

FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT

WHITE PAPER ON VACCINE PURCHASE

PM says some parts of procurement were signed off without A-GC's agreement

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THE Health Ministry will present in Parliament a white paper on the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines and its related costs, which were partly done not according to procedure during the pandemic.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said some parts of the procurement were signed off by the relevant minister without the Attorney-General's Chambers' (A-GC) agreement.

He said Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa would table the white paper in the upcoming parliamentary session.

"We decided on this presentation of the white paper, primarily because the findings by the (Health) ministry and the law minister on the irregularities or



Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba



Khairy Jamaluddin

approvals given were not according to the process.

"The procurement of some of it is questionable in terms of numbers and cost. She (Dr Zaliha) will present it in Parliament (upcoming sitting)."

Asked which minister was being implicated, Anwar said it was not the question of which one.

"But the ministers will have to answer or explain (the matter)," he said.

The Covid-19 pandemic in Malaysia saw two health ministers in position, one after another.

The *New Straits Times* (NST) reached out to both, Khairy Jamaluddin and Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, with attempts to get

comments from the latter proving futile.

Khairy was a little more forthcoming, though he at first told the NST he needed more details.

When pressed, he dismissed accusations that the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine did not obtain approval from the A-GC.

Khairy said all purchases made by the government during the then Perikatan Nasional administration were brought to the cabinet.

"Therefore, the A-GC would be privy and provide their comments.

"Procurement was signed off by the Health Ministry," he said in a brief text reply.