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'This year's GDP growth target achievable'

PROJECTION OF 5.5-6.5pc

'THIS YEAR'S GDP GROWTH TARGET ACHIEVABLE'

Border reopening will have positive impact on economy, says Mustapa

JAKARTA

MALAYSIA is on track to achieve its gross domestic product (GDP) growth target for this year with the reopening of its international borders this week.

The move would have a positive impact on the economy, especially the services sector, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

"All citizens and the business community alike, including small and medium industry operators, have been eagerly waiting for the borders to reopen.

"Consequently, we are more confident of achieving the 5.5 to 6.5 per cent GDP growth forecast," he said during his visit to the Malaysia Healthcare Expo 2022, here, organised by the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC).

Mustapa, who is also the co-chairman of MHTC, said he expected the arrival of Indonesian medical tourists into Malaysia to return to the pre-Covid-19 pandemic level by 2025.

In 2019, more than 675,000 Indonesians sought medical treatment in Malaysia, but the number had dropped to a mere 635 between 2020 and last year.

Mustapa said he hoped the arrival of medical tourists would gradually increase, thus giving the health tourism industry a much-needed boost.

"Malaysia promises safe and secure healthcare for Indonesia's medical tourists," he said.

During the four-day expo which ended yesterday, four state tourism representatives and 10 MHTC member hospitals showcased their best healthcare offerings. **Bernama**

INFO BOX

635

Number of Indonesians who sought medical treatment in Malaysia between 2020 and last year