

PM: GET VACCINES FOR 70PC OF PEOPLE

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Muhyiddin also tells two ministries to expedite delivery of vaccines

RIZALMAN HAMMIM
TANGKAK
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has instructed the Health Ministry and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to secure more Covid-19 vaccines.

He said the government had signed agreements to secure vaccines for about 30 per cent of the population.

"I have instructed the Health Ministry and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to negotiate for more vaccines, enough for 60 to 70 per cent of the population, as recommended by the Health Ministry."

Muhyiddin said: "We are supposed to receive the vaccines in March, but I have asked both ministries to accelerate the delivery of the vaccines."

He said this at a Deepavali celebration at Dewan Muniandy in Sagil here yesterday.

Last month, he announced that the government had signed an agreement with pharmaceutical firm Pfizer to obtain 12.8 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine, enough for 6.4 million people, or 20 per cent of the population.

The government had also signed a deal for the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (Covax Facility) for 10 per cent of Malaysians.

He said he had instructed temporary Covid-19 hospitals to remain in view of the high number of new cases in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Negri Sembilan, Johor and other areas.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin presenting basis necessities to single mum M. Mathimala at a Deepavali celebration in Sagil, Tangkak, yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

"This means that although the government's measures have been effective compared with other countries, we have yet to overcome the pandemic.

"We have not been able to flatten the curve, and according to projections, this could take a very long time."

He said ensuring the safety of the people was the most important thing for the government.

He said he had been chairing the National Security Council meetings on Covid-19 from the day he clocked in as prime minister without rest.

"As long as there are people suffering, I will not stop working and will work every day.

"It is not only about controlling the virus, but also about man-

aging the economy."

He said the government was in the midst of carrying out a comprehensive study on the number of Malaysians who had fallen below the poverty line due to the pandemic.

"The poverty line income has been raised to RM2,208. When it is raised, many will fall into the Bottom 40 per cent of household group, the poor and hardcore poor. I am sure the number will be more.

"Maybe it will not be just the B40 category any more, but also the B50 or B60 categories. I want to make sure there are no Malaysians dying of hunger."

He urged people to follow the standard operating procedures

(SOP) to break the chain of infection.

"It is everyone's responsibility to fight the spread of infections. We should adopt the SOP as the new normal."

Earlier, he launched the Low-Carbon Community Programme in Kampung Sengkang Batu 22 near Bukit Gambir.

Muhyiddin, who is Gambir assemblyman, arrived at the village about 9am, accompanied by Johor Public Works, Transport and Infrastructure Committee chairman Mohd Solihan Badri and Johor Unity, Trade and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Dr Chong Fat Full.

A briefing was held for Muhyiddin on compost fertiliser processing by livestock breeder Noraz-

man Alias and Sengkang Low-Carbon Community Programme chairman Raja Mohd Aidil Raja Sulaiman.

Muhyiddin tried handling a grinding machine used in making compost fertiliser using goat dung.

Raja Mohd Aidil said the low-carbon community programme was started in 2018 to introduce low-carbon related activities to villagers.

"Initially, it was difficult to make residents understand what low carbon activity is about, but over time, as they got used to it, they accepted it and now practise low-carbon," he told Bernama.

Low-carbon activities include producing compost fertiliser from goat dung.