

15.6.2021_New Straits Times_YB Khairy Jamaluddin - NIP Phase 4 activated
amid move to ramp up jobs

NEWS / Nation

CURBING WORKPLACE CLUSTERS

NIP PHASE 4 ACTIVATED AMID MOVE TO RAMP UP JABS

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THE government has activated phase 4 of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP).

NIP Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said phase 4, involving the economic sectors, would begin with critical industries that were allowed to operate during the ongoing Movement Control Order 3.0.

The decision, Khairy said, was made with the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee (JKJAV).

"We are working on having a vaccine delivery centre (PPV) which will be coordinated by the International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI), with vaccination beginning on Wednesday (June 16)," said Khairy at a joint press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba here yesterday.

Phase 2 of the NIP for senior citizens, the disabled and those with comorbidities, which started in April, will go on until August. Officially, phase 3 was supposed to begin last month, but Khairy had said that the "inequitable" distribution of vaccines around the world may deter Malaysia's third phase.

Khairy said under phase 4, more PPVs would be opened for other industries such as construction, plantation, retail and hospitality.

"This will be done in stages so all the sectors that are allowed to operate during this lockdown will



Khairy Jamaluddin

be given protection via vaccination," he said.

Khairy added that phase 4 involves the critical economic sectors that are the backbone of the country's economic development.

"The move is crucial for us to strike a balance between lives and livelihoods."

He said on Sunday, 11 new clusters linked to the workplace were reported.

"As such, we want to ensure vaccination for the industries will be rolled out as soon as possible to prevent more workplace-linked clusters."

Khairy also said Malaysia would be receiving another 1,333,800 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine soon. The doses will be distributed starting this week until early next month.

"A total of 444,600 doses will be distributed between June 16 to 18, followed by another 444,600 from June 23 to June 25, and 444,600 from June 30 to July 2," he said.

On vaccine distribution, Khairy said a total of 5,955,092 doses were distributed nationwide.

He said 1,674,142 doses of Sino-vac were distributed so far, followed by Pfizer with 3,632,850 and AstraZeneca with 648,100 doses. He added that the top five

states for vaccine distribution were Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Selangor, Sarawak and Johor.

On registration for the second phase of the NIP, Khairy said 4,531,790 individuals had signed up, including 2,458,432 senior citizens.

He said to date, 2,437,168 individuals had either received vaccination or appointments for vaccination, with 1,231,177 senior citizens being vaccinated so far.

Khairy said to date, 13,789,736 individuals had registered for the NIP.

"A total of 3,132,304 individuals have received their first dose, while 1,357,966 have completed both doses."

He added another 4,774,418 individuals had received their vaccination appointments.

Meanwhile, due to the surge of cases in Labuan over the last few days, Khairy said the government would deliver about 30,000 vaccine doses there in the coming week.

He said the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) was looking into the vaccination delivery capacity in Labuan, while adding that the "outbreak in Labuan was quite critical".

Labuan has currently the highest positivity rate in the country, at 13.72 per cent, with a population of about 103,000.

As of June 12, the island reported the highest infectivity rate in Malaysia, with an Rt value of 1.12, higher than the national average of 0.90.

A total of 31,230 people there had been administered their first and second doses. Over 45,000 people in the federal territory have registered for the vaccine.