Khairy: WHO vaccine recognition should be enough



NATION

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Vaccination visits: Khairy chatting with members of the public during a visit to the mega vaccination centre at the Mines International Exhibition and Convention Centre. – Bernama

KUALA LUMPUR: The issue over vaccine recognition must be discussed and clarified at the international level so that there is no discrimination, says Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said Malaysia's stance is if a vaccine is accepted by the World Health Organisation (WHO other countries should also recognise those who have received the vaccine

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Khairy: WHO vaccine recognition should be enough | The Star

"Malaysia also hopes there will be no discrimination as to where the vaccines were manufactured because the same formula is being used at all AstraZeneca manufacturing plants.

"Whether the plant is in Europe, India, South Korea or Thailand, the vaccine is the same," he told reporters after visiting the Mines Vaccination Centre (PPV) in Seri Kembangan near here yesterday.

He commented on claims the European Union (EU) only recognises Vaxzeria (AstraZeneca vaccine) which has been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

Khairy, who is also the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme coordinating minister, said the move not to recognise vaccines manufactured by certain plants is seen as unfair.

As such, Khairy said he will seek clarification from the EU representative in the country regarding the EU decision.

He said Malaysia is also in the midst of discussing vaccine recognition with other countries, including Saudi Arabia.

"A majority of Muslim countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey, including Malaysia, are using the vaccine from China which is recognised by the WHO.

"So if Saudi Arabia says it does not recognise (the vaccine from China), how are pilgrims from these countries going to perform the haj next year," he asked.

When asked whether those who have completed two doses of the vaccine would be given flexibility, Khairy said the guidelines are being drafted by the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee to be presented to the National Security Council.

"The guidelines on 'what you can do once you are fully vaccinated' is expected to be ready next month.

"However, with the fast spreading of the Covid-19 Delta variant, this calls for more caution," he added.

On the Mines PPV, Khairy said 5,000 vaccine doses are being administered daily with an expected increase to 10,000 doses by next week as the number of second dose recipients will also increase.

"This will help boost the country's vaccination rate to 300,000 doses a day," he added. - Bernama

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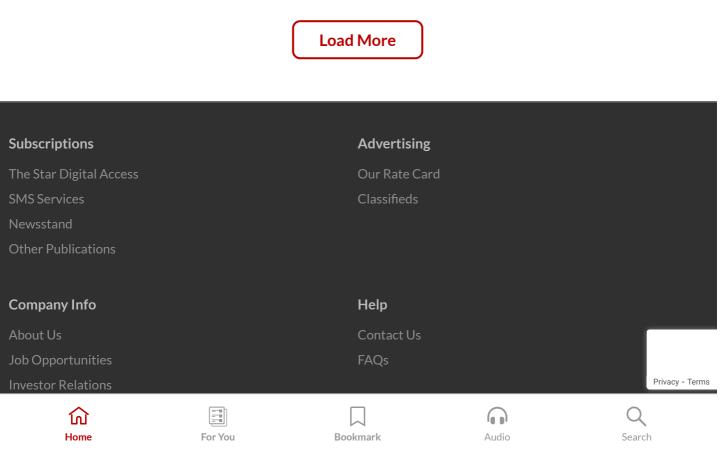
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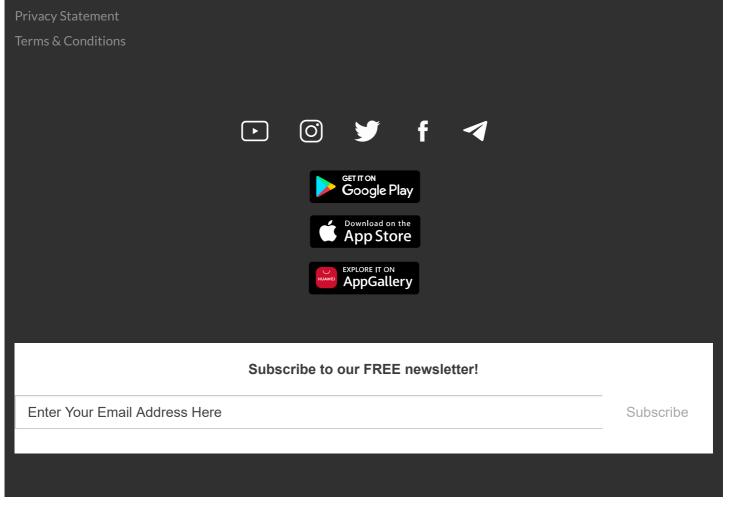
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