

DR ADHAM: MOSTI TO BOOST NATIONAL VACCINE DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM

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Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba — Bernama photo

PUTRAJAYA (Sept 21): The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) will be enhancing the vaccine development ecosystem in the country to develop local vaccines, said its minister, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

He said the National Vaccine Development Roadmap (NVDR) is expected to be announced in November in the effort to ensure the country is ready to face any pandemic in future.

Currently, he said vaccines for dengue, cholera and leptospirosis had entered pre-clinical tests while Covid-19 vaccine had entered research stage.

In outlining his focus on the first 100 days in a statement today, Dr Adham said MOSTI would be harnessing the efforts and capabilities as well as working with the people

through science, technology and innovation (STI) in the effort to drive the country's economy and empower the socioeconomic status of the people.

He said MOSTI's immediate focus was on local vaccine production, the development of disruptive and emerging technologies, the expansion of the startup business ecosystem, development and research (R&D), as well as instilling integrated and continuous STI.

"Taking cognizance of the effects of Covid-19 pandemic to the country's socioeconomic situation, the STI agenda will play an important role in putting economic innovation in the mainstream among Malaysians," he said in a statement on the key performance indicators (KPI) in the first 100 days.

Dr Adham said MOSTI would be focusing on assistance in the form of financing to drive the economy based on technology in productive sectors such as entrepreneurship, health, manufacturing and agriculture.