

Taken in by dubious facts



By **ALLISON LAI**

NATION

Monday, 12 Apr 2021

PETALING JAYA: The less-than-ideal uptake in Covid-19 vaccine registration so far is because of trust issues, say medical and public health experts.

They attribute the low numbers to the circulation of dubious information including hearsay, and have called on the government to utilise all its resources to clear any doubts and instil trust in the vaccines among the public.

Universiti Malaya professor of occupational and public health Prof Dr Victor Hoe said some people had the misconception that the vaccines were unsafe or that some were better than others.

“When I held community engagements with residents, I found there were still many people who did not trust the safety of the vaccines. They were worried about possible adverse effects of taking the vaccines.

n Nation



Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that noise, says...



Home



For You



Bookmark

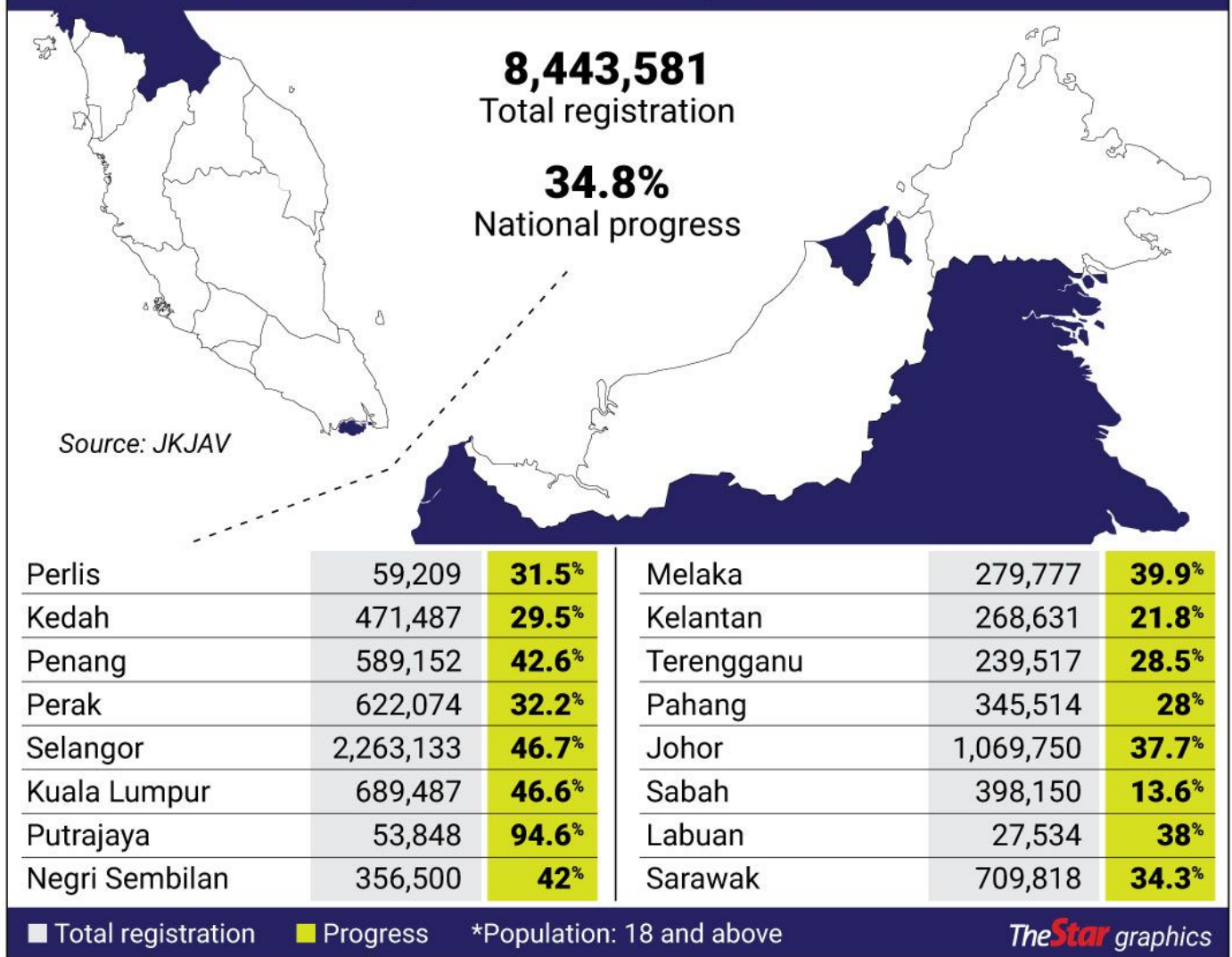


Audio



Search

Covid-19 vaccine registration as of April 10



[CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)

"They told us that they received news through social media and friends about the vaccines' safety and efficacy," he said.

Dr Hoe said the low uptake could also be due to many people not having a smartphone to register themselves for the inoculation and urged the government to make use of all its resources to bridge the gap between technology and trust.

"The move should not just involve the Health Ministry but all levels, from village heads and community leaders to state assemblymen and MPs. They should organise engagement sessions with people on the ground to help them register and also to clear doubts regarding the vaccines.

"However, all of them should have been inoculated against the coronavirus first to ensure people's

n Nation



Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that noise, says...



:hev



"The cause of concerns should be addressed adequately without blaming any party," he said.

Dr Hoe, however, is not in favour of making Covid-19 vaccination compulsory.

The Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee has said that as at April 10, only over 8.4 million of the targeted 26.7 million people had registered.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba recently said the government would identify the causes of the slow uptake while Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said Malaysia might review its voluntary Covid-19 vaccination policy come July if the rate was still low.

Malaysian Public Health Physicians Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said a majority of Malaysians were still adopting a "wait and see" approach.

"They see it as not urgent and think there's still time before the actual vaccination (involving the public) starts," he said.

Dr Zainal Ariffin said the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force needed to understand community behaviour and the dynamics of vaccination programmes.

"The most important outcome is the actual vaccination coverage," he said.

Agreeing that some citizens do have problems accessing registration channels and need help with it, Dr Zainal Ariffin suggested the government consider mass walk-in vaccinations when more vaccines are available.

He, too, thinks it is not necessary to make Covid-19 immunisation compulsory.

Universiti Malaya professor of epidemiology and public health Prof Dr Sanjay Rampal said more health experts need to critically appraise the benefits of the vaccines without pre-formed biases.

"This will increase trust in the translation of science and how it benefits the community... our opinions tend to be polarised through social media.

"Maintaining trust and goodwill is key to increasing vaccine uptake by the community," he said.

To encourage communities to register Dr Sanjay proposed having roadshows in shopping complexes, workplaces and community centres including at PPR (People's Housing Projects) flats and villages.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

Vaccination Rate , Trust Deficit , Anti-Vaxxers , Public Health , Victor Hoe , Mandatory Vaccination , Sanjay Rampal , Zainal Ariffin Omar

n Nation



Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that noise, says...



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

Stories You'll Enjoy

NATION 10h ago

Taken in by dubious facts

STARPICKS

Foundation for a future-ready education

ASEANPLUS NEWS 24m ago

How China took an unlikely lead in the global supply of Covid-19 vaccines

NATION 22h ago

Covid-19: 385,251 individuals have received both vaccine doses as of April 10

n Nation



Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that noise, says...

TheStar



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

STARPLUS 10 Apr 2021

INTERACTIVE: In Malaysia, unhealthy lifestyles prove increasingly deadly

WELLNESS 21h ago

Covid-19 vaccines: Addressing the worries of allergy sufferers

WORLD 3h ago

Brazil sees 1,803 COVID-19 deaths; Chinese vaccine found 50.7% effective against variant

CHINA 15h ago

China mulls mixing vaccines to improve efficacy of jabs

n Nation

Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that noise, says...

TheStar



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

BRUNEI 16h ago

Brunei prioritises vaccine registration for students studying abroad

NATION 19h ago

MEF: Companies should let employees take time off to get Covid-19 vaccine

[Load More](#)

Subscriptions

[The Star Digital Access](#)[SMS Services](#)[Newsstand](#)[Other Publications](#)

Advertising

[Our Rate Card](#)[Classifieds](#)

Company Info

[About Us](#)

Help

[Contact Us](#)**n Nation**

Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on
KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that
noise, says...

TheStar



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search



Subscribe to our FREE newsletter!

Enter Your Email Address Here

Subscribe

Copyright © 1995- 2021 Star Media Group Berhad (10894D)
Best viewed on Chrome browsers.

n Nation



Trailer driver, attendant killed in crash on
KL-Karak...



All must work together to cancel that
noise, says...

TheStar



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search