

Malaysia to conduct cholera vaccine clinical trials by year end, says Adham Baba



NATION

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KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Malaysia is expected to carry out clinical trials for a cholera vaccine by the end of this year under the National Vaccine Development Roadman

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"We are lucky because our country has a framework and agreement to develop vaccines. So, (vaccine) production is not only for Covid-19 but for vector-borne, airborne and other diseases," he said, adding this included vaccines for psoriasis, polio and dengue among others.

He said the vaccines would be developed within the time frame stipulated in the National Vaccine Development Roadmap, adding it would take time as there are no shortcuts.

Dr Adham said this at a press conference after officiating the pre-launch ceremony of Area 57 Research and Development centre at Taman Teknologi Malaysia (TPM) here on Thursday (Sept 16).

He also said the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority would only approved vaccines based on three principles – effectiveness, safety and quality.

Dr Adham said Area 57 was a centre of excellence for research and development as well as talent empowerment developed by TPM to advance the development of industries focusing on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

He said Area 57 is a five-acre area that will be turned into an integrated infrastructure and sandbox with the provision of seven proposed values namely to carry out research, development, testing, certification, commercialisation and maintenance of drone solutions and technology.

The centre is an additional test site under the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS), he said, adding that other test sites are located at Felda Mempaga Pahang, Iskandar Drone Zone and Robotics (DRZ Iskandar) and in Cyberjaya.

It is the first one-stop centre for UAV and UAS innovations in central Malaysia, he added.

Meanwhile, TPM in a statement said through Area 57 services via drones could be expanded and enhanced in various sectors such as e-commerce, logistics for the delivery of essential supplies or medicine to rural or remote areas, or areas affected by natural disasters apart from being used in carrying maintenance work for smart buildings, smart cities, maritime and urban agriculture.

TPM will work with other agencies among others the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and SIRIM Bhd to facilitate the development of the drone industry in terms of certification, frequency approval, camera approval, as well as safety approval for operating drones, read the statement. – Bernama

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