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PPV for visually impaired set up at MAB

By [Dawn Chan](#) - June 3, 2021 @ 7:16pm



Damai Disabled Persons Association Malaysia president V. Murugeswaran. -NSTP File Pix

KUALA LUMPUR: A Covid-19 Vaccination Centre (PPV) catering especially to the visually impaired will be opened tomorrow at the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) in Brickfields.

It will see MAB Complex's Dewan Ismail Salleh as well as the car park area, which will be tented, transformed into a PPV to inoculate 200 people a day on weekdays under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP).

MAB chief executive officer George Thomas said it was proposed for the PPV located in Jalan Taming off Jalan Tinjau Sembatan 4 to be opened

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PPV, located in Jalan Teding on Jalan Tun Sambanthan 4, to be opened until mid-July to immunise as many community members as possible.

The collaboration between MAB and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) came in view of the need for the community to be vaccinated speedily.

"We felt that it was very important for them to be vaccinated quickly as the virus is invisible to the eyes of normal people, what more to the visually impaired and the blind?

"The Covid-19 virus threat has already proved to be challenging to them when moving around independently and in terms of physical distancing.

"This exercise was initiated for those in the Klang Valley for now. This is because many of them seek a livelihood here as masseurs, buskers, daily wage earners, petty traders and others.

"They need to be protected as they would move around to earn a living once the current total lockdown is lifted," Thomas told the New Straits Times.

He said talks with Mosti on the effort began in mid-March this year.

On May 11, said Thomas, he and MAB vice-president Datin Fauziah Ramly attended a meeting which was chaired by Mosti and NIP coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

Work to start the PPV moved swiftly, and in a recent coordination meeting on June 2, it was confirmed that the PPV will start operating from June 4.

Thomas said the 10-day registration drive, which started on May 21, was conducted via telephone by MAB's internal call centre and through Google forms.

The information on the vaccination and to raise awareness was also spread through MAB's phone-in messaging service which most of the community members have access to. It was also done via MAB Radio, voice notes on WhatsApp groups and various club activities.

The registration, he added, may be reopened depending on the availability of vaccine supplies which will be determined by the Health Ministry (MoH).

Overall, there are 52,000 people registered as blind with the Social Welfare

VACCINE



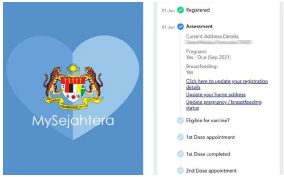
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Department, said Thomas, adding that MAB, however, does not have a definite figure of those who have been vaccinated or had registered for it.

"We will accommodate more blind and visually impaired people that may register through call-in once the PPV opens.

"This time we are targeting those in the Klang Valley. We hope to further work with Mosti, other agencies as well as service organisations to make it a reality in other states," he said.

He said there will be a combination of medical and non-medical personnel as well as MAB staff who will be assisting vaccine recipients upon arrival at the PPV and to guide them through the entire process.

There will be paramedics from MoH, personnel from the People's Volunteers Corps as well as the Civil Defence Force.

MAB staff, who have been trained by MoH, will also be on site to help vaccine recipients to register, fill up the necessary forms and guide them through all the stations, said Thomas.

Each vaccine recipient will be allowed to be accompanied by a relative or caregiver.

As steps are being proactively taken to ensure the community is safe from the virus threat, Thomas also voiced his concern over the low registration of the disabled for the vaccination.

"There is still a large percentage of the disabled who are fearful of the negative propaganda on the adversities of the vaccine. However, we always advise them that it is better to be protected to keep them as well as the people around them safe," he said.

Separately, Damai Disabled Persons Association Malaysia president V. Murugeswaran also expressed concern over the poor registration among the disabled.

It was reported that 195,395 or 33.8 per cent of the total number of 577,352 disabled people nationwide had registered as of June 1.

"More awareness is needed to ensure the disabled in all categories nationwide are registered in the NIP. Currently, we are doing it ourselves via the MySejahtera app with no help from the relevant authorities.

"We have over 193,000 people with learning disabilities and 46,078 with mental disabilities. There are also those who lack knowledge on how to register. These groups of people will surely be left out if they have to do it on their own.

"The best option will be to enrol the disabled who are registered with the Social Welfare Department into the NIP automatically," he said.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun had recently said vaccination advocacy and awareness would be heightened through more cooperation with non-governmental organisations to boost registration among the disabled.

She said discussions on providing drive-through vaccination are in the pipeline.





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