

PM: Anti-vaxxers making life hard for themselves

NOT- 18/10/2021 Pg. 3

BERA: The government's principle is to safeguard the interests of a larger group of people against the anti-vaxxers and if the latter refuses to toe the line, they are only making life difficult for themselves, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said yesterday.

He said the anti-vaxxers were putting themselves in a spot because they would face restrictions, while those vaccinated would be able to enjoy certain benefits.

"For example, the unvaccinated are not allowed to make interstate travel while those who have completed both doses can return to their hometowns to meet their parents," he said at Dewan Sri Kempas at the Bera district police headquarters here.

Additionally, he said, those who were vaccinated would be able to perform the haj and umrah next year.

"The condition imposed by the Saudi Arabia government for Muslims to perform umrah and haj is that they must have completed their vaccination or they will not be able to travel there. Unvaccinated individuals are in for a tough time.

"They will not be able to dine at restaurants, enter shopping complexes or even attend Friday prayers at mosques. This is what the health minister (Khairy Jamaluddin) meant yesterday (Saturday) when he said 'make life difficult'."

Ismail Sabri was referring to the questions raised by some quarters, which, he said, had misconstrued Khairy's remarks.

"His statement does not mean that the government

plans to make life tough for anti-vaccine groups, but these individuals are going to make things difficult for themselves in the days to come.

"If the government decides to implement stern action against those who choose not to get vaccinated, then it is not a move to make things hard for anyone but to safeguard the interest of those who have been vaccinated."

The prime minister earlier attended the pinning of the rank ceremony for Bera district police chief Superintendent Mansor Samsudin and Deputy Superintendent N. Kumaran.

Present were Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani and Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Mohamed Said.

In another event at SMK Bera Bandar 32, Ismail Sabri advised teachers who had not been vaccinated to do so to protect themselves, their colleagues and the students they teach at school.

"Those who have yet to get vaccinated will have to be responsible to ensure the safety of their colleagues and students. It is vital that everyone exercise self-awareness to protect themselves and those around them."

On whether those seeking a career in the Public Service Department (PSD) must be vaccinated, Ismail Sabri said this would be decided by the PSD.

He said the decision was under the jurisdiction of PSD through its director-general and the Public Service Commission. **By T.N. Alagesh**