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KKMM IMPLEMENTS EXCLUSIVE STRATEGIES TO DELIVER THE LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 -- The Ministry of Communications and Multimedia (KKMM) has implemented exclusive and inclusive information delivery strategies in channelling the latest information on COVID-19 including relating to Variants of Concern (VOC) and the national vaccination programme.

Deputy Minister of Communications and Multimedia Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin said the presentation of COVID-19 reports in the forms of news, interviews, talk shows, articles and others were strengthened with clinical, academic and varied facts.

"The information delivery efforts too involved the mobilisation of all the machinery under KKMM including carrying out internet frequency coverage detection in the interior other than boosting substations and the constructions of new substations," he said in a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara here today.

He said this when replying to a question from Senator Datuk Bobbey Ah Fang Suan who wanted to know the ministry's efforts in the dissemination of information to the people especially those in the interior and ensuring they understood the importance of complying with the standard operating procedures and participating in the national vaccination programme.

– BERNAMA

COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS A LONG-TERM PLAN-MOSTI

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 – The COVID-19 Vaccine Development Project is a long-term plan to reduce the dependence on the supply of vaccines from outside and simultaneously enable the country to become a vaccine producer.

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Datuk Ahmad Amzad Hashim said that, currently, the development of the vaccine was still at the pre-clinical test.

"It will take many more years of phase one, two and three clinical processes after the pre-clinical test.

"Nevertheless, the government endeavours to obtain vaccine making know-how with the co-operation of existing vaccine producers to enable us to have the capacity to implement the fill and finish the process," he said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara here today.

He was responding to a question from Senator Datuk Paul Igai who wanted to know if the ministry aspired to develop its COVID-19 vaccines and other medicines which were developed abroad.

– BERNAMA

GOVT AGREES TO STUDY NEW REMUNERATION SYSTEM TO REPLACE SSM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) – The government has agreed for a study to be conducted on a new form of remuneration structure for the Public Service to replace the Malaysian Remuneration System (SSM) which has been in use since 2002, the Dewan Negara was told today.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Special Functions) Datuk Dr Abd Latiff Ahmad, in a written reply today said the move was to ensure the remuneration package received by civil servants was always relevant with the need of the Public Service to ensure the people receive an efficient and quality delivery of services.

"The study must take into account the related factors, including the 2019 Poverty Line Income (PGK) level and current policies. In this matter, the justification of raising salaries and the rates of certain allowances would take into account the total emolument received by civil servants and also depends on the current financial position of the government," he said.

He was responding to a question from Senator Seruandi Saad who wanted to know whether the government would consider a salary hike for the 1.6 million civil servants in the country and the related allowances to appreciate their sacrifices especially the frontliners in helping to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

– BERNAMA

PTMI WILL BE LAUNCHED EARLY NEXT YEAR - MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 – The Indian Community Action Plan (PTMI), which is a guide for the implementation of socio-economic development programmes for the Indian community will be launched early next year, said National Unity Minister Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique.

Halimah, when winding up the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) debate in Dewan Negara today, said two committees, namely, the PTMI Steering Committee and the PTMI Work Committee would be set up after PTMI is launched to ensure the implementation of the action plan could be achieved well.

"PTMI encompassed five pillars to implement programmes based on short, medium and long terms to simultaneously become indicators and targets to be achieved. The five pillars, namely, empowering basic needs, increasing students' excellence, upgrading economy and entrepreneurship, strengthening social inclusion and empowering women," she said.

In addition, she said four main modules were also developed to support a more robust implementation, namely, the PTMI implementation module, PTMI monitoring module, evaluation module on the achievement of PTMI's implementation and the promotion module.

– BERNAMA

RM2.5 BLN APPROVED TO DEVELOP RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 – A total of RM2.466 billion from the total development allocation of RM6.65 billion approved under the First Rolling Plan of the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) has been allotted to develop rural infrastructure nationwide.

Deputy Rural Development Minister 1 Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad said the ministry noted that there were still rural infrastructure development projects which needed to be implemented.

“As such, RM2.466 billion or 37 per cent from the overall development allocation of RM6.65 billion under the First Rolling Plan of the 12MP has been approved to develop rural infrastructure nationwide,” he said when winding up the debate on the 12MP in the Dewan Negara here today.

– BERNAMA