayani, Rusfiana, & Sinaga, 2022). As a result, numerous studies offer a variety of strategies and inventions (Hameiri, Jones, & Heathershaw, 2019; Fitriasari, 2022). To combat issues of foreign infiltration, boost nationalism, and settle disputes, cultural revitalization in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region is regarded as a significant innovation. The state transformation (the pluralization of state institutions across national borders) has emerged as a key tool for researching the formulation and application of foreign policy in border regions.

### **Community Movement in Indonesia-Malaysia Cross-Border Trade:**

The Agreement on Border Trade between the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia and Malaysia serves as the foundation for trade activities in the border region between the two countries. Trade may be conducted by land or sea, according to the agreement. Trade via land routes is permitted in five West Kalimantan districts in compliance with Basic Arramhe, emt o Border Crossing (Iswanto, Munadi, & Suriadi, 2020). People in Indonesia are becoming more dependent on products from Malaysia due to lower costs and higher quality (Sarjono & Rudiatin, 2022).

Indonesians living near the border use this opportunity to buy goods from Malaysia and resell them in Indonesia for a higher profit. This demonstrates that there are no physical boundaries

and that the concerning circumstances lead to several legal issues as well as possible threats to national security (Rizki & Merdekawati, 2018). Border disputes involving land use rights, product smuggling, commercial services, the movement of goods and services without paying customs taxes, illicit logging, and non-legal international marriages are all affected by this.

Conventional Indonesian traders came to Malaysia to trade in the Serikin District, but they did not carry or pass complete documents as proof of identity (Suratman, Samekto, & Trihastuti, 2020). Selling plantation goods to Malaysia is another example of how border communities travel around in commerce. Many believe that selling plantation goods to Malaysia is a faster and more profitable option than selling them to Indonesia (Elviana, 2019). By setting up an unexpected market to buy and sell common goods, the community also made use of the circumstances at the border. There are two opposing viewpoints regarding the creation of cross-border posts. According to the government, the goal is to reduce the amount of Malaysian imports and individuals' reliance on imported goods (Firdaus, 2019). However, border communities believe that the construction of cross-border posts has hurt the economy and reduced people's income (Finambello & Suprojo, 2019; Simanjuntak, 2018). Furthermore, third parties may find it advantageous to use this cross-border post for their purposes (Nikolas, 2020; Astuti, 2018).

#### **Method:**

This research was written using descriptive methods and qualitative approaches. This method was chosen to describe in greater depth the phenomena studied, namely to analyze cross-border agreements and political policies in regulating border crossings between Indonesia and Malaysia to overcome the post of Covid-19 pandemic. The data in the writing of this research were obtained from documentation studies from primary and secondary data and literature studies such as electronic news, articles in journals, reports or research results, and books. The analysis of the writing of this research was carried out through the stages of data collection, summarizing, elaborating, and concluding.

#### **Results and Discussion:**

##### **Political-Economic Situation of West Kalimantan Border and Serawak Border Community During the Pandemic Covid-19**

State borders have unique issues and features, particularly those about inter-border transculturalism, human trafficking, illicit logging, destitution, neglect, isolation, and other social issues. The growth of border regions and the capacity to handle cross-border relations both bilaterally and internationally are significantly impacted by each of these issues. Reducing regional disparities is the goal of several development policy directives that have been issued for border areas. Following the President's directives, the Ministry has been building the cross-border post-core zone since 2015. To accomplish this goal, it will build the infrastructure and facilities of the supporting zone, including food courts, markets, rest areas, and supermarkets, in 2017 to raise society's economic and social standards. The community's economy is expected to gain significantly from this supporting zone, which will also hopefully facilitate MSMEs' efforts to market their names and goods to customers.

After coming to this realization, the government put a variety of policies into place to safeguard and develop border regions as "the nation's front yard." The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 43 of 2008 concerning State Territory is one of these policies (Pusat Strategi Kebijakan Kawasan Asia Pasifik dan Afrika, 2021). It mandates the creation of a National Border Management Agency, whose duties include developing policies for border development programs, organizing funding needs, coordinating implementation, and assessing and overseeing border management in frontier regions and national territories.

Since the beginning of Covid-19 starting to spread throughout the world starting from Wuhan China, the Indonesian West Kalimantan government closed the land border with Sarawak, Malaysia to stem the spread of Covid-19. However, foreigners are still allowed to leave the province. This province has three border crossings with Sarawak, namely the State Border Posts in Entikong, Badau, and Aruk. The West Kalimantan government also stopped bus

transportation on the Pontianak-Kuching (Malaysia) and Pontianak-Brunei Darussalam routes to prevent further spread of the virus.

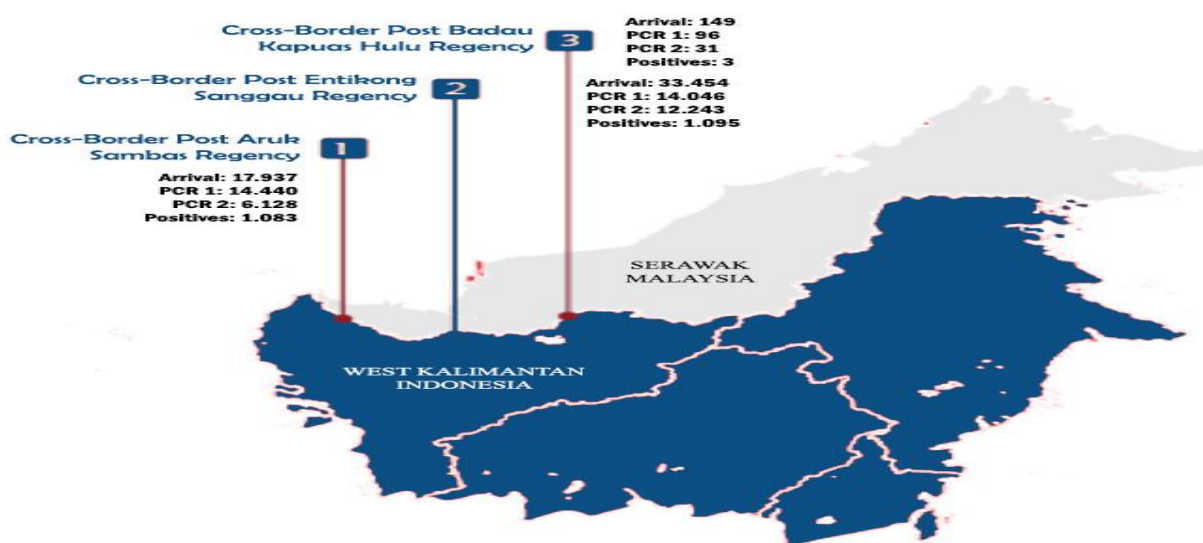
Good policies can prevent unmanaged crises that will have unfavorable effects, particularly for big, diverse nations like Malaysia and Indonesia (Elviana, 2018). While recovery times may differ for different industries or sectors, public health policies to stop the virus's spread and, subsequently, economic policies to lessen the shock's negative effects will be major determinants for each sector. The pandemic itself will put pressure on economic activity, so appropriate policy responses alone won't be sufficient to achieve a rapid recovery if it cannot be contained.

When Malaysia implemented a lockdown policy, there was no longer any distribution of necessities to the border areas in Entikong and Kembayan. Meanwhile, the supply of necessities from Pontianak is not sufficient for all the needs of the people at the border. The Covid-19 pandemic forces us to realize that we live in a very vulnerable world. Countries including Indonesia and Malaysia continue to strive to minimize the unprecedented impact on socio-economic-political development and environmental health. Because this pandemic cannot be overcome with a "one size fits all" policy, each country is responding with different strategies. The Indonesian government immediately responded to this pandemic by refocusing its development program on health

system reform, social system reform, disaster resilience reform, and economic recovery. The Indonesian government has taken several steps to provide a more adaptive and responsive planning strategy that can quickly respond to future challenges and new situations in the future.

Meanwhile, the four phases of Malaysia's fiscal stimulus package focus on increasing health spending, temporary tax relief and social security, cash transfers to affected sectors, rural infrastructure spending, cash transfers to low-income households, wage subsidies to help entrepreneurs maintain workers, and grants for MSMEs. Then, since it was announced that the Covid-19 pandemic had subsided, the Sarawak state government opened the land border with West Kalimantan Province on April 1, 2022. This is in line with West Kalimantan Province's plan to reopen its borders to foreign arrivals without quarantine. In the initial stage, the opening of the border was carried out at the Tebedu border gate, Serian, which borders the state border post in Entikong, Sanggau, West Kalimantan. The invitation originated with the Sarawak State Disaster Management Agency (Bambani, 2022). The recapitulation of state border crossers at the arrival gates at the West Kalimantan cross-border post as of January 1, 2021–January 4 2022 can be seen in the following image.

**Figure 2. Recapitulation of National Border Crossers at the West Kalimantan Cross-Border Post**



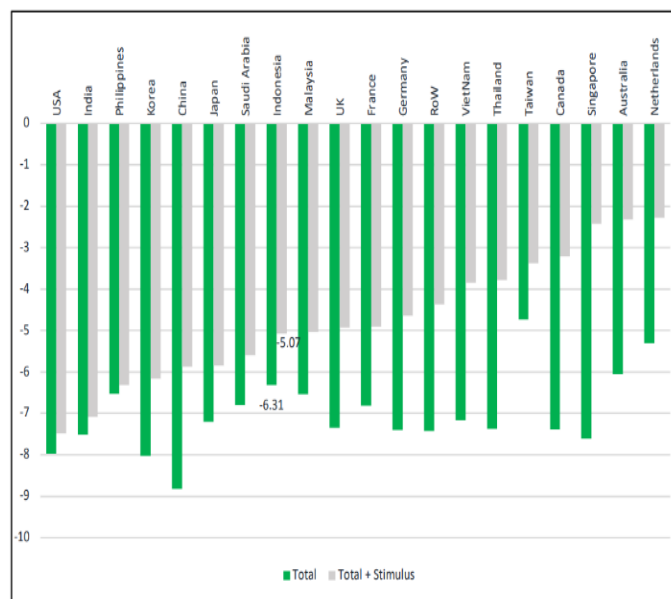
Source: Pusat Strategi Kebijakan Kawasan Asia Pasifik dan Afrika, 2021 (Reprocessed by researchers)

Based on the data obtained as can be seen in the picture above, it can be seen that at the Aruk cross-border post in the period January 1, 2021–January 4 2022 the number of arrivals was recorded at 17.937, the Entikong state cross-border post as many as 33.454, and at the Entikong state cross-border post as many as 33.454 Badau state as many as 149. On each arrival, the passer-by is checked via PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) stage 1 and stage 2 tests, and in each test, several positive test results are also found as can be seen in the picture (Pusat Strategi Kebijakan Kawasan Asia Pasifik dan Afrika, 2021).

Regarding the economy of people at the border, it was starting to get difficult even before the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the last five years after the implementation of the policy of tightening cross-border trade. The economy of border communities still depends on cross-border trade interactions between the two countries, Indonesia-Malaysia, especially in five sub-districts in Sanggau Regency, namely, Entikong and Sekayam, which border directly with Sarawak Malaysia, as well as three other sub-districts, namely Noyan, Beduai and Kembayan. The need for necessities and other household needs cannot yet be fully met by domestic supplies, so some supplies of necessities and other necessities are still imported from neighboring countries.

In the current conditions of the Covid-19 outbreak, the community's economy has become more difficult with the implementation of large-scale social restriction policies in Indonesia and lockdown in Malaysia. An important contributing factor to the notable Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contraction is a nation's high degree of economic independence. The value added produced by a nation's production of goods and services over a specific period is measured conventionally by its GDP. As a result, it also accounts for the revenue generated by that production, or the total amount spent (less imports) on finished goods and services. For instance, the GDP of many nations, including Indonesia, decreased by 6.31% (LPEM FEB UI, 2020) in comparison to pre-pandemic levels as a result of Covid-19 as can be seen in the following graph.

Figure 3. Covid-19's Effects on GDP



Source: LPEM FEB UI, 2020

In the current conditions of the Covid-19 outbreak, the community's economy has become more difficult with the implementation of large-scale social restriction policies (Indonesia) and lockdown (Malaysia). This is an inevitable impact of the political policies of various countries in responding to the Covid-19 crisis, many governments at all levels have moved quickly. The policy taken is to implement national and subnational steps and use a region-based approach in policy responses. Considering that, from a geographic perspective, the majority of West Kalimantan's border regions are impoverished, with few socioeconomic resources and infrastructure. Therefore, the West Kalimantan Provincial Government is dedicated to accelerating the development of border areas in line with the recommendations of the 2018–2023 West Kalimantan Medium Term Development Plan to support the improvement of the West Kalimantan and Sarawak cross-border areas after the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Impact of Cross-Border Agreement as an Indonesia-Malaysia Political Policy to Overcome the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic**

As is well known, a nation's border region plays a crucial role in maintaining state sovereignty, making it strategically valuable for fostering the success of

national development. As a result, one of the main forces behind raising the socioeconomic welfare of the neighborhood is the development of border areas. One of Indonesia's regions, West Kalimantan, borders Sarawak, Malaysia. The Cross Border Agreement which was agreed upon at the 43rd Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee (GBC Malindo) session towards the end of 2023 has become a means to facilitate dialogue between Indonesia and Malaysia, especially regarding border issues (Wijananto, 2023).

The history of the General Border Committee Malaysia Indonesia (GBC Malindo) was that it was formed on August 11 1966 after the restoration of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. The next Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee meeting, namely the 44th in 2024, is scheduled to take place in Malaysia. Thus, the Cross Border Agreement between Indonesia and Malaysia itself was previously discussed and signed in 2006. However, until now it has not been ratified and is considered unable to accommodate the regulation of cross-border activities in the border area between the two countries. This is because cross-border conditions in the border areas between the two countries are increasingly complex and developing. The agreement might affect how the two nations' diplomatic ties are handled. Contrary to disagreements or disagreements worsening relationships, successful negotiation and implementation can strengthen relationships.

The list of new border entry points is one of three items to be finalized under the Cross-Border Agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia. This agreement also allowed both countries to finalize the access area so that when the door is opened, people will start coming in and out so potential threats or violations can be anticipated. Indonesia and Malaysia have had four joint posts since at least 2019, two of which are in Sei Menggaris and Long Midang in Nunukan, North Kalimantan, and two more are in Serudong and Seliku in Sabah, Malaysia. However, operations at joint posts on the borders of Indonesia and Malaysia were stopped due to the Covid-19

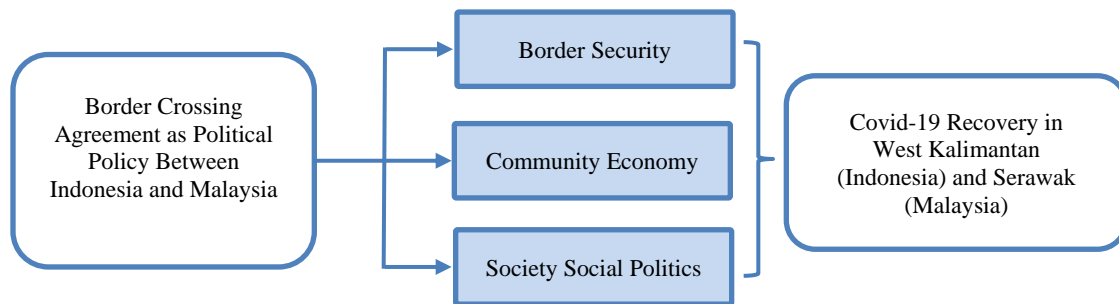
pandemic. Through political policies and relations between the two countries, they succeeded in encouraging border management activities and socio-economic development initiatives in the border areas of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Additionally, by signing this agreement, Indonesia and Malaysia pledged to uphold stability, security, and peace along their shared borders. To promote cooperation to achieve peace and security in the Indonesia-Malaysia border area, including in West Kalimantan-Sarawak, the governments of the two nations also used this meeting as a platform to strengthen their strategic cooperation. Mobilizing joint patrols between the two countries' agencies is another significant accomplishment of this border cooperation forum. This fight against cross-border crime is carried out via a Coordinated Patrol mechanism. Along with that, following the Covid-19 pandemic, the two nations were also successful in reactivating the Joint Post between Malaysian Army Forces and the Indonesian State Army. It is planned to reopen a minimum of 14 border posts. Not to be overlooked, GBC Malindo was successful in promoting border management measures. Furthermore, additional initiatives for socio-economic development along the Malaysia-Indonesia border.

Regarding the still unresolved border dispute issue, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo, said that it would be discussed with the relevant ministries and agencies and the resolution would be carried out with a family and friendly approach (Kemlu.go.id, 2023). This is also proof that the close cooperation and relations between Malaysia and Indonesia provide great benefits to both countries. Especially in maintaining security and safety in border areas. The results of this research conclude that the Cross-Border Agreement agreed upon at the 43rd General Border Committee had several impacts on border crossers, namely the border communities of West Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sarawak (Malaysia) which can be depicted in the following graph.



**Figure 4. The Cross-Border Agreement's Impact on an Indonesia-Malaysia Political Policy to Overcome the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic**



Source: Processed by researchers, 2024

Security along the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia in the provinces of West Kalimantan has been effectively managed during the administration of President Joko Widodo. The numerous initiatives undertaken by the Central Government and Regional Governments, such as the construction of multiple State Border Posts in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region and the security patrols they conduct, make this clear. To strengthen Indonesia's negotiating position in bilateral cooperation with Malaysia, the postal cross-border state building and the government employees who work there, including Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, and Security, are examples of the state's existence in the border region. People's economic mobility in the border region between Indonesia and Malaysia may also rise in this way. Furthermore, the presence of cross-border pass users has raised their degree of compliance, discipline, and order, raising the prospect that future smuggling attempts will be reduced.

Apart from border security and economic aspects of society, kinship relations between residents on the Indonesia-Malaysia border who come from the same ethnicity also often give rise to disputes related to population mobility issues. High population mobility across the borders of the two countries often makes it difficult to manage security at the border. Not only does it sometimes cause problems in customs and immigration administration, but it is also intertwined with illegal activities such as trade and smuggling. The dependence of the Indonesian people on necessities from Malaysia is also one of the triggering factors. Through the Cross Border Agreement agreed

upon by the 43rd Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee (GBC Malindo), the commitment of the two countries to strengthen socio-political issues on the border of West Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sarawak (Malaysia) is achieved to create harmonious relations.

**Conclusion:**

Border management is a necessity for Indonesia as an archipelagic country that borders maritimately and/or land with other countries. Politically, border areas provide legal certainty for internal and external sovereignty, both in the context of managing government administration and implementing national and internal laws to establish relations with other countries. With the Cross Border Agreement agreed upon at the 43rd Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee (GBC Malindo) at the end of 2023, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed on a political policy commitment to overcome the Post-Covid-19 pandemic. The Cross-Border Agreement agreed at the 43rd General Border Committee has had several impacts on border crossers, namely the border communities of West Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sarawak (Malaysia), which has had an impact on strengthening the commitment between the two countries regarding border security, community economy and social-politics of border communities. This study also recommends that the results of this Cross Border Agreement be immediately followed up by both countries regarding the manifestation of the agreed commitments.

**Reference:**

1. Abao, A. S. (2019). Cross-border migration in the border area of Jagoi Babang, Indonesia with Serikin, Sarawak, Malaysia: A case study of Indonesian traders at Serikin Market, Sarawak, Malaysia-opportunities and challenges. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 9(1). [https://www.ajhtl.com/uploads/7/1/6/3/7163688/article\\_3\\_se\\_gbcss\\_2019.pdf](https://www.ajhtl.com/uploads/7/1/6/3/7163688/article_3_se_gbcss_2019.pdf)
2. Anuar, A. R., & Raharjo, S. N. I. (2022). Indonesia-Malaysia Cross-Border Governance During The Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges And Adaptation In The Integration Of The Tebedu-Entikong Border Region. *Journal of International Studies*, 18, 89–123. <https://e-journal.uum.edu.my/index.php/jis/article/view/14448>
3. Arifin, M. A. N., Putro, H. P. H., & Firman, T. (2022). Territorial Politics in Cross-Border Local Development Strategies in the Krayan–Ba’Kelalan Region at the Indonesia–Malaysia Border. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 1–25. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08865655.2022.2104341>
4. Astuti, T. M. P. (2018). Trafficking di Pos Lintas Batas Entikong-Tebedu: Kasus di Perbatasan Indonesia dengan Malaysia. *Forum Ilmu Sosial*, 45(1). <https://journal.unnes.ac.id/nju/index.php/FIS/article/view/15546>
5. Ball, S. J. (2015). What is policy? 21 years later: reflections on the possibilities of policy research. *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, 36:3, 306-313. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01596306.2015.1015279>
6. Bambani, A. (2022). Sarawak and West Kalimantan Border Reopens by April 1, Quarantine Free. *The Indonesia*. <https://www.theindonesia.id/news/2022/03/29/073000/sarawak-and-west-kalimantan-border-reopens-by-april-1-without-quarantine>
7. Bie, Q. L., Zhou, S. Y., & Li, C. S. (2013). The impact of Border policy effect on cross-border ethnic areas. *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.*, XL-4/W3, 35–40. <https://isprs-archives.copernicus.org/articles/XL-4-W3/35/2013/>
8. Boyce, G., & Nevins, J. (2022). Common Immunity or Microbial Xenophobia? : Nation-State Boundary Controls and the Spread of Disease in the Era of Covid-19. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 21(6), 710–727. <https://acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/2118>
9. Castanho, R., Loures, L., Fernández, J., & Pozo, L. (2018). Identifying critical factors for success in Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) development projects. *Habitat International*, 72, 92–99. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0197397516307731>
10. Dadusc, D. (2019). The micropolitics of border struggles: migrants’ squats and inhabitation as alternatives to citizenship. *Citizenship Studies*, 23. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13621025.2019.1634377>
11. Darmawan, A. D. (2023). Total Kematian Covid-19 Indonesia Urutan Ke-2 di Asia. *Databoks Katadata*. <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2023/07/14/total-kematian-covid-19-indonesia-urutan-ke-2-di-asia>
12. Elviana, D. (2018). Analisis Saluran dan Fungsi Pemasaran Komoditas Hortikultura Sebagai Upaya Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Kawasan Perbatasan (Study Kasus di Pulau Sebatik Kabupaten Nunukan Propinsi Kalimantan Utara). *Jurnal Borneo Saintek*, 1(2). [http://jurnal.borneo.ac.id/index.php/borneo\\_saintek/article/view/909](http://jurnal.borneo.ac.id/index.php/borneo_saintek/article/view/909)
13. Elviana, D. (2019). Analisis Informasi Pasar

- Komoditi Mangga Di Wilayah Perbatasan Indonesia Malaysia (Sebuah Kasus Di Desa Aji Kuning Kecamatan Sebatik Tengah). *Jurnal Borneo Saintek*, 2(1). [http://jurnal.borneo.ac.id/index.php/borneo\\_saintek/article/view/636](http://jurnal.borneo.ac.id/index.php/borneo_saintek/article/view/636)
14. Fitriasari, E. T. (2022). The Urgency Of Cultural Revitalization In The Indonesia-Malaysia Border Region. *International Journal of Social Science (IJSS)*, 1(5), 569–574. <https://bajangjournal.com/index.php/IJSS/article/view/1296/910>
15. Finambello, F., & Suprojo, A. (2019). Analisis Pengaruh Pembangunan Pos Lintas Batas Negara Terhadap Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Sosial Masyarakat Perbatasan. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Politik (JISIP)*, 8(2). <https://publikasi.unitri.ac.id/index.php/fisip/article/view/1721>
16. Firdaus. (2019). Dampak kebijakan pembangunan Pos Lintas Batas Negara (PLBN) Aruk di Desa Sebunga Kabupaten Sambas, Kalimantan Barat. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pemerintahan (JIIP)*, 3(2). <https://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/jiip/article/view/3881/2318>
17. Hameiri, S., Jones, L., & Heathershaw, J. (2019). Reframing the rising powers debate: state transformation and foreign policy. *Third World Quarterly*, 40(8), 1397–1414. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01436597.2019.1594182>
18. Hidayah, U., Klau, A. D., & Prima, S. R. (2022). Analisis Ketimpangan Investasi di Wilayah Perbatasan Kalimantan Barat tahun 2015-2020. *Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan (JEP)*, 11(2), 70–79. <http://jurnal.feb.unila.ac.id/index.php/jep/article/view/467>
19. Iswanto, B., Munadi, M., & Suriadi, S. (2020). Uncover Local Wisdom Value Of Trade At The Border Of Indonesia-Malaysia: An Islamic Economics Perspective. *Share: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Keuangan Islam*, 9 (2), 138-163. <https://idr.uin-antasari.ac.id/25001/>
20. Karim, M. F. (2019). State transformation and cross-border regionalism in Indonesia's periphery: contesting the center. *Third World Quarterly*, 40(8), 1554–1570. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01436597.2019.1620598>
21. Kemhan.go.id. (2023). GBC Malindo ke-43, Menhan Prabowo Sampaikan Capaian Penting Kerja Sama RI-Malaysia. Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia. <https://www.kemhan.go.id/2023/10/12/gbc-malindo-ke-43-menhan-prabowo-sampaikan-capaian-penting-kerja-sama-ri-malaysia.html>
22. Kemlu.go.id. (2023). 8th Meeting on the Review of Border Crossing Agreement (BCA) Between Malaysia and Indonesia. Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/kuching/id/news/23259/8th-meeting-on-the-review-of-border-crossing-agreement-bca-between-malaysia-and-indonesia>
23. LPEM FEB UI. (2020). Thinking Ahead: Indonesia's Agenda on Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic. LPEM FEB UI & BAPPENAS. <https://sdgs.bappenas.go.id/website/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Thinking-Ahead-Indonesia%E2%80%99s-Agenda-on-Sustainable-Recovery-from-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>
24. Mahapatra, D. A. (2017). States, locals and cross-border cooperation in Kashmir: Is secondary foreign policy in making in South Asia? *Regional & Federal Studies*, 27(3), 341–358. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/013597566.2017.1343721>
25. Nelles, J., & Durand, F. (2014). Political rescaling and metropolitan governance in cross-border regions: Comparing the cross-border metropolitan areas of Lille and Luxembourg. *European Urban and Regional*



38. Wardani, P. R. (2023). Indonesia-Malaysia Held Coordinated Patrol as Relationship Improved. Indonesian National Police. <https://inp.polri.go.id/2023/10/13/indonesia-malaysia-held-coordinated-patrol-as-relationship-improved/>
39. Wijananto, A. (2023). Pertemuan GBC Malindo Sepakati Penyelesaian Masalah Perbatasan Indonesia-Malaysia. RRI. [https://www.rri.co.id/nasional/396889/pertemuan-gbc-malindo-sepakati-penyelesaian-masalah-perbatasan-indonesia-malaysia?utm\\_source=popular\\_home&utm\\_medium=internal\\_link&utm\\_campaign=General%20Campaign](https://www.rri.co.id/nasional/396889/pertemuan-gbc-malindo-sepakati-penyelesaian-masalah-perbatasan-indonesia-malaysia?utm_source=popular_home&utm_medium=internal_link&utm_campaign=General%20Campaign)
40. Villanueva, J. L., Kidokoro, T., & Seta, F. (2020). Cross-Border Integration, Cooperation and Governance: A Systems Approach for Evaluating “Good” Governance in Cross-Border Regions. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 37. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08865655.2020.1855227>