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Expose fake digital vaccine certs, urges Hishammuddin

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Hishammuddin Hussein (centre) talking to a vaccine recipient. He says anyone who has a fake digital vaccine certificate should be exposed and brought to justice. (Bernama pic)

PETALING JAYA: Anyone who uses fake or falsified digital vaccine certificates to take advantage of a relaxation of movement restrictions should be reported to the authorities, says senior minister for security Hishammuddin Hussein.

"The government feels that such actions are not responsible and people who do this need to be brought to justice to set an example for others," he said.

Hishammuddin had been asked at a press conference whether he expected to see cases of people using fake or falsified digital vaccine certificates to take advantage of a relaxation of movement restrictions, as claimed on social media.

He said: "Rather than spreading slander on social media, it's better to expose the irresponsible people who have fake or falsified vaccine certificates."

Digital vaccine certificates are issued to those who have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine. About 8.77 million people, or 37.5% of the country's adult population, have been fully vaccinated so far.

Fully vaccinated people in Phase 2-3 states will be allowed to travel inter-district, with dining in at eateries now also given the green light.

Hishammuddin said the relaxation did not apply to the Klang Valley as the region is the centre of a current wave of infections which has led to immense stress on the health system.

However, the government was considering the possibility of allowing certain leeway for Phase 1 states, such as going to parks or open air markets.

"These are a few relaxations... but we can't announce them yet as we have to wait for feedback from health experts."

The relaxed restrictions begin tomorrow in states which are in Phase 2 or Phase 3 of the national recovery plan and apply to those who are fully vaccinated.

An interstate travel ban is lifted for spouses in long-distance relationships and parents with children below the age of 18. The fully inoculated are also allowed to attend houses of worship for prayers.