

10.6.2021_NST_Delay Expected in New Supply Of AstraZeneca Shots

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government is expecting some delays in the delivery of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine supplies.

This was confirmed by National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP) Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin at the weekly press conference by the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force yesterday.

"Yes, we are expecting some delays. I have been on calls with AstraZeneca for the last two to three days, as well as other governments to make sure we can shore up our supply for this month," he said.

Khairy, who is also the science, technology and innovation minister, was asked whether the country was facing similar delivery problems as the Philippines with regard to AstraZeneca vac-

cines produced in Thailand.

It was reported that delivery of the first batches of the vaccine to the Philippines had been delayed by several weeks.

Developed by the British-Swedish firm with Oxford University, the vaccine is produced at its second manufacturing facility in Thailand by Siam Bioscience Co. Ltd (Siam Bioscience).

Khairy previously said the country expected to receive 615,120 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines this month. He did not mention if the upcoming supply of the vaccines is from Thailand.

The Health Ministry had said that the Drug Control Authority, during its 358th meeting, had granted conditional registration for the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Siam Bioscience for use during a disaster.



Khairy Jamaluddin