



Muhyiddin and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah having a light moment at Istana Nurul Iman yesterday. With them are Perigiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (right) and Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (left). - PIX COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Malaysia, Brunei to boost ties via vaccine diplomacy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Kuala Lumpur and Bandar Seri Begawan are looking at vaccine diplomacy in addressing the current common challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said the cooperation would be centred on reciprocal vaccination arrangement for both nationals covering diplomats, students and expatriates, Bernama reported.

They agreed to ensure access to vaccine supplies for both nations and mutual recognition of vaccination certificates as it would facilitate cross-border movement.

They mentioned this in a six-page joint statement at the end of the 23rd Annual Leaders' Consultation at Istana Nurul Iman yesterday. Muhyiddin is on the final day of a two-day official visit to Brunei in conjunction

with the annual leaders' consultation.

Both leaders agreed in principle to establish a Reciprocal Green Lane, with effective Covid-19 prevention and control measures, to facilitate essential business and official travel between both countries.

Muhyiddin and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah underscored the importance of revitalising and protecting the socio-economic stability of both countries.

On the bilateral front, they reaffirmed their commitment to further nurture this special relationship by broadening and strengthening collaboration in an array of mutually beneficial areas.

They expressed their appreciation for the collaboration between the two governments, particularly in managing the repatriation of their respective citizens stranded in each

other's country and other countries during the pandemic. "This is testament to the close and enduring ties between the two countries and their peoples."

The leaders also want to enhance closer economic cooperation, including in agriculture, fisheries, education as well as connectivity, trade and tourism.

Muhyiddin and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah also touched on close defence ties, youth and sports as well as enhancing connectivity and collaboration in transport sectors.

"Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to undertake mutual cooperation in the areas of information and communication technology, including multimedia and cybersecurity."

They welcomed the progress made on finalising the Memorandum of Understanding on Info-Communications Media.