

## Malaysians working in Singapore counting the days to April 1 [NSTTV]

By [Mohamed Farid Noh](#) - March 26, 2022 @ 12:13pm

JOHOR BARU: Malaysians working in Singapore breathed a sigh of relief when it was announced that the land border between both countries will fully reopen after it was closed for over two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Not only that, they are also celebrating the fact that from April 1, the mandatory seven-day quarantine will be removed, allowing them to commute with ease.

Yan Sofian Mustafa, 36, who works as a technician in the republic said the reopening of the border was indeed awaited by some 200,000 Malaysians working there.

"Alhamdulillah, the reopening of the border will finally become a reality April 1 after more than two years of us waiting patiently.

"Of course, this is very good news for us and our families who have been separated for a long time. But we hope that the standard operating procedures (SOP) that will be announced later will allow us to commute daily again.

"April 1 means a lot to me and my family, especially since it is also my wedding anniversary. I hope to return to Johor Baru on that day," he said when contacted.

Malaysia and Singapore had agreed to open the land border of the two countries for travellers who are fully vaccinated in line with Malaysia entering the transition to endemicity phase.

A joint statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and his counterpart in Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong said the reopening of the border allowed all fully vaccinated travellers to cross the common land border without having to undergo quarantine or perform Covid-19 testing.

Meanwhile, another Malaysian worker in Singapore, Habbatallah Mohd Bahari, 44, said the announcement was something that he was most looking forward to.

He said that during the period when the border was closed, he only managed to go home once, which is about one year after the border was shut.

"If it is true that we can commute, it is the happiest news for us and our Malaysian friends... We have been waiting for this announcement for almost two years, it has finally happened.

"Indeed, we have been back before, but if it is true that there is no need to quarantine and do self-tests every day, it helps a lot," he said.

Habbatallah added that they could potentially explore not renting a place in Singapore, instead they can save money and see their families more often.

Meanwhile, another worker in Singapore, Mohd Farizuan Abdul Shukor, 29, said the flexibility given by the government would help especially when it came to matters involving an emergency.

"My mother is still around, so if there is no need for quarantine anymore, it is a relief. If anything were to happen, we can go back to the village without any issues," he said.