

'Joint investigation will raise questions'

KUALA LUMPUR: A joint investigation with North Korea would raise questions as Malaysia has to look at worldwide interest in the investigation into the murder of Kim Jong-nam.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Malaysian and International Studies deputy director Dr Sufian Jusoh said other countries would not be happy in the event of a joint investigation as North Korea could have a hand in the results.

"Why would he (North Korean ambassador Kang Chol) request for a joint investigation when the crime is against someone that was in our country? It is purely the responsibility of our police.

"They are even accusing us of colluding with someone else, so a joint investigation would not make other

countries happy. They (North Korea) would have a hand in the result," he told the *New Straits Times*.

As a result of this, Sufian said, North Korea would no longer have trust in Malaysia and the investigation being carried out.

Alternatively, the authorities could request assistance from the North Korean embassy in terms of allowing them to go to their country and nab the suspects, if they are there.

"If they really want to help, they should let us go and arrest the suspects, question them and establish evidence.

"This mutual legal assistance, how-

ever, would still have to be led by Malaysia."

Sufian said the authorities had great confidence in the investigation team as they managed to catch the suspects within a few days.

He said police had followed diplomatic rules and did things through the right channels, in addition to being stern about rejecting the idea of a joint investigation.

He questioned the impatience of the North Korean embassy in obtaining the post-mortem results, saying that something was not right on their part.



Dr Sufian Jusoh