

EU: Malaysia's vaccine purchase deals will be honoured



NATION

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KUALA LUMPUR: The export of Covid-19 vaccines to third countries, including Malaysia, under existing Advance Purchase Agreements (APAs) will be safeguarded to the largest extent feasible, says Michalis Rokas, who is ambassador of the European Union delegation to Malaysia.

He said the EU was mindful of Advanced Purchase Authorisations contracted by Malaysia, and would endeavour to ensure that Malaysia's expectations to obtain its deliveries would be met.

"We have made a call on all companies with APAs manufacturing in the EU to honour their obligations to deliver on their commitments," he said in a statement.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin had said that EU and Belgium had given assurances to fulfil their vaccine supply agreements with Malaysia.

Khairy said with the assurances of both the EU and Belgian ambassadors, Malaysia's Covid-19 immunisation plan was expected to proceed according to plan.

He said the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply (JKJAV) took note of the recent announcement on export controls by the EU of the Covid-19 vaccines manufactured in the EU.

"With regard to the Pfizer vaccine that is manufactured in Puurs, Belgium, the Belgian ambassador has given his assurance that our Advance Purchase Agreement with Pfizer will be fulfilled upon Pfizer applying for export authorisation and the vaccines will be delivered on schedule beginning this month," he was reported as saying.

Rokas said the Covax export authorisation system set up by the EU, which kicked off on Jan 30, was not an export ban but rather a mechanism to ensure transparency in the vaccines made by companies with which the EU had signed a contract.

He said the export authorisations would ensure transparency in a sensitive market, besides avoiding reselling, litigation and trafficking.



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Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah was reported as saying that Malaysia was expected to receive the first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccines on Feb 26. —
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