

VIETNAM'S COVID-19 CERT RECOGNISED

Malaysia reciprocates Hanoi's move as PM proposes new ways to work together to boost economy

HANOI

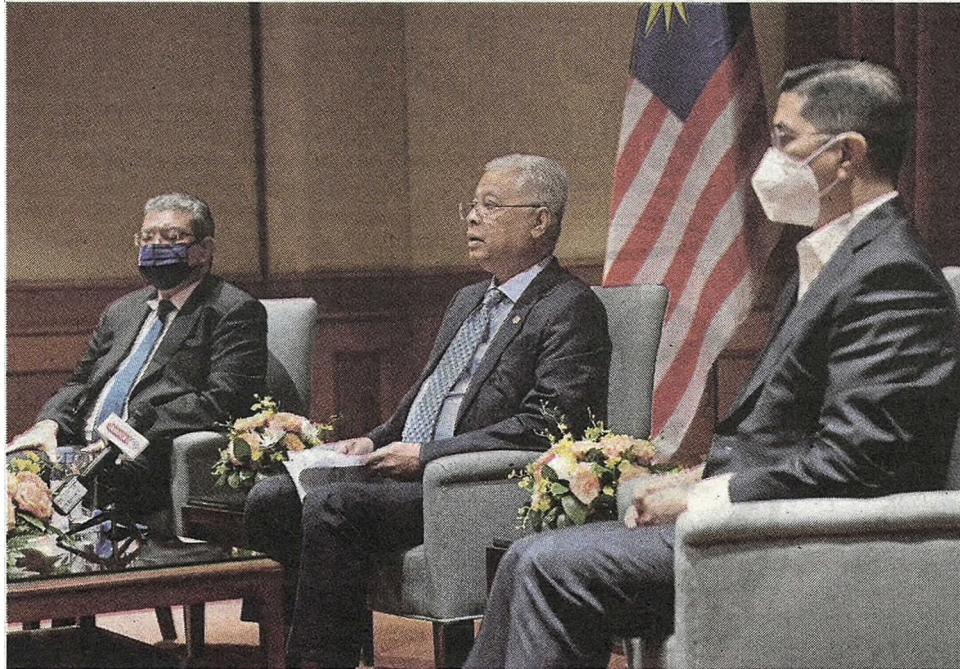
MALAYSIA has recognised Vietnam's Covid-19 vaccination certificate in a bid to boost tourism activities under post-pandemic cooperation between the two countries, said Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The prime minister said this was because Vietnam was using vaccines approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO), and it had also recognised Malaysia's vaccination certificate.

He pointed out that Vietnam had opened its borders on March 15 while Malaysia had decided to open its borders on April 1.

"As such, I have put forward several new initiatives of cooperation, apart from bringing existing ones to a higher level.

"First, the mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificate. Vietnam has accorded recognition to Malaysia's certificate (in August 2021).



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob at the press conference for Malaysian journalists in Hanoi yesterday. With him are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah and Senior International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali.

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"During my meeting with the Vietnamese prime minister (Pham Minh Chinh), I informed him that Malaysia has agreed to recognise Vietnam's vaccination certificate," he told a press conference for Malaysian journalists on the outcome of his two-day official visit to Vietnam, which ended yesterday.

Ismail Sabri also suggested that the two countries finalise the process for integration of Malaysia's MySejahtera application with

Vietnam's PC COVID.

"The integration of these two apps will facilitate travel, especially through the gateways of the two countries. This means the people of Vietnam can use their app to enter our country, and we can use MySejahtera in Vietnam.

"This will definitely promote tourism between the two countries," he said, adding that his visit had strengthened bilateral cooperation in various fields, including economy, investment

and tourism.

As part of efforts to boost strategic partnerships between Malaysia and Vietnam, he had outlined comprehensive approaches to bilateral ties involving the government, businesses and people.

He said his meetings with four Vietnamese leaders clearly showed that both Malaysia and Vietnam remained committed in implementing comprehensive cooperation under the Plan of Ac-

tion (POA) 2021-2025 for Implementation of Malaysia-Vietnam Strategic Partnership.

Ismail Sabri also said he had proposed that both countries organise programmes to celebrate the golden jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

"I also suggested high-level exchanges in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration.

"This will start with a state visit of Vietnam President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to Malaysia this year," he said, adding that his suggestions were well received by the Vietnamese leaders.

Yesterday, the prime minister called on Phuc at the Presidential Palace, followed by meetings with Communist Party of Vietnam general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and National Assembly chairman Vuong Dinh Hue.

During the meetings, Ismail Sabri spoke in Bahasa Melayu and his conversations were translated into English.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah, Senior Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, Attorney-General Tan Sri Idrus Harun and other senior officials.

The prime minister, who was making his maiden visit to Vietnam at the invitation of Chinh, was scheduled to depart for home yesterday afternoon. **Bernama**