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Sabah-MM2H programme faces delay after Motac suspends agent operations

The launch of the Sabah–Malaysia My Second Home (Sabah–MM2H) program, scheduled for June 1, has been postponed.

Datuk Christina Liew, the State Tourism, Culture, and Environment Minister, expressed disappointment over the last-minute suspension of licensed agents processing MM2H applications by the Tourism, Arts, and Culture Ministry (Motac). Despite Sabah's readiness and finalization of program criteria three months prior, Motac's circular dated May 27 halted operations of all licensed agents, impacting the planned launch.

Liew's ministry has requested Motac to review the decision and, if unaddressed, plans to appoint state representatives to handle Sabah–MM2H applications. This delay disrupts the anticipated start of the program and affects potential applicants awaiting submission.



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Malaysia's advanced healthcare attracts international patients

The 2024 budget allocation of **RM41.2 billion to healthcare** has propelled Malaysia's medical tourism sector forward. This investment has spurred advancements such as specialized healthcare hubs and the adoption of cutting-edge medical technologies like robotic surgery, advanced imaging, and telemedicine. These enhancements have led to expanded facilities, improved patient experiences, and increased international patient intake.

Governmental support structures like the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) further bolster Malaysia's position as a global healthcare destination. **With over 10 million healthcare travelers welcomed in the past decade and a revenue increase of 33% in 2023**, Malaysia's medical tourism sector continues to thrive, attracting patients primarily from Indonesia and contributing significantly to the country's economy.

Stringent accreditation standards, robust patient safety measures, and international affiliations ensure high-quality care, while emerging trends such as wellness tourism and telemedicine promise continued growth and competitiveness in the future.



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Effective August 1, 2024, Malaysia Airlines Bhd will increase its Amritsar–Kuala Lumpur flight frequency from four to seven times weekly due to robust travel demand and positive load factor performance. This decision elevates Malaysia Airlines’ total weekly flights in India to 71, showcasing confidence in the burgeoning market. Amritsar, introduced in November 2023, joins Ahmedabad and Trivandrum as one of three new India routes.

The airline also recently boosted frequencies on the Trivandrum route to four times weekly. With an extensive India network spanning nine major hubs, Malaysia Airlines serves as a gateway to Asia and offers seamless onward connections to destinations such as Australia, New Zealand, and Vietnam.

Dersenish Aresandiran, Malaysia Aviation Group's chief commercial officer of airlines, emphasized India's significance in the airline's business strategy and highlighted the commitment to providing enhanced flexibility and travel options for Indian travelers.

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AirAsia widens connectivity from Kota Kinabalu with new direct route to Manado in North Sulawesi

AirAsia expands its connectivity from Kota Kinabalu with a new direct route to Manado, Indonesia, starting September 1, 2024, operating three times weekly.

This marks the airline's second route from Sabah to Indonesia, adding to its extensive international network. In celebration of the launch, AirAsia offers promotional fares starting from RM139 all-in one way from Kota Kinabalu to Manado and IDR 468,020 all-in one way from Manado to Kota Kinabalu. Bookings are available on AirAsia MOVE and airasia.com until June 16, 2024, for travel between September 1, 2024, and March 28, 2025.

Manado, known for its underwater landscape and mountain views, offers attractions like Bunaken Marine Park, Mount Klabat, Ban Hin Kiong Temple, and traditional Minahasan cuisine, making it a destination rich in adventure, culture, and natural beauty.

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