

Khairy slams rich countries for hoarding vaccines



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by **RAHIMI YUNUS**/ pic by **BERNAMA**

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has denounced vaccine hoarding by rich countries as an act of injustice to less developed countries.

He drew a parallel between the act of vaccine hoarding and first class passengers of the Titanic who were given priority for getting into lifeboats.

“In the face of tremendously cruel and unjust hoarding of vaccines by the developed world, I am reminded of a scene from the Titanic. The ship is going down and the rich people in first class have the lifeboats.

“Poor countries, less developed countries, are left to drown. That is what happening today,”

Khairy said at the launch of Malaysia Aviation Group Sustainability Blueprint in Sepang today.

Khairy said he wish to speed up the country’s vaccination programme but the delivery schedule remains as such.

“Not prioritised, wait in line, wait for your turn while rich countries have bought enough to inoculate their citizens three, four, five times over. If this is not injustice, I do not know what is.”

Recently, Amnesty International in its annual report condemned rich world’s ‘near-monopoly’ on Covid-19 vaccines.

Malaysia is sourcing Covid-19 vaccines from five producers, including China and Russia, to cover over 80% of the country’s population with a total estimated cost of US\$504.4 million (RM2.05 billion).



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