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High number of Covid-19 R&D projects implemented

The Star, Malaysia



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A TOTAL of 92 research and development (R&D) projects on Covid-19 have been implemented since the pandemic broke out last year, says Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad.

"In 2020, the Higher Education Ministry had approved 32 R&D projects under the ministry's development policy related to Covid-19, involving fundamental studies, prototype development and policy studies.

"In 2021, a total of 60 high-impact research projects were implemented under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme covering various aspects which are still ongoing," she said when replying to a question raised by Rubiah Wang (GPS-Kota Samarahan) at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Noraini said her ministry was working with the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry under its Combating Covid-19 Fund,



An extra shot

Speaker Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun receiving a booster shot before the start of the sitting at Parliament. Members of Parliament are receiving the jab in order to maintain maximum efficacy and health safety as the MPs frequently meet members of the public on the job.
 — Bernama

to develop a Covid-19 vaccine through Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

"The R&D is based on the Newcastle disease virus which was carried out between March and August this year.

"The project is headed by Prof Datin Dr Khatijah Yusoff through a RM2.6mil grant.

"Prof Datuk Hair Bejo from UPM is also collaborating with the Institute of Medical Research and the Veterinarian Research Centre to develop a Covid-19 vaccine," she said.

Noraini added that the collaboration with the Health Ministry and international bodies would help the nation's preparedness in producing

experts in the field of vaccine development.

On a separate matter, Noraini said 1,062 patents were registered by 20 public universities between 2016 and 2020.

Of these, 306 products had been commercialised, generating revenue of RM3.3bil against the RM2.3bil funds provided for R&D purposes.



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SUMMARIES

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