

Malaysia's 'cruise to nowhere' waiting to embark

By Shaheera Aznam Shah



Pic by Bloomberg

A proposal to restart the cruise tourism has been submitted to Putrajaya and is currently pending approval

MALAYSIA plans to launch a domestic cruise travel without a port of call — the “cruise to nowhere” — to revive its cruise industry and break the long hiatus following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Port Klang Authority GM Captain K Subramaniam said a proposal to restart the cruise tourism has been submitted to Putrajaya, through the Transport Ministry (MoT), and is currently pending approval.

“We have asked for a special consideration for the ‘cruise to nowhere’ and if possible, domestic cruising. Singapore is starting one this month.

“We requested this two months ago and we understand that the Health Ministry (MoH) has some reservations about it.

“Currently, it is still being discussed by the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry, MoT and MoH. So far, no green light yet,” he told The Malaysian Reserve (TMR) recently.

The reservation came from new Covid-19 transmissions that started to surge in September, after the country had managed to stay at single-digit figures since late June, Subramaniam said.

He added that the proposal also came with a set of tight standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure the cruises do not contribute to the spike of coronavirus cases.

“We actually planned to start last month, but since the cases have spiked again, we are unsure if we will get the go-ahead.