

JKJAV should address declining first dose rate in Klang Valley, says assemblyman



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by **SHAHEERA AZNAM SHAH**

The Special Committee on Ensuring Access to Covid-19 Vaccine Supply (JKJAV) needs to address the declining rate of the **first-dose vaccination in Klang Valley**, said Bukit Gasing State Assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran.

He said from about 150,000 first-dose vaccines given in the last week of July, the first-dose vaccination rate has now dropped to slightly over 30,000 doses a day in both Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

Citing a remark made earlier by the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations Malaysia (FPMPAM), Rajiv said JKJAV should reinstate all panel clinics for the first-dose vaccination to expedite the distribution.

"We first heard earlier this month that clinics were no longer assigned to give first doses as claimed by Dr Steven Chow, president of FPMPAM.

"JKJAV should allow these clinics to give first-dose vaccines in order to make the process more accessible to the masses in KL and Selangor areas, rather than the current practice of asking those without appointments to walk into one of the 10 centres, which could be very far and would discourage many from walking in.



“JKJAV needs to come clean on this, as slowing down vaccination in KL, Selangor means putting lives at stake,” he said in a statement today.

He added that besides the panel clinics, it is understood that the mega vaccine distribution centre at his constituency, the MBPJ Civic Hall, has not been assigned first-dose appointments anymore.

“The rate needs to go back to its former levels to protect our society from Covid-19. The JKJAV has already conceded that it does not know how many adults are in the KL and Selangor areas due to migration and undocumented immigrants.

“But from statistics on their own website, there are 539,886 people who have registered for the vaccine that have yet to be vaccinated, and this doesn’t include those who have yet to register or opt for walk-ins,” he said.

Rajiv also raised a question of whether the issue emanates from inadequate vaccine supply, which is opposed to the 3 million excess stock of Sinovac revealed at the Parliament.

“Unless the problem is that we are running low on vaccine supply? This surely can’t be the case as the Dewan Rakyat was recently told that Pharmaniaga has 3 million excess stock in its storage,” he said.

An update by National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (NCIP) coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar showed that Malaysia has administered a total of 27.89 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines as of 10 am today.

Of the total amount, 52.4% are for the first dose, representing 17.1 million doses while the total cumulative second dose stood at 10.8 million.

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