



03 DEC, 2021

Govt paid premium for Sinovac due to delays

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



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KUALA LUMPUR: The delay in the Covid-19 vaccine delivery by Pharmaniaga in April, May and June has caused the premium price increase of between 16.78 and 18.12 per cent paid by the government in procuring the portion of Sinovac vaccine's finished product.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in its report on Covid-19 vaccine procurement, said in addition, the government had to urgently deliver the vaccines to recipients during the period under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme.

"The government should stick with the prices stated in the initial agreement.

"PAC however, was satisfied with the co-ordination between the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti), Health Ministry, Finance Ministry and other agencies in the implementation of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme.

"Due to the limited source of finance, the government was not able to place strategic bet on producers for early booking without clinical data. This is one of the reasons Malaysia was not able to procure the vaccines earlier," read the report tabled in Parliament.

PAC said the delivery of vaccines by producers that were not on schedule had also contributed to the delays and uncertainties in vaccination appointments.

It also pointed out that the RM3 billion allocation for the Covid-19 Fund, announced in the 2021 Budget, was not accounted for in the overall budget of RM322.5 billion.

It said the vaccine procurement was done in accordance to the financial procedures set by the Finance Ministry.

It has found the prices of the vaccine procurement in various portfolio by the government 'satisfactory' and reasonable.

The allocation for NIP has shot up to RM5.8 billion from the original allocation of RM3 billion in 2021 Budget. – NST



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SUMMARIES

KUALA LUMPUR: The delay in t h e Covid-19 vaccine delivery by Pharmaniaga in April, May and June has caused the premium price increase of between 16.78 a n d 18.12 per cent paid by the government in procuring t h e p o r t i o n of Sinovac Vaccine's finished product.