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Noraini: Govt funding 2 Covid-19 vaccine projects

New Straits Times, Malaysia



COLLABORATION WITH UPM

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THE government is funding two Covid-19 vaccine research projects in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad said her ministry and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry were funding a research project using the Newcastle disease virus.

The project, funded under the latter's Combating Covid-19 Fund, began on March 1 and is expected to be completed on Aug 31 next year.

"The project is headed by UPM's Professor Datin Dr Khatijah Yusof, with a RM2.6 million research grant.

"At the same time, cooperation for the development of a Covid-19 inactivated virus vaccine between the Institute for Medical Research, UPM, and the Veterinary Research Institute is being carried out.



Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad

"It is led by Professor Datuk Hair Bejo of UPM," the Dewan Rakyat heard yesterday.

She was responding to a question from Datuk Dr Hasan Bahrom (Pakatan Harapan-Tampin), on whether there was research conducted in science, technology and medicine, particularly on infectious diseases, such as Covid-19.

Noraini said in 2020, the ministry had approved 32 research projects related to Covid-19 under the Higher Education Research Fund, including fundamental research, prototype development and also policy studies.

"This year, 60 high-impact research projects under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme have been approved in various fields of study.

"All projects are ongoing and still in the research phase."



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SUMMARIES

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