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Passport-free travel with QR code system mulled

MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE INITIATIVE

PASSPORT-FREE TRAVEL WITH QR CODE SYSTEM MULLED

Move will support development of Johor-Singapore special economic zone, say ministers

JOHOR BARU

MALAYSIA and Singapore are exploring ways to implement passport-free travel at land checkpoints through a QR code system.

In a joint statement yesterday, Malaysia's Economy Ministry and Singapore's Trade and Industry Ministry said passport-free travel was among the initiatives aimed at supporting the development of the Johor-Singapore special economic zone (JS-SEZ).

"The adoption and implementation of a passport-free QR code clearance system on both sides will facilitate more expeditious clearance of people at land checkpoints," the ministries said.

Another initiative is establishing a one-stop business and investment centre to facilitate the application for approvals and licences for Singapore businesses to set up in Johor.

There are also plans to digi-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli and Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong in Johor Baru yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

talise the cargo clearance process at land checkpoints, as well as facilitating Malaysia-Singapore renewable energy cooperation to drive economic growth.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said the JS-SEZ was an unprecedented opportunity to enhance the cross-border flow of goods and people, bolster the business ecosystem and enhance the economic attractiveness of both Johor and Singapore.

"I have full confidence the JS-SEZ initiative is the beginning of a transformation in the economies of both countries, fostering un-

paralleled relations and prosperity for Malaysia and Singapore."

Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong said the JS-SEZ would serve as a bridge for both countries to tap into each other's strengths and seize opportunities for growth.

"I look forward to the JS-SEZ agreement and the benefits for our businesses and people."

Both parties said the JS-SEZ would ride on Johor's strong growth and Singapore's significant investments in the region.

Last month, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi pro-

posed the implementation of a QR code system like Singapore's at the Sultan Iskandar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex.

He said measures such as multiple entry visas, special passes and sufficient workforce from the immigration and customs departments were crucial to ensure the smooth flow of workers, visitors and merchandise between Johor and Singapore.

Earlier, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the development of the JS-SEZ between Rafizi and Gan.

In 2022, Johor recorded RM70.6 billion in investments across various sectors, including electrical and electronics, medical equipment, food manufacturing and data centres.

Singapore was Johor's second-largest foreign investor from January to June 2022, accounting for about 70 per cent of Johor's total foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sector.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, officiating the connecting span of the Rapid Transit System Link in the Straits of Johor yesterday.