

**JOINT STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG AND PRIME  
MINISTER DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK AT THE 8TH  
SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA LEADERS' RETREAT IN SINGAPORE ON 16  
JANUARY 2018**

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak met in Singapore on 16 January 2018 for the 8th Singapore-Malaysia Leaders' Retreat. The Leaders welcomed the good progress made in bilateral relations since the Leaders' Retreat in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 13 December 2016. They also welcomed the excellent cooperation in an array of mutually beneficial areas, including connectivity, counter-terrorism, education, bilateral joint venture projects, and in ASEAN. The Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring positive and stable bilateral relations.

2 The Leaders warmly welcomed the signing of the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link Bilateral Agreement. This is the second cross-border rail agreement that the two countries have signed in two years, which is testament to the excellent cooperation between Malaysia and Singapore. The Agreement records the technical, safety and security requirements, commercial, financing, procurement and regulatory frameworks, as well as customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) arrangements for the RTS Link. When completed, the RTS Link will improve connectivity, deepen people-to-people ties, and stimulate economic growth in Singapore and Johor. To facilitate commuter flow, there will be co-located CIQ arrangements similar to the High Speed Rail (HSR) at each RTS Link Station in Bukit Chagar (Malaysia) and Woodlands North (Singapore), hence passengers will only need to undergo CIQ clearance at their point of departure. The RTS Link Stations will also be well integrated with the local public transport networks in each country. As a further reflection of the cross-border nature of this project, the Leaders looked forward to the exchange of letters between the Land Transport Authority of Singapore, the Government of Malaysia as represented by the Prime Minister's Department, SMRT Corporation Ltd (SMRT) and Prasarana Malaysia Berhad (Prasarana) recording their commitment for SMRT and

Prasarana to form a Joint Venture company to be the RTS Link operator for the first concession period. All KTMB railway services in Singapore will cease operations within six months from the commencement of RTS Link passenger services. The Leaders placed on record their appreciation to the Ministers and officials of both countries for their hard work, and looked forward to the commencement of RTS Link passenger services by 31 December 2024.

3 The Leaders welcomed the calling of the Assets Company (AssetsCo)1 tender for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore HSR on 20 December 2017. The first joint tender between MyHSR Corporation and SG HSR marked a major milestone in our collaboration, as both countries work towards the commencement of the direct Kuala Lumpur-Singapore HSR Express Service by 31 December 2026. The Leaders noted.