

Light traffic along Causeway, Second Link as border reopens

By NELSON BENJAMIN and REMAR NORDIN newsdesk@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: Traffic was light along the Causeway and the Second Link as the border between Malaysia and Singapore reopened for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March.

The two-way travel – which used to be one of the busiest in the world prior to the movement control order (MCO) – is being closely watched by other countries eager to see whether large scale border crossing can resume under the new normal.

At least 2,000 people travelled between Malaysia and Singapore for the first time after a five-month hiatus.

With the partial reopening of the Johor-Singapore border, family members living apart are finally reunited under the Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL) and Periodic Commuting Arrangement (PCA) between Malaysia and Singapore.

Some of the travellers even shared their trip on social media as guidance for others who are also returning from Singapore to Malaysia or looking forward to returning back home.

One of them is Muhamad Khalid Hidar, 29, who posted his travel story on Facebook which went viral.

At the time of writing, his post had gained more than 1,400 shares with 500 comments.

Muhamad Khalid said he was looking forward to meeting his wife and three-year-old daughter, whom he last saw on March 17 before the MCO was enforced.

"I left my apartment at about 6.30am from West Coast Plaza, Singapore, towards Tuas checkpoint. The process was quite easy and I arrived home at about 9am.

"Upon arrival at the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) at the Sultan Abu Bakar Complex, travellers are required to undergo swab test and pay RM200.

"I was informed that I'll get the result within 24 hours," he said here yesterday.

He added that if the results were negative, he would need to report to the Health Department office to have the wrist tag removed

Muhamad Khalid said he was also required to pay around S\$700 (RM2,143) once he

returns to Singapore next week for quarantine accommodation and swab test.

"It's a price I'm willing to pay as long as I can see my family again after being away from them for a long time.

"There were times when my wife and daughter would call me in tears because they missed me and I am really thankful for the decision made by both the Malaysian and Singaporean governments," he said, adding that he was working with an oil and gas factory in Singapore for the past eight years.

