

LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES AT THE INDONESIA-MALAYSIA LAND BORDER

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Abstract.

Borders between countries define a country's territory. Indonesia has 3,108.3 kilometers of land borders, the longest of which is with Malaysia at 1,881 kilometers. With such a long border, it is inevitable that various crimes will occur across the border between the two countries. Therefore, law enforcement in various crimes that occur will certainly be handled differently from law enforcement in other areas far from the border. This study focuses on law enforcement against crimes that often occur at the border and to reveal the law enforcement system carried out at the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia. The research method used in this study is an empirical juridical approach, which examines how the law works in society. This approach was chosen to observe the implementation and effectiveness of law enforcement in the Indonesia-Malaysia land border area in practice, as well as the interaction between law enforcement officials, the community, and related agencies. The law enforcement process in the Indonesia-Malaysia land border involves a coordinated multi-institutional approach, based on bilateral agreements, and aims to maintain state sovereignty and address transnational crime. The Indonesia-Malaysia land border faces major structural challenges, including a long borderline, difficult terrain, unclear boundaries, and limited infrastructure. Legal and enforcement factors such as inconsistent regulations, limited resources, and suboptimal monitoring mechanisms pose real obstacles. Socio-economic and cultural factors in border communities, such as poverty, underdevelopment, and cross-border cultures, further weaken the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Keywords: Law Enforcement, Land Border, Indonesia-Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

The land border between Indonesia and Malaysia is a highly strategic and complex area with a wide range of cross-border activities, ranging from trade and migration to potential social conflicts and crime. Law enforcement in this land border area poses a major challenge for both countries, particularly in terms of maintaining sovereignty, security, and public order [1].

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Law enforcement issues at the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia are complex, involving various aspects, including legal, security, social, economic, and political issues. [3] The main problems identified in law enforcement in the region are weak security oversight and infrastructure, overlapping authority between agencies, unclear territorial boundaries, weak law enforcement and corruption, and a lack of public awareness and legal knowledge, all of which contribute to the proliferation of illegal activities and cross-border crime between the two countries.

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The urgency of research on law enforcement issues at the Indonesia-Malaysia land border is very high, given that the border area is a strategic region that is prone to various cross-border legal violations. [4] We can examine particular 2024 data points as well as current events in early 2026. The border, which crosses Kalimantan (Indonesia) and the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, is more than 2,000 kilometers long and poses significant legal and geographical difficulties.

1. An increase in the smuggling of drugs

The "backdoor" routes, or unofficial route as they are known locally, continue to be a major entry point for illegal drugs.

Case Volume: The number of drug smuggling cases in North Kalimantan alone increased from 56 in 2022 to 75 by August 2023, and the trend continued into 2024. Recent Seizures: In a single operation near the land border in November 2025, Indonesian border troops (TNI) found 21.9 kg of methamphetamine, underscoring the ongoing high-volume nature of these crimes.

2. International Crimes and "Crimmigration"

According to a 2025 study, "crimmigration"—the overlap between criminal activity and immigration violations—has significantly increased.

Violation Patterns: Document falsification and abuse of residence permits accounted for the majority of the 714 significant border violation cases that authorities reported in 2024.

Trend Growth: Between 2019 and 2024, there was a 45% increase in administrative violations and a 31% increase in criminal violations (such as forgery and human smuggling).

Human Trafficking: Malaysia continues to be the main destination for undocumented labor and victims of human trafficking, with Indonesia recording 1,061 trafficking investigations in 2023 (a significant increase from 133 in 2022).

3. Crimes Against Nature and Resources

The illegal exploitation of Indonesia's natural resources is made easier by the porous West Kalimantan-Sarawak border.

Illegal Logging: Every month, thousands of tons of timber, particularly protected species like Ramin, are smuggled into Malaysia by organized syndicates. These are frequently laundered using fictitious documents of Malaysian origin.

Illegal Mining & Wildlife: According to research from 2025 (TRAFFIC), West Kalimantan is a "convergence hotspot" where illicit timber smuggling, wildlife

trafficking, and gold mining commonly use the same logistics networks to avoid detection.

4. Territorial Conflicts and Sovereignty (2025–2026)

Law enforcement jurisdiction is hampered by legal "gray zones" caused by ambiguous boundaries.

Outstanding Boundary Problems (OBP): Long-standing disagreements were resolved by a historic agreement in February 2025. As of January 2026, however, there is still debate over the status of three Nunukan villages—Kabunglor, Lipaga, and Tetagas which were recently determined to be part of Malaysian territory.

Legal Complexity: In order to avoid social unrest, these changes necessitate new frameworks for "community-based border management" and have an impact on thousands of residents' legal status.

Tabel 1. Border Vulnerabilities Summary

Category	Key Statistic/Data Point	Impact on Law Enforcement
Narcotics	21.9 kg of narcotics Seizures of meth (November 2025)	requires sophisticated surveillance (drones, GPS)
Human Trafficking	1,061 cases of human trafficking were looked into in 2023	Interagency SOPs are in high demand
Immigration	Criminal violations have increased by 31% due to immigration	Criminal and immigration law convergence
Territory	5,207 Ha land adjustment (2025/26)	Clarity of jurisdiction for local law enforcement

Smuggling of illegal goods such as narcotics, weapons, fuel, as well as human trafficking and illegal exploitation of natural resources. Without strong supervision, the land border area between Indonesia and Malaysia will become a lawless area.

The Indonesia–Malaysia land border is a strategic area that is prone to law violations. Although this issue is often discussed, academic knowledge and policies on law enforcement are still incomplete, especially in terms of coordination, data, and cross-border law implementation. Previous research on law enforcement at the border includes: “Collaborative Governance in Preventing Drug Trafficking at the Indonesia-Malaysia Border” (2024), [5] “Transnational Organized Crime in the Borderland: A

Case Study of Methamphetamine Smuggling” (2025), Law Enforcement Against Trafficking in Persons in Border Areas” (2023), Legal Protection for Undocumented Migrant Workers in Border Areas” (2024), Analysis of Unresolved Border Issues between Indonesia and Malaysia” (2025), Illegal Logging and Timber Laundering in The Heart of Borneo” (2023).

There is a knowledge gap in law enforcement at the border, including a conceptual gap, namely the lack of clarity regarding the concept of “border law enforcement” in national literature. Some studies focus on national security, while others emphasize regional development, without integrating the two. As a result, there is no single theoretical framework that explains how the law is enforced in border zones that have mixed civil and military functions. [6] A lack of comprehensive understanding and data has led to inconsistent law enforcement between border posts, low public trust in the authorities, a weak position for Indonesia in bilateral negotiations on handling cross-border violations, and delays in legal and economic development in border areas.

The objective of the study “Law Enforcement Practices and Challenges at the Indonesia–Malaysia Land Border” is to understand and improve the effectiveness of the legal system and national security in the border region, analyze and evaluate law enforcement in the Indonesia–Malaysia land border region, and identify factors that influence its effectiveness in order to enhance state sovereignty, security, and the welfare of the border community.

Based on the background described above, the research questions in this study are: How is law enforcement carried out in the Indonesia–Malaysia land border area, What are the types of legal violations that frequently occur in this border area, What factors hinder law enforcement in the Indonesia-Malaysia land border area, how do law enforcement agencies (such as the Indonesian National Armed Forces, the Indonesian National Police, Customs, Immigration, and local governments) coordinate and synergize in handling legal violations at the border, and what efforts can be made to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in the Indonesia-Malaysia land border area.

METHODS

This paper adopts a normative-empirical legal research approach. This type of normative-empirical research is basically applied in legal studies as a practical research method that acknowledges the complexity of an issue. This method combines normative elements (related to legal provisions, principles, and theories) with empirical aspects (which investigate social realities and legal practices in the field) to provide a more comprehensive understanding. Although this term does not have a rigid meaning, in practice, this approach is often used and applied by legal academics. This approach is considered essential because it allows researchers to not only understand the theoretical

framework of law, but also to investigate how law is applied and realized in a real-world context. Therefore, the use of normative-empirical research contributes significantly to producing deeper and more relevant insights for legal studies.

The approach taken in this study is a legal approach, with the aim of examining the research objects, which include the norms contained in the regulations applicable in Indonesia. Some of the regulations examined are as follows:

1. Constitutional Basis

a. Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia 1945

- 1) Article 1 paragraph (3): Indonesia is a country based on the rule of law, so all law enforcement in border areas must be based on the law.
- 2) Article 25A: Affirms Indonesia as an archipelagic country with its borders and rights determined by law.

This is the main basis for the regulation of sovereignty and law enforcement in border areas, including land borders.

2. Laws

a. Law No. 43 of 2008 on State Territory

This is the main regulation on state borders.

- 1) Regulates the determination of state territory boundaries (land, sea, air);
- 2) Regulates the management and security of border areas; and
- 3) Regulates the roles of the central and regional governments.

b. Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police

The Indonesian National Police has the authority to maintain public security and order, as well as to investigate and prosecute criminal acts in border areas related to smuggling, transnational crimes, and immigration violations.

c. Law No. 34 of 2004 on the Indonesian National Army (TNI)

The TNI is tasked with maintaining the sovereignty and integrity of the country's territory at its land borders, and the Indonesian National Army Forces – Land Forces (TNI – AD) is responsible for securing the borders, including conducting military operations other than war.

d. Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration

Regulates the movement of people at land borders and the supervision of foreigners. The legal basis for enforcement includes violations such as entering Indonesian territory without official documents, overstaying, and human smuggling.

e. Law No. 17 of 2006 on Customs

Regulates the supervision of goods entering and leaving Indonesian territory, such as enforcement against smuggling and customs and excise violations in land border areas.

3. Government Regulation

PP No. 26 of 2008 concerning the National Spatial Plan regulates and designates border areas as national strategic areas. It also serves as the basis for coordination of spatial planning and security-based law enforcement.

4. Presidential Regulation (Perpres)

a. Perpres No. 12 of 2010 concerning the National Border Management Agency (BNPP)

BNPP is tasked with coordinating border management and synchronizing cross-sector law enforcement policies. BNPP does not directly enforce the law, but it is very important in border coordination.

b. Perpres Number 118 of 2022 concerning the Master Plan for the Management of State Borders and Border Areas for 2020-2024

This Perpres regulates strategies for security, cross-border surveillance, and the development of State Cross-Border Posts (PLBN).

5. Technical Regulations and Cooperation

a. Ministerial Regulations (Permen)

Ministerial regulations that are operational and technical in nature, such as the Minister of Immigration Regulation on border checks and the Minister of Finance Regulation on customs at PLBNs.

b. Bilateral Agreements with Neighboring Countries

Agreements between Indonesia and Malaysia governing joint patrols, border posts, and the resolution of border violations.

The main legal materials analyzed in this study include laws and additional legal components such as journals and books relevant to the topic under study. The process of collecting legal materials was carried out by researching existing literature. Each legal material was collected, described, and analyzed for further integration with existing laws, and organized based on core material using the approach employed in this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Law enforcement is one of the main pillars of statehood. Its main function is to ensure that all established laws and legal norms are implemented effectively and consistently by all elements of society, including state administrators. Without proper law enforcement, existing regulations will merely be meaningless texts that do not provide certainty and justice for the people.

In the context of a country governed by the rule of law, law enforcement serves as an instrument for realizing justice, order, and security in society. Through firm and fair law enforcement, every individual will feel that their rights are protected and have legal certainty in every aspect of life. Law enforcement also functions as a means of controlling power, so that there is no abuse of authority by certain parties.

In addition, effective law enforcement can increase public trust in the government and legal institutions. When the public sees that the law is enforced impartially and that everyone is treated equally before the law, legal awareness and public participation in maintaining order will increase. Conversely, if law enforcement is weak, biased, or corrupt, this can lead to injustice, social conflict, and a loss of trust in the legal system and government.

Therefore, law enforcement is not only the responsibility of law enforcement officials such as the police, prosecutors, and judges, but also of all elements of society. All parties must play an active role in enforcing the law by obeying regulations, respecting the rights of others, and having the courage to report violations of the law that occur around them. Thus, strong, fair, and transparent law enforcement is an important foundation for the creation of a democratic, orderly, and socially just society.

The land border between Indonesia and Malaysia is a strategic area that is important from a political, economic, social, and security perspective. This border stretches across the island of Kalimantan for approximately 2,019 kilometers and passes through three provinces in Indonesia, namely West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, and North Kalimantan. [7]

Despite its great potential for trade and cooperation between countries, the region is also prone to various legal problems, such as smuggling, human trafficking, immigration violations, cross-border forest encroachment, and territorial disputes. [8] Therefore, law enforcement at the border is a vital aspect of maintaining state sovereignty and national security.

The Indonesia–Malaysia land border region stretches from West Kalimantan (Sambas, Sanggau, Kapuas Hulu districts), East Kalimantan (Mahakam Ulu district), to North Kalimantan (Nunukan and Malinau districts). This region is inhabited by communities with close social and cultural ties due to their ethnic similarities, particularly the Dayak tribe. [9] The difficult geographical conditions, limited infrastructure, and differences in welfare with the Malaysian region have led to various cross-border activities that are not always legal.

Some forms of law violations that often occur at the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia include the smuggling of goods such as fuel, forest products, and agricultural commodities. Human smuggling and illegal labor to Malaysia. Cross-border drug trafficking. Territorial and immigration violations. and Illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Law enforcement at the Indonesia-Malaysia land border involves a coordinated multi-institutional approach, based on bilateral agreements, and aims to maintain state sovereignty and address transnational crime. [10] Law enforcement at the border is carried out through:

A. Joint patrols by the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), the Indonesian National Police (Polri), and related institutions;

The mechanism for joint patrols by the TNI, Polri, and related institutions on the Indonesia-Malaysia land border, which is implemented in the Indonesia-Malaysia land border area on the island of Kalimantan (West Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, East Kalimantan):

1. Legal Basis and Policy

Joint patrols at the border are carried out based on a number of regulations and memoranda of understanding, including:

- a. Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the TNI, Article 7 concerning Military Operations Other Than War (OMSP);
- b. Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Polri, related to the function of the Polri in maintaining domestic security;
- c. Government Regulations and Minister of Defense Regulations, which regulate the duties of the Indonesian Army (TNI AD) in border areas;
- d. MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between Indonesia and Malaysia on the Border Security Committee (BSC) and General Border Committee (GBC), which serves as the umbrella for coordinating joint cross-border patrols;
- e. Internal technical regulations from each agency (TNI, Polri, Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, and regional agencies).

2. Involved Agencies

- a. Indonesian Army (Kostrad, Kodam, Indonesia-Malaysia Border Security Task Force)
Mainly responsible for the physical security of the border area and conducting surveillance, patrols, and securing border markers.
- b. Indonesian National Police (Mobile Brigade Corps and Border Police)
Handles security and law enforcement aspects of criminal violations within the domestic jurisdiction.
- c. BNPP (National Border Management Agency)
Cross-agency coordinator at the national level.
- d. Customs, Immigration, Quarantine (CIQ)
Oversee the entry and exit of goods, people, and animals/biological products.
- e. Local Government and Civil Service Police Unit
Support facilities and logistics for joint patrol activities.
- f. Malaysian Armed Forces (TDM) and Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM)
In the context of joint border patrols in accordance with bilateral agreements.

3. Joint Patrol Mechanism

a. Planning

- 1) Prepared through Border Security Coordination Meetings (Rakorkamtas) involving the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), Indonesian National Police (Polri), and related agencies.
- 2) Determining:
 - a) Patrol sectors and routes (boundary markers, unofficial routes, border crossing posts).
 - b) Patrol times and frequency (daily, weekly, incidental).
 - c) Personnel composition and division of tasks.

b. Patrol Implementation

- 1) The TNI leads military and regional security aspects.
- 2) The Polri focuses on law enforcement and interaction with the community.
- 3) Patrols are conducted:
 - a) Unilateral patrols: in each country's respective territory.
 - b) Joint patrols: along the border line as agreed by the BSC/GBC.
- 4) Patrols include:
 - a) Inspection of border markers.
 - b) Monitoring of illegal routes and activities (smuggling, human trafficking, timber, drugs).
 - c) Monitoring of traditional cross-border community activities.

4. Reporting and Evaluation

- a. Each patrol produces a report on activities and security situations, which is submitted to:
 - 1) The Sector Command Post (TNI/Polri).
 - 2) BNPP and the Ministry of Defense for national recapitulation.
- b. Evaluations are conducted regularly to improve patrol patterns, enhance coordination effectiveness, and strengthen border post infrastructure.

B. Forms of Bilateral Coordination

In the General Border Committee (GBC) and Joint Border Post (JBP) forums between Indonesia and Malaysia:

1. Exchange of intelligence information and patrol results.
2. Determination of vulnerable areas and joint action plans.
3. Establishment of a hotline communication between TNI and TDM posts to avoid misunderstandings in the field.

C. Objectives of Joint Patrols

1. Maintaining the integrity of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia.

2. Preventing and taking action against illegal cross-border activities.
3. Enhancing cooperation and trust between the authorities of both countries.
4. Ensuring the security and order of border communities.
5. Cross-border operations between Indonesian and Malaysian officials, such as Ops Gagak, Ops Pamantas RI–Malaysia, and cooperation with the General Border Committee (GBC).
6. An approach based on customary law and social community, given that border communities often have cross-border kinship ties.
7. Utilizing technology such as modern border posts (PLBN) to strengthen surveillance.

One of the factors hindering law enforcement at the Indonesia-Malaysia land border is the geographical issue, namely the extremely long border that is difficult to monitor. The Indonesia-Malaysia land border on the island of Kalimantan is very long and passes through difficult terrain (forests, mountains, rivers, remote areas). [11] These conditions result in limited access for surveillance, making it difficult for authorities to reach the area, thus facilitating the emergence of unofficial routes. From a technical perspective, differences in datum, interpretation of colonial agreements, and mapping that is not yet fully accurate further complicate demarcation and security.

The uncertainty of the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia is another factor hindering law enforcement at the border. Despite agreements such as the 1891 Treaty, the 1915/1928 Convention, and the 1973 MOU between Indonesia and Malaysia, there are still “Outstanding Boundary Problems” (OBP) or unresolved land border points. [12] This border uncertainty has an impact on surveillance, territorial claims, and obstacles to law enforcement, with the result that officials do not always know the exact jurisdictional lines, and local communities feel ambiguous about the boundaries.

Border areas often have inadequate access to transportation, communication, and inspection facilities (customs, immigration & quarantine/CIQ). These infrastructure limitations restrict the ability of officials to conduct routine patrols, intensive surveillance, and rapid response to border violations. Local institutions (local government, village/sub-district officials) are also often under-empowered in border management.

Normative legal factors and resources in law enforcement at the Indonesia-Malaysia land border are another dominant factor that poses an obstacle. Despite the existence of national and bilateral regulations, in practice, legal cooperation between countries or between agencies often encounters obstacles: for example, mechanisms for information exchange, extradition, and mutual legal assistance need to be improved. [13] Differences in interpretation of colonial agreements or the legal basis for demarcation

can lead to jurisdictional uncertainty, causing officials to be hesitant/vulnerable in their implementation. [14]

Human resource factors such as personnel numbers, specialized training for border areas, and surveillance technology capabilities remain very limited. For example, research cites “the vastness of the land border area, systems that are not yet fully operational, infrastructure availability, and resource constraints” as obstacles to drug detection in the border area of West Kalimantan. [15] Technological tools (drones, satellites, land/air patrols) and integrated data systems between agencies are not yet optimal.

Informal routes are commonly found in border areas (rat trails) that are difficult to monitor, enabling illegal activities (smuggling of cigarettes, goods, and people) to take place. The system of complaints, reporting, and coordination between law enforcement agencies (police, customs, immigration, the Indonesian National Armed Forces, and regional agencies) does not always run smoothly or in an integrated manner.

An equally important factor in law enforcement efforts on the Indonesia-Malaysia land border is poverty, underdevelopment, and low welfare among border communities. Many border areas face economic backwardness: low accessibility, minimal public services, and limited economic opportunities. [16] Low welfare conditions make communities vulnerable to engaging in illegal cross-border activities (e.g., as “couriers,” using illegal routes) due to a lack of legal economic alternatives.

Cross-border cultures and local traditions are another obstacle to law enforcement in the land border area between Indonesia and Malaysia. Communities in border areas often have socio-cultural ties with their neighbors (ethnicity, tribe, language, relatives across borders). This can complicate legal control (e.g., citizen mobility, cross-border marriages, traditional goods traffic). [17] People's perceptions of punishment or enforcement norms in border areas can vary, resulting in relatively low legal awareness. For example, research on illegal cigarettes mentions that “the lack of socialization affects social and cultural factors because it results in a lack of knowledge and legal awareness among the community about this issue.” [18]

The impact of legal and illegal cross-border economic activities. Legal cross-border economic activities (such as small-scale trade between villages in the two countries) can “cover up” or be mixed with illegal activities, so law enforcement officials must distinguish between the two. However, with limited resources, there are often smuggling methods that take advantage of land border routes, so that illegal activities become “integrated” into the daily lives of border residents.

Law enforcement at the border requires collaboration between national and regional authorities, agencies dealing with immigration, customs, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (Polri), as well as Malaysian authorities. However, in practice, this coordination has not been optimal.

International coordination is often hampered by differences in legal systems, regulations, national priorities, and sovereignty issues. [19]

The central government often establishes policies and regulations, but implementation at the local level often faces obstacles in terms of capacity, resources, or commitment. Research in Sambas Regency shows that border management is still not optimal because regulations on management are not yet maximized at the regional level. [20] Local community participation and involvement in border surveillance or management still needs to be improved.

Border law enforcement is also influenced by national policy priorities (defense, security, economic development) that sometimes conflict with each other. For example, the governor of North Kalimantan mentioned six strategic issues in border resolution, including law enforcement, defense and security, infrastructure, and socio-economics. [21] Indonesia-Malaysia diplomatic and bilateral relations concerning land and maritime borders can influence law enforcement (for example, if a border dispute arises, surveillance may be hampered).

Weak law enforcement at the border can lead to rampant cross-border illegal activities, such as smuggling of goods, illegal cigarettes, drugs, illegal migration, land conversion, and land conflicts. [22] As a result, the potential vulnerability of the country's sovereignty and national security can be threatened if the land border is not managed properly. Imbalances in development and social injustice result in underserved border communities becoming “weak zones” in state oversight and breeding grounds for illegal activities that threaten security and welfare. The costs of enforcement and recovery are higher when illegal activities have already taken root and require major intervention.

Recommendations that can be considered in the process of improving law enforcement at the land border between Indonesia and Malaysia include accelerating the completion of land boundary demarcation. The government must immediately resolve outstanding boundary problems (OBP) between Indonesia–Malaysia, clarify physical boundaries and jurisdictional coordinates so that law enforcement officials are not hampered by jurisdictional ambiguities. Use geospatial technology (GIS, drones, satellite mapping) to strengthen border surveillance and validity. (In line with geospatial technical studies). [23]

Strengthen infrastructure and resources in border areas, improve border post facilities (PLBN), patrol posts, communication and surveillance systems to support enforcement activities. Special training for law enforcement officials stationed in border areas, equipped with surveillance technology (e.g., patrol drones, cross-border intelligence systems). [24] Development of an integrated data system between agencies and with neighboring countries (Indonesia–Malaysia) for intelligence sharing, reporting, and joint action.

Economic development and empowerment of border communities, strengthening the welfare of border communities through socio-economic infrastructure development, reducing inequality, providing legal economic alternatives so that communities are not driven to illegal activities. Socialization and legal education programs for local communities to understand their rights and obligations, as well as the dangers of taking unofficial routes. As a case in point, the lack of socialization is cited as a factor hindering the enforcement of illegal cigarette laws.

Improving institutional coordination and bilateral cooperation, strengthening cooperation between agencies at the national, provincial, and district/city levels in border areas. This requires clear regulations and synchronized implementation in the field. Strengthening bilateral mechanisms between Indonesia and Malaysia in the field of border law enforcement through information exchange, joint patrols, cross-border law enforcement, and legal mechanisms (extradition, mutual legal assistance) must be formalized and implemented. The integration of security, development, and border law enforcement policies is not only a “security issue” but also a matter of development and welfare. The development interests of border communities must be included in law enforcement strategies. [25]

An adaptive approach to local characteristics and border culture, understanding that border communities have unique socio-cultural characteristics (cross-border relationships, tribes, relatives, traditions) so that law enforcement approaches must be adaptive. For example, strengthening customary institutions or local governance that can become partners of the authorities. Facilitating local complaint mechanisms and active community participation in border surveillance (community policing, border volunteers) so that illegal activities can be reduced through community involvement, not just enforcement by the authorities. [26]

CONCLUSION

The land border between Indonesia and Malaysia is a highly strategic and complex area, with a wide range of cross-border activities, from trade and migration to potential social conflicts and crime. Law enforcement in this land border area poses a major challenge for both countries, particularly in terms of maintaining sovereignty, security, and public order. The Indonesia-Malaysia land border has major structural challenges, including a long border line, difficult terrain, unclear boundaries, and limited infrastructure. Legal and enforcement factors such as inconsistent regulations, limited resources, and suboptimal monitoring mechanisms are real obstacles. Socio-economic and cultural factors in border communities, such as poverty, underdevelopment, and cross-border cultures, further weaken the effectiveness of law enforcement. Institutional coordination (between agencies and between countries) is still inadequate to handle the dynamics of enforcement at the border. As a result, there is great potential for cross-

border law violations. The law enforcement process on the Indonesia-Malaysia land border involves a coordinated multi-institutional approach, based on bilateral agreements, and aims to maintain state sovereignty and address transnational crimes that impact state sovereignty, security, and the welfare of border communities.

Recommendations that can be considered in the process of improving law enforcement at the Indonesia-Malaysia land border include accelerating the completion of land border demarcation, the government must immediately finalize the OBP points, strengthening infrastructure and resources in the border area, improving border post facilities (PLBN), patrol posts, communication and surveillance systems to support enforcement activities. Economic development and empowerment of border communities, improved institutional coordination and bilateral cooperation, strengthened cooperation between agencies at the national, provincial, and district/city levels in border areas, and an adaptive approach to local characteristics and border cultures.

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