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Update

Mega PPV not opened earlier due to low vaccine supply

Bernama / Bernama

June 21, 2021 19:28 pm +08

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Khairy (right) inspecting the National Stadium PPV in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur today (June 21). Phase 3 of the Klang Valley vaccination programme commenced at the PPV today. (Photo by Zahid Izzani Mohd Said/The Edge)

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PUTRAJAYA (June 21): The government did not open mega vaccination centres (PPV) such as stadiums earlier because the supply of Covid-19 vaccine was insufficient then, said National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said the opening of mega PPV without enough vaccine would further incur the disappointment of the people against the government for wasting money by opening mega PPV.

"Mega PPV and many others were opened when supplies started arriving to raise the rate of vaccination," he said at a media conference on the development of PICK with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba here today.

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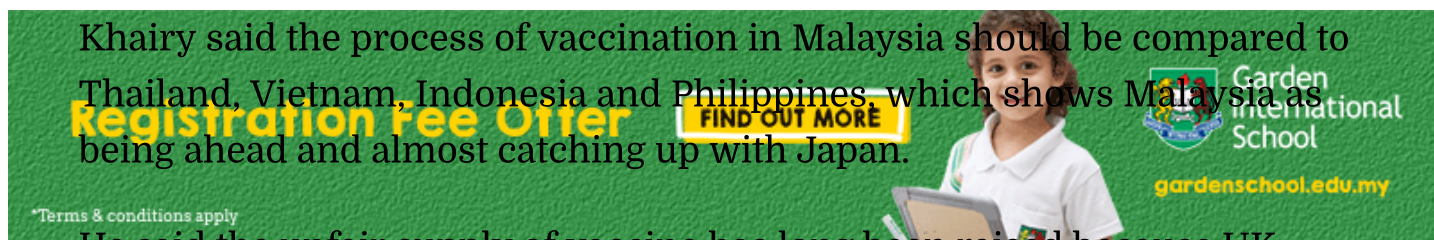
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Commenting on press reports which questioned the slow process of vaccination in Malaysia compared to others countries such as Hungary, Khairy said Hungary is part of the European Union (EU) which has negotiated with vaccine suppliers to enable the supply in bulk, and that the vaccine factories are mostly in the European countries.

He said the vaccination rate of Malaysia depends on the vaccine supply, which is monopolised by countries under the EU.

According to him, advanced Asian countries including Japan were also left behind compared to the EU, United States and United Kingdom (UK).





He said the unfair supply of vaccine has long been raised because UK bought the vaccine five times its population and similarly, Canada.

It is only after these countries had achieved herd immunity that the United States, Japan and even China started supplying vaccines, while Malaysia has been waiting for so long.

Asked when Sputnik V vaccine is expected to get the approval of the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA), Khairy said the agreement signed between a subsidiary of Duopharma Biotech Bhd, Duopharma (M) Sdn Bhd (DMSB) with the government of Malaysia gives the company three months to register the vaccine with NPRA.

"I understand NPRA is still looking for information on stability before making any decision," he said.

On when is the supply of single dose vaccines by CanSino and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) coming, Khairy said the government is expected to get the first batch of CanSino vaccine next month, as its delivery schedule is being finalised.

For Janssen, Khairy said so far today, the government has not received any delivery date from COVAX in which Malaysia has chosen to obtain the vaccine through the facility.

The two types of Covid-19 vaccines have been given conditional approval for emergency use by NPRA on June 15. The CanSino vaccine was developed by CanSino Biologics, a company in China, while Janssen is by J&J from the United States, which also received approval for emergency use from the World Health Organisation.

COVAX is led jointly by The Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunisation (Gavi), Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and WHO, aimed at the development and production of the Covid-19 vaccine as well as ensuring f

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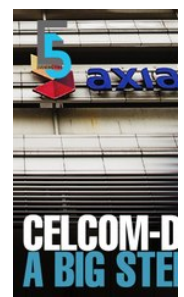
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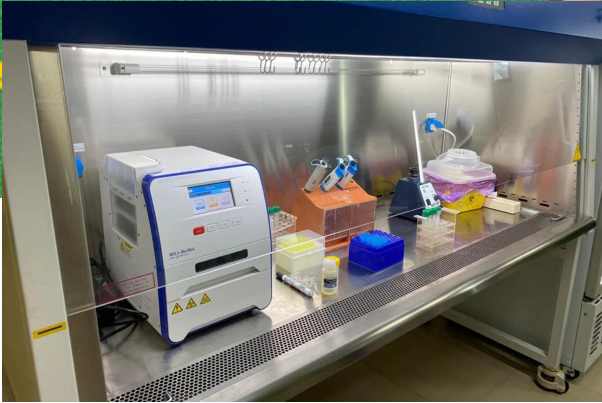
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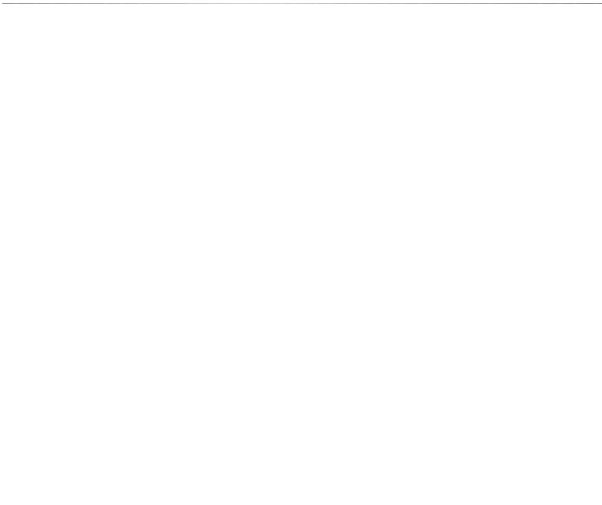




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