

Let Pharmaniaga sell vaccines to Sabah, says Bung

By **Willie Jude** - June 1, 2021 6:52 PM

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Bung Moktar Radin wants to know why Sabah can't get vaccines directly from Pharmaniaga. (Bernama pic)

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah deputy chief minister Bung Moktar Radin has urged the federal government to allow Pharmaniaga to sell Covid-19 vaccines to the state government.

Bung, who is also state Umno chief, said this was to ensure the private sector in Sabah could purchase the vaccines and speed up immunisation of the people.

He said the government's move to impose the nationwide total lockdown was welcomed but it would go to waste if there is no strategic planning.

"We have some 3.89 million people in Sabah but now only about 130,000 have been vaccinated. This means many out there are still exposed to Covid-19," he said at a press conference here today.

"As a state leader, I'm asking the federal government to supply the vaccines to Sabah through Pharmaniaga, which is the appointed company to channel the vaccine to the private sector and subsequently be distributed or sold at private clinics and others.

"Why is Sabah denied this right (to get vaccines from Pharmaniaga)? We will pay for it, we're not asking for it for free.

"So I am asking the relevant authorities such as the health ministry and the minister in charge of vaccination, Khairy Jamaluddin, to listen to Sabahans' voices ... Jangan syok sendiri saja (Don't be too pleased with yourself)."

Bung, who is also Sabah works minister, said the vaccination process in Sabah could be sped up if the vaccines are supplied to the private sector who can give or sell them to the public.

This is because both the government and private sector will be carrying out inoculations at the same time, he added.

He said the country must emulate others that have allowed their private sectors to sell vaccines to the people, such as the Philippines and Thailand.

"Why is it so slow in Malaysia? Many leaders are talking about Covid-19 but it is just empty talk and they are not thinking about the people's problems.

"Other countries such the US, China and in Europe are trying their best to vaccinate as many people as they can, but in Malaysia, we are using MySejahtera, among others, and even that is not going smoothly," he said.

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