

VTL-LAND OPEN TO ALL TRAVEL CATEGORIES

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Malaysia, S'pore also agree to expand scheme with extra bus routes via Second Link and rail services by KTMB

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MALAYSIA and Singapore have agreed to include all categories of travellers for the Land Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL-Land), which opened yesterday between the two countries.

Both nations have also agreed to expand the VTL-Land scheme with additional bus service routes through the Second Link, train services operated by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB) and to gradually include private vehicles, such as motorcycles and cars.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said travellers would be subject to the health requirements determined by both countries.

"We acknowledge that the reopening of borders is important to reactivate cross-border social and economic activities that will benefit the people of both countries.

"We hope that by doing this, it will provide the opportunity for more people, on both sides of the Causeway, who have been away from their families due to the Covid-19 pandemic, to be reunited with their loved ones.

"This is what both Malaysia and Singapore have long awaited for," said Ismail Sabri in a statement released after a joint press conference with his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong yesterday.

It was reported that only workers whose families are in Singapore or Johor, and Malaysians and Singaporeans with permanent resident status, as well as holders of the Malaysia and Singapore long-term pass, were allowed to travel via VTL-Land.

Ismail Sabri was in Singapore for his maiden official visit as prime minister. Earlier, he and Lee witnessed the opening of the VTL-Land at Woodlands checkpoint.

"PM Lee and I also discussed the

cross border movement by air between Singapore and destinations like Penang, Langkawi, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu.

"We decided that our officials should start drawing up mea-

sures for this purpose," said Ismail Sabri.

He described the launch of the VTL-Land, which was simultaneously opened with VTL-Air, as a significant milestone between Malaysia and Singapore.

"This morning I crossed Tambak Johor (Causeway), and was received by PM Lee at Woodlands checkpoint. This in itself is very significant. It symbolises the reopening of our borders.

"It is part of the gradual reopening of our borders to facilitate travel between the two countries."

He described the ties between Malaysia and Singapore as having immense importance for both nations, and that more multilevel engagements and cooperation was the way forward.

“We acknowledge that the reopening of borders is important to reactivate cross-border social and economic activities that will benefit the people of both countries.”

DATUK SERI ISMAIL SABRI YAAKOB
prime minister