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Vaccine production hub plan launched

The Sun, Malaysia



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BANGI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday launched the National Vaccine Development Roadmap (NVDR) and Malaysian Genome and Vaccine Institute (MGVI) in an effort to turn the country into a hub for vaccine production and boost confidence in vaccine use.

The prime minister said through NVDR and MGVI, Malaysia could produce its own vaccines that are of quality, effective and safe in accordance with conditions set by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency, Bernama reported.

“Although research and development and vaccine production require heavy investment, such efforts have the potential to bring long-term returns for Keluarga Malaysia in the form of cost-savings in treating diseases and investments by multinational companies in Malaysia.

“Through NVDR and MGVI, highly skilled human capital in various fields of research, especially those related to healthcare and vaccines, can be produced,” he said at a launching ceremony at the Malaysian Genome Institute.

Also present were Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba and Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

“More job opportunities can be created for Keluarga Malaysia to help increase the number of skilled workers and enhance the standard of living and health of the people.”

Ismail Sabri said three projects are ready to be implemented through NVDR, with the first involving the production of two types of Covid-19 vaccines using inactivated virus and mRNA developed by the Institute for Medical Research.

For this purpose, the fund

extended by the government involved research allocations to the Health Ministry and Sukuk Prihatin (Covid-19 research allocation special aid) totalling RM3.5 million.

The second project, Development of Mucosal/Oral/Subunit Vaccines Against Cholera, Tuberculosis and Covid-19, is on cholera vaccine, developed in collaboration with Universiti Sains Malaysia and Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, with the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry also funding it to the tune of RM10.5 million using the Strategic Research Fund, he said.

“The third project is on pre-clinical evaluation of a therapeutic cancer vaccine for the treatment of head and neck cancer by Cancer Research Malaysia at a cost of RM3 million financed by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.



Ismail Sabri at an exhibition after the launch of NVDR and MGVI in Bangi yesterday.

— BERNAMAPIX



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SUMMARIES

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