

MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AGREE ON TRAVEL CORRIDOR

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Joint statement to announce opening of borders will be made soon, says Ismail Sabri

JAKARTA

MALAYSIA and Indonesia have agreed to implement a travel corridor between the two countries through the Travel Corridor Arrangement or Vaccinated Travel Lane arrangement, as both countries are recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the relevant ministers would refine the initiative so that the border between the two countries — involving the Kuala Lumpur-Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Lumpur-Bali-Kuala Lumpur routes — could be opened.

“A joint statement will be made to announce the opening of the border between Malaysia and Indonesia,” he said in a joint press conference with President Joko Widodo, also known as Jokowi, at Istana Bogor in conjunction with his inaugural three-day official visit, which began on Tuesday.

On Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia, he assured that the welfare and protection of Indonesians working in Malaysia would be preserved.

Ismail Sabri said the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) amended last year guaranteed comfortable accommodation for employees, not only for Malaysians but also for foreign-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Indonesian President Joko Widodo holding a joint press conference at Istana Bogor in Jakarta yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

ers, including from Indonesia.

Ismail Sabri gave his assurance that the Memorandum of Understanding on Recruitment and Protection of Indonesian Domestic Workers in Malaysia between the Human Resources Ministry of Malaysia and the Manpower Ministry of Indonesia would be finalised as soon as possible.

He said Indonesian workers could take advantage of the Malaysian government's extension of the recalibration programme until the end of this year by either returning home voluntarily or working legally.

Cooperation between Malaysia and Indonesia in the field of culture will also be enhanced through the joint listing on Unesco of several collectively inherited cultural heritage items, the prime minister said.

A joint listing in the future

could prevent the relationship from being undermined as Malaysia and Indonesia share many similarities in various matters, including customs, traditions and cultural heritage.

Last year, the two countries have made a joint listing to Unesco for “Pantun” by multinational nomination.

On the delimitation of the maritime border between the two countries, Ismail Sabri gave his assurance that Malaysia remained committed to reaching a solution

to finalise the issue.

“There are four related issues — two issues have been resolved and can be signed,” he said.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri and Jokowi agreed that the Myanmar issue needed to be addressed well as the impact of the problems in the country had an effect on Malaysia in terms of the arrival of Rohingya refugees to Malaysia.

At the end of the press conference, Ismail Sabri invited Jokowi to pay an official visit to Malaysia. **Bernama**