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PUBLIC MUTUAL'S ILLUSTRIOUS WINS
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31 BEST FUND PERFORMANCE AWARDS



Vaccination Tracker

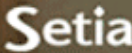
3.94M

Doses administered

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AstraZeneca says working with Southeast Asian nations on vaccine deliveries

Chayut Setboonsarng & Rozanna Latiff / Reuters

June 10, 2021 16:13 pm +08



AstraZeneca has previously run into production and delivery problems in other parts of the world. (Photo by Zahid Izzani Mohd Said/The Edge)

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BANGKOK/KUALA LUMPUR (June 10): AstraZeneca says it is working closely with Southeast Asia governments to ensure its Covid-19 vaccine is supplied "as quickly as possible" after reported delays in deliveries of orders from a Thai plant owned by the country's king.

Malaysia and Taiwan this week became the latest in the region to warn they expect delays in deliveries of AstraZeneca vaccines manufactured in Thailand.

"Distribution to other Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia, will commence in the coming weeks," the company said in an email to *Reuters*.

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"We are working closely with each of the relevant governments to supply our Covid-19 vaccine as quickly as possible," the AstraZeneca statement said.

It did not respond further to questions on the Thai plant's current and anticipated future production levels.

AstraZeneca's distribution plans in Southeast Asia depend on 200 million doses made by Siam Bioscience, a company owned by Thailand's king that is making vaccines for the first time.

Questions about Siam Bioscience meeting production targets are sensitive because King Maha Vajiralongkorn is its sole owner. Insulting Thailand's monarchy is a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Siam Bioscience in January said it had an estimated production capacity of 200 million doses per year, an average of 15 million to 20 million doses per month.

The Thai company and AstraZeneca have not revealed total production goals nor commented on whether the plant has missed its targets.

Malaysia was due to receive 610,000 doses from Thailand in June and 1.6 million later this year, but National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said yesterday "we are expecting some delays".

The first delivery to the Philippines, which was promised 17 million doses, was reduced and postponed by several weeks, a Philippine presidential adviser said last week.

Thailand, which expects to receive six million doses for June, last week received 1.8 million locally-produced doses and 200,000 imported from South Korea.

AstraZeneca has previously run into production and delivery problems in other parts of the world. A deal to set up production in Taiwan did not materialise and it is also facing a legal challenge by the European Union (EU) over a

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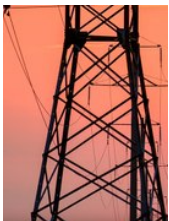
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