

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM pastikan pelajar terima vaksin HPV

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) komited dalam memastikan semua murid perempuan kohort 2021, 2022 dan 2023 menerima vaksin papilomavirus manusia (HPV) sebelum menamatkan persekolahan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa, berkata giliran suntikan bergantung kepada jumlah vaksin yang dapat diperolehi tahun ini.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, keutamaan pemberian vaksin HPV kepada murid perempuan kohort 2021 yang kini di Tingkatan Tiga.

"Apabila keseluruhan kohort ini selesai, vaksin akan mula diberi kepada murid kohort 2022 dan seterusnya kohort 2023," katanya pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Yeo Bee Yin (PH-Puchong) berkaitan status terkini pelajar perempuan yang terlepas suntikan vaksin HPV pada 2020 hingga 2022.

Dr Zaliha berkata, seramai 336,592 pelajar perempuan Tingkatan Satu kohort 2020 hingga 2022 belum menerima dos vaksin HPV.

Katanya, isu berkenaan timbul selepas KKM tidak dapat membuat perolehan bekalan vaksin HPV pada 2021 disebabkan gangguan bekalan di peringkat global.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM ambil serius, bakal kenakan tindakan wajar pada yang terlibat

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan mengambil tindakan sewajarnya selepas meneliti isu dakwaan pembabitkan pengamal perubatan berkomplot dalam sindiket penjualan bayi.

Menteri Kesihatan Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, pihaknya memandang serius isu itu terutama membabitkan penahanan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) ke atas empat pakar perubatan di Lembah Klang, kelmarin.

Katanya, KKM sedia memberikan kerjasama bagi membantu dan melancarkan proses siasatan pihak berkuasa berkaitan.

"KKM mengancam tindakan mereka yang terbabit jika terbukti bersalah dan sedia memberikan kerjasama kepada pihak berkuasa untuk membantu siasatan.

"Isu ini sedang diteliti pihak KKM bagi mendapatkan laporan lebih terperinci untuk memastikan tindakan sewajarnya," katanya kepada Harian Metro.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) komited memastikan semua murid perempuan kohort 2021, 2022 dan 2023 menerima vaksin papilomavirus manusia (HPV) sebelum mereka tamat sesi persekolahan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, gilirannya bergantung kepada jumlah vaksin yang dapat diperolehi pada tahun 2023.

"Keutamaan pemberian vaksin HPV adalah kepada murid perempuan kohort 2021 yang sedang berada di

Komited pastikan semua murid perempuan kohort 2021, 2022 dan 2023 terima vaksin HPV

tingkatan tiga terlebih dahulu.

"Apabila keseluruhan kohort ini selesai, vaksin akan mula diberikan kepada murid kohort 2022 dan seterusnya kepada murid kohort 2023.

"Ini bergantung kepada jumlah vaksin yang dapat diperolehi pada tahun 2023," katanya di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan

dikemukakan **Yeo Bee Yin (PH-Puchong)** berkaitan status terkini pelajar perempuan yang terlepas suntikan vaksin HPV pada 2020 hingga 2022.

Mengulas lanjut, Zaliha berkata, seramai 336,592 pelajar perempuan tingkatan satu kohort 2020

hingga 2022 yang masih belum menerima dos vaksin HPV.

Katanya, isu itu timbul apabila KKM tidak dapat membuat perolehan bekalan vaksin HPV pada ta-

hun 2021 berikutan gangguan bekalan vaksin itu di peringkat global. "De-

ngan menggunakan baki stok vaksin pada tahun 2020, seramai 34,933 orang (15.7 peratus) pelajar perempuan tingkatan satu kohort 2021 menerima dos satu vaksin HPV serta terdapat 187,151 orang atau 84.3 peratus belum menerima vaksin HPV pada tahun 2021.

"Kemudian pada tahun 2022, harga vaksin HPV di peringkat global meningkat sebanyak enam kali ganda

mengakibatkan KKM hanya boleh membuat perolehan sebanyak 100,000 dos vaksin HPV pada Disember 2022 lalu.

"Semua vaksin itu sudah diagihkan ke negeri-negeri seluruh negara untuk diberikan kepada pelajar perempuan tingkatan satu kohort 2021 yang belum menerima vaksin.

"Justeru, bilangan pelajar perempuan tingkatan satu kohort 2020 hingga 2022 yang belum menerima sebarang dos vaksin HPV adalah seramai 336,592 orang," katanya.

Gilirannya bergantung kepada jumlah vaksin yang dapat diperolehi pada tahun ini

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

336,592 pelajar perempuan belum terima suntikan HPV

KUALA LUMPUR - Seramai 336,592 pelajar perempuan Tingkatan 1 kohort 2020 hingga 2022 belum menerima sebarang suntikan vaksin HPV setakat ini, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) komited untuk memastikan kesemua murid perempuan bagi kohort 2021, 2022 dan 2023 ini menerima vaksin HPV sebelum mereka menamatkan persekolahan.

"Pada 2021, KKM tidak dapat membuat perolehan bekalan vaksin HPV ekoran gangguan bekalan vaksin di



DR ZALIHA

peringkat global yang telah mengganggu pelaksanaan pemberian vaksin ini kepada pelajar Tingkatan 1 atau remaja yang berusia 13 tahun bermula 2021.

"Jadi dengan menggunakan baki stok vaksin yang ada pada 2020, seramai 34,933 orang iaitu hanya 15.7 peratus murid perempuan Tingkatan 1 kohort 2021 telah menerima dos vaksin pertama sahaja.

"Ini bermakna terdapat seramai 187,151 pelajar atau baki 84.3 peratus yang belum terima vaksin HPV untuk tahun kohort 2021," katanya.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan Yeo Bee Yin (**PH-Puchong**) yang ingin mengetahui status terkini suntikan HPV untuk lebih daripada 500,000 kanak-kanak perempuan yang terlepas suntikan dari tahun 2020 hingga 2022 serta perolehan vaksin HPV yang telah diperuntukkan RM120 juta untuk tahun 2023.

Sementara itu, Dr Zaliha berkata, pada 2022, harga vaksin HPV meningkat enam kali ganda dan hanya 100,000 dos vaksin HPV berjaya diperolehi pada Disember tahun lepas.

"Kesemua vaksin ini telah kita agihkan ke negeri-negeri untuk diberikan kepada murid sekolah Tingkatan 1 kohort 2021 yang belum terima vaksin," katanya. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : SUARA SINAR

Ramai tidak sedar alami masalah kesihatan mental

KESIHATAN mental menjadi antara topik utama dibincangkan pelbagai pihak di Malaysia, baik agensi kerajaan mahupun pertubuhan bagi tujuan meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai penjagaan dan rawatannya.

Statistik menunjukkan terdapat peningkatan kes melibatkan kesihatan mental, sekali gus melahirkan kebimbangan kerana ia berkait rapat dengan kualiti hidup dan produktiviti.

Berdasarkan data, individu yang mendapatkan sokongan menerusi Talian Bantuan Perkhidmatan Sokongan Psikososial (MHPSS) iaitu inisiatif di bawah Pusat Kecemerlangan Kesihatan Mental Kebangsaan, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) meningkat lima kali ganda bagi tahun 2021.

Berbanding tahun 2020 sebanyak 212,319 panggilan, manakala tahun sebelumnya merekodkan 44,061 panggilan.

Walaupun kesihatan mental bukanlah penyakit berjangkit tetapi jika tiada kesedaran tinggi untuk merawatnya, ia boleh menyebabkan kehilangan nyawa.

Ini kerana, ia turut dikaitkan dengan tingkah laku bunuh diri apabila terdapat sebanyak 1,142 kes dilaporkan pada tahun 2021 berbanding 631 kes pada 2020. Jumlah tersebut dilihat begitu ketara.

Justeru, penting bagi rakyat Malaysia mengetahui tahap kesihatan mental masing-masing dan segera mendapatkan rawatan.

Mengambil contoh terbaharu laporan media melibatkan seorang lelaki bertindak keterlaluan dengan membaling bungkusan makanan dan bungkusan minuman panas di sebuah restoran gara-gara berang disapa sebagai pak cik serta mahu dipanggil 'abang' atau 'baby'.

Tindakan tersebut menyebabkan seorang kanak-kanak berusia empat tahun terkena air minuman panas tersebut.

Jelas sekali, kesihatan mental dan tekanan emosi turut memberi kesan bukan sahaja kepada individu berkenaan, sebaliknya orang di sekeliling mereka.

Maka, wajarlah usaha mengesan, mencegah dan tindak balas dilaksanakan lebih agresif pihak berkaitan kerana dalam Dasar Keselamatan Negara 2021-2025, isu kesihatan mental merujuk kepada Teras kelapan iaitu Keselamatan Rakyat.

Daripada sudut individu pula, stigma negatif terhadap kesihatan dan masalah mental perlu dibuang sejauh mungkin selain menggunakan pelbagai platform tersedia termasuk talian panggilan disediakan KKM.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Peningkatan jumlah pesakit kardiovaskular rencat pertumbuhan ekonomi

KUALA LUMPUR- Peningkatan jumlah pesakit kardiovaskular (CVD) di negara ini sejak 2006 merencatkan pertumbuhan ekonomi dan produktiviti sekiranya tidak dirawat dengan segera.

Pakar Perunding Kanan Kardiologi, Datuk Dr Wan Azman Wan Ahmad berkata, kos perubatan bagi pesakit CVD akan meningkat sekiranya mereka tidak mendapatkan rawatan awal.

"Kadar kematian pesakit ini dijangka meningkat kepada 31,000 kes pada tahun 2025 dan ia bukan sahaja memberi kesan kepada keluarga, tetapi juga negara menanggung bebanan ekonomi sehingga merencatkan kadar pertumbuhan.

"Senario pesakit Malaysia di usia muda cukup membimbangkan dan permulaan kes CVD dengan purata pesakit 56 hingga 59 tahun adalah lebih tinggi berbanding negara maju.

"Kini trend tersebut telah berubah

kerana kira-kira 25 peratus pesakit sindrom ini adalah di bawah 50 tahun," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* semasa majlis pelancaran kertas kerja bertajuk, *Heart Matters Menggariskan Masalah Kolesterol Tinggi Sebagai Faktor Risiko Utama Kardiovaskular Yang Paling Kurang Dididagnosis* anjuran IQVIA di sini pada Khamis.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Wan Azman berkata, pesakit perlu mengambil langkah proaktif bagi memastikan masalah penyakit kronik seperti kolesterol tinggi, serangan jantung, kanser dan kencing manis dapat dikawal.

Tambah beliau, dengan teknologi dan inovasi terkini dalam bidang perubatan ia mampu merawat pesakit dengan lebih baik, namun menelan kos perbelanjaan yang tinggi.

"Bermula awal tahun 2023, hospital terpilih mula menyediakan rawatan CDV yang lebih efisien dan pesakit hanya per-



Pakar perubatan yang hadir (dari kanan: Jonathan, Dr Sri Wahyu Taher, Datuk Dr Wan Azman, Datuk Seri Dr Azhari, Dr Zanariah Hussein dan Profesor Dr Asrul Akhmal Shafie) pada pelancaran kertas kerja mengenai CVD.

lu datang dua kali setahun sahaja berbanding sebelum ini mereka perlu datang setiap tiga bulan sekali.

"Pesakit juga perlu mengubah persepsi dan kepercayaan mereka terhadap ubat-ubatan saintifik," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

RUU GEG 'wajib' lulus, dilaksanakan

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PETALING JAYA: Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2023 atau lebih dikenali sebagai RUU Generasi Penamat (GEG) 'wajib' dilulus dan dilaksanakan kerana ia sangat penting untuk kesejahteraan rakyat pada masa akan datang.

Ini kerana aktiviti merokok atau menggunakan sebarang produk berkaitan rokok elektronik (vape) sudah menjadi barah dalam kalangan generasi baharu sepertimana didedahkan *Utusan Malaysia* baru-baru ini iaitu terdapat 43,000 pelajar sekolah dikesan menghisap rokok hasil saringan terhadap 1.3 juta pelajar sekolah menengah tahun lalu.

Jumlah itu turut meliputi 341 murid sekolah rendah yang dikenal pasti sudah mula menggunakan produk rokok daripada sejumlah dua juta murid menjalani saringan yang dilaksanakan Kementerian Kesihatan di sekolah-sekolah terpilih seluruh negara.

Ia menunjukkan aktiviti yang pada awalnya dianggap menjadi budaya sudah menjadi 'pandemik' dan menimbulkan kebimbangan dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Timbalan Naib Canselor Penyelidikan di Universiti Perubatan Antarabangsa (IMU) dan felo Akademi Sains serta Akademi Perubatan Malaysia, Prof. Datuk Dr. Lokman Hakim Sulaiman berkata, kerajaan tidak mempunyai masa lagi untuk menangguhkan pelaksanaan RUU GEG.

Menurut beliau, tidak relevan lagi produk-produk tersebut diletakkan di bawah Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Hasil Tembakau 2004 yang berada di bawah Akta Makanan 1983 dan sepatutnya mempunyai Akta khas sepertimana RUU GEG.

"Beban kesihatan yang dikaitkan dengan merokok cukup besar, kutiplah cukai sebanyak mana masih tidak dapat menangani kesan-kesan daripada tabiat tersebut. RUU GEG diperlukan kerana pada masa akan datang nanti ia akan memberi mereka peluang untuk hidup tanpa isu-isu dihadapi sekarang.

"Kita mahu budaya melihat orang merokok ini menjadi satu benda yang tidak elok dan diteruskan. Perokok di dalam negara kita tidak sampai 25 peratus menandakan selebihnya tidak merokok dan majoriti membenci tabiat tersebut.

RUU kawalan rokok dibawa ke Parlimen bagi tangani ketagihan

Lebih 43,000 pelajar sekolah merokok

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PUTRAJAYA: Lebih 43,000 pelajar sekolah dikesan menghisap rokok hasil saringan terhadap

1.3 juta pelajar sekolah menengah tahun lalu.

Jumlah itu turut meliputi 341 murid sekolah rendah dikenal pasti sudah mula menggunakan produk rokok daripada sejumlah dua juta murid menjalani saringan yang dilaksanakan Ke-

menterian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di sekolah-sekolah terpilih seluruh negara.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, angka itu amat membimbangkan dalam kalangan individu bawah



RUU Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2023 atau RUU GEG dijadual dibaca buat kali pertama pada 12 Jun ini dalam sidang Dewan Rakyat.

"Jika kita fikir tentang generasi akan datang, RUU GEG ini wajib diluluskan. Pada pandangan saya, tidak ada alasan yang munasabah untuk tidak melaksanakannya," kata beliau ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Terdahulu, akhbar ini

melaporkan, RUU GEG dijadualkan dibaca buat kali pertama pada 12 Jun ini, dalam sidang Dewan Rakyat.

Ia adalah langkah kerajaan untuk mewujudkan Dasar GEG bagi golongan yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2007 dan selepasnya



“Perokok di dalam negara kita tidak sampai 25 peratus menandakan selebihnya tidak merokok dan majoriti membenci tabiat tersebut.”

LOKMAN HAKIM SULAIMAN

bakal terlaksana melalui RUU tersebut demi kesihatan awam.

Dasar GEG di bawah RUU itu akan mengenakan larangan membeli dan menggunakan rokok atau vape bagi individu yang lahir bermula tahun 2007 dan seterusnya.

Pembentangan RUU itu sekali gus menggantikan RUU Kawalan Produk Tembakau dan Merokok 2022 yang tidak sempat direalisasikan menteri terdahulu, selepas Parlimen penggal ke-14 dibubar tahun lalu.

Beliau yang juga bekas

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Awam) turut menafikan bahawa RUU GEG akan merampas hak asasi manusia sekiranya dilaksanakan dan menyifatkan dakwaan tersebut sebagai isu remeh yang sengaja dibangkitkan.

"Jika begitu, apakah seseorang itu mempunyai hak untuk membunuh diri? Adakah kita bagi hak itu? Jika perbuatan seseorang membahayakan diri seseorang itu menyebabkan pelbagai penyakit kronik bukankah itu salah satu bentuk bunuh diri?"

"Sepertimana syarat memakai topi keledar semasa menunggang motosikal, jika penunggang memilih tidak mahu pakai itu haknya tetapi kenapa kita paksa dia pakai? Ini merupakan satu benda remeh-temeh yang sengaja dibangkitkan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kesan RUU GEG bukan dapat dilihat dalam masa singkat sepertimana dakwaan bahawa banyak premis atau pekerja akan lingkup sebaik sahaja ia dilaksanakan, sebaliknya memakan masa puluhan tahun.

"Jadi adakah tempoh tersebut tidak boleh dijadikan ruang untuk mencari peluang perniagaan atau pekerjaan yang lain?" soalnya.

Dr. Lokman Hakim berkata, RUU GEG perlu meliputi semua bentuk kegunaan rokok dan bahan-bahan seumpamanya termasuk mempunyai elemen yang memerlukan perlesenan kepada produk-produk tersebut.

"Perlesenan itu bagi membolehkan kita tahu siapa dan berapa ramai yang menjual produk-produk berkaitan. Dengan itu, pada masa sama kita dapat membantu memahami isu-isu penyeludupan yang berlaku.

"RUU GEG perlu wujud untuk menggantikan undang-undang sedia ada, sebab ia sudah tidak relevan lagi diletakkan di dalam Akta Makanan 1983. Ia perlu wujud di bawah aktanya tersendiri supaya kita dapat memastikan elemen-elemen kawalan ada.

"RUU GEG juga perlu mempunyai elemen kandungan nikotin di dalam cecair-cecair vape sebab nikotin merupakan punca yang menyebabkan ketagihan. Di situ, timbulnya segala permasalahan dalam isu merokok," jelasnya.

Beliau berharap RUU GEG dapat dilulus dan dilaksanakan secepat mungkin memandangkan idea tersebut sudah tercetus sejak tahun 2016 iaitu semasa beliau bertugas dan vape menjadi fenomena baharu.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION

Millions of Covid-19 vax wasted

White Paper: Almost 8.5 million doses of vaccine expired in storage

By RAGANANTHINI
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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 8,499,950 doses of Covid-19 vaccines in the Health Ministry's inventory have expired as of May 2 this year, according to the White Paper on Covid-19 Vaccine Procurement Management.

These involved 3,487,730 doses stored in ministry facilities and 5,012,220 doses in its storage facilities.

They comprised 2,339,109 doses of Vaxzevria vaccine by AstraZeneca, 3,240,350 doses of Convidecia by CanSino Biologics, 76,423 doses of CoronaVac by Sinovac and 2,753,440 doses of Pfizer Inc's Comirnaty vaccine for adults as well as 90,628 doses of Comirnaty version for children.

The document, which was released in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, said the disposal and records of inventory are conducted in accordance with the Asset

and Store Management Guidelines.

"In an effort to curb the wastage of Covid-19 vaccines, the Health Ministry offered the vaccines to other countries.

"A total of 1,892,000 doses of vaccines of various brands were donated to countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina," the paper said.

It added that the Cabinet had agreed in principle to donate the vaccines to countries in need and the ministry was tasked to manage its distribution with other agencies.

A total of 72.80 million doses of vaccines were administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) while Malaysia had a vaccine portfolio of over 83 million doses.

Apart from the vaccines procured by Malaysia, the country also received 5.03 million doses contributed by countries such as Japan, United States, China,

Britain, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

This comprised Pfizer's Comirnaty, Sinopharm, Sinovac's CoronaVac as well as the AstraZeneca vaccines.

The report said RM4.482bil was spent on vaccine procurement and logistics as of April 30, 2023. The government allocated RM4.651bil for the fund, comprising RM3.996bil from the National Trust Fund and the rest from the Covid-19 Fund. The government was left with a balance of about RM168.93mil.

On Nov 23, 2020, the Finance Ministry approved the Standard Operating Procedure for Covid-19 Vaccine Procurement which includes direct negotiations, open tender and quotations without limit.

"The direct negotiations method for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines will speed up the procurement process to be in line with the current needs to ensure that the vaccines received is safe,

effective and is of high quality," it said.

"As for Covid-19 logistics procurement, the procurement was done via direct negotiations and quotation with no cap," it added.

Malaysia chose the Optional Purchase Agreement when it joined the Covid-19 vaccine global access (Covax) platform, which allowed participating countries to get vaccine supplies to accommodate 10% of the population.

The Optional Purchase Agreement gave the country the flexibility to choose the suitable vaccine candidate.

In addition to the procurement via Covax Facility, the government made direct negotiations with vaccine producers.

This included increasing the Pfizer order from 12.8 million to 32 million doses and subsequently 44.8 million doses.

The Sinovac vaccine order was increased from 12.4 million doses to 20.4 million.

The paper said the failure by

Covax to adhere to the vaccine delivery schedule prompted the government to make direct negotiations with vaccine producers.

Covax also could not confirm its vaccine delivery schedule to Malaysia as it had to depend on production by the vaccine manufacturers.

As a result, Malaysia only received its 268,800 doses on April 23, 2021, and 559,200 in May 21, 2021.

Another 559,200 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine which was supposed to be delivered in June 2021 were only received on September that year.

"The delivery schedule for 453,600 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine were only confirmed at the end of 2021," it said.

Other factors disrupting the delivery schedule include Pfizer having to stop operations to upgrade its manufacturing facilities to increase capacity following the surge in demand for the Covid-19 vaccine worldwide.

AGC acted to protect national interest in Pfizer deal

KUALA LUMPUR: After finding clauses deemed unfavourable to the government and more in favour of the supplier, the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) proposed for amendments to be made in Malaysia's vaccine procurement agreement with Pfizer (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

This was revealed in the White Paper on Covid-19 Vaccine Procurement Management released in Parliament yesterday.

After going through the draft agreement, the AGC and the legal adviser of the Health Ministry were of the view that the ministry needed to review clauses related to policy, finance, technical procedures and specifications that were agreed upon in the agreement with Pfizer (Malaysia).

It then suggested on Dec 24, 2020, that necessary amendments should be made and the draft updated according to the government's terms before being submitted to the company.

"As for the provisions of the manufacturing and supply agree-



Keeping Covid-19 at bay: A nurse showing a vial of the Comirnaty vaccine. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

ment (MSA), Pfizer (Malaysia) said the format of the agreement is uniform for all countries entering into an agreement with Pfizer and the proposal to amend the terms cannot be considered," the document revealed.

The paper said that the AGC had reviewed and proposed the amendment proposals to the MSA draft to protect the government's interests.

"The AGC had raised a few irregularities in the MSA draft

agreement that was found to be more in favour of Pfizer (Malaysia). However, Pfizer did not agree to all substantive amendment proposals," it said.

The unfavourable clauses included the termination of the agreement.

"For example, if the agreement is ended by Pfizer (Malaysia) on the grounds of a breach by the government, the government will then have to pay the full price for the contracted doses to Pfizer (Malaysia) within 30 days (minus the sum that was already paid to the company)," it said.

On the contrary, no penalty will be imposed on Pfizer (Malaysia) if the government had ended the contract due to a breach by the company.

To this, the AGC had proposed an amendment, whereby if the agreement was terminated, the government would only be required to pay the "monies due and payable" as at the date of termination. However, the proposal was not considered by Pfizer.

Meanwhile, on Jan 6, 2021, the Cabinet found a clause that could leave the government at risk and have implications in terms of the finances, compensation, damages and liability that could stem from the negligence of the supplier or vaccine side effects.

Therefore, the AGC had also advised the government to take necessary steps outside the agreement, such as setting up a trust fund for compensation on an ex gratia basis for those experiencing negative effects after vaccination and educating the people on the impact of the jabs.

The Cabinet had also agreed on the same date that the Health Minister could sign the MSA on behalf of the government once it had been finalised and agreed by both parties.

The MSA was inked on Jan 11, 2021. Additionally, five Amendments to Manufacturing and Supply Agreement (AMSA) were made which included changes in terms of vaccine doses and payment.

Wastages in vaccine procurement must be addressed, say docs

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
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PETALING JAYA: The wastages and irregularities laid bare in the White Paper on Covid-19 vaccine procurement must be seriously addressed and those responsible be brought to book, says a group of medical professionals.

Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah said it was disheartening that the White Paper found that proper diligence had not been followed when procuring the vaccines.

"All involved in the decision making and the procurement should be held accountable.

"The government should be

serious in addressing the wastage as we do not want this to be repeated.

"If we ignore these wrongdoings, it will reach a stage where it will be disastrous to the nation," he said when contacted.

Dr Raj Kumar was asked to comment on the findings of the White Paper on Covid-19 vaccine procurement, tabled in Parliament yesterday, which found that close to 8.5 million doses of the vaccines in the Health Ministry's inventory had expired while in storage.

It was also revealed that the Attorney General's chambers had raised a few irregularities in the manufacturing and supply agreement that was found to be more

in favour of vaccine supplier Pfizer (M) Sdn Bhd.

Dr Raj Kumar said the vaccine procurement, which happened during a time of emergency, should not have been used as a means for some to make money while others were suffering from a loss of income and jobs.

"All those who did wrong must be brought to book," he said.

Dr Raj Kumar added that taking a stern action in addressing the issues would serve as a lesson to others in position not to take things for granted and to avoid leakages in future.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh, however, said it is difficult to assign blame as the

situation at the time was dire and the government needed to act quickly to save lives.

"In my opinion, the government did it out of good faith. If it can be proven otherwise, then that's a different story.

"The world was scrambling to get the vaccines. Had we not gotten them fast enough, maybe we would have had a bigger catastrophe," Dr Kuljit said.

He was of the opinion that the decision made in the procurement has been a learning process as Malaysia and the rest of the world were going through uncharted waters during the pandemic.

He said back in 2020, nobody knew what the outcome would be. "At that point of time, there was

a bit of desperation. Nobody wanted people to die and the government put in hard work to get the vaccines," he said, adding that there were not enough intensive care unit capacities which saw older people dying while the vaccines were unavailable.

"Those who work in the hospitals treating Covid-19 patients will remember how bad it was.

"Since it was unprecedented, I think it was the best that the government could do.

"Lessons can still be learned so that in the next pandemic, all countries and not just Malaysia, should be more prepared and careful to spend money on procurement of vaccines and treatment," he said.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

330,000 female students yet to receive HPV shots

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 336,592 Form 1 female students from the 2020 to 2022 cohort have not received any human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine shots, said Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

She said the ministry is committed to ensuring that all students from the 2021, 2022 and 2023 groups receive the vaccine before they finish school.

"HPV vaccination for students had to be postponed in 2021 due to a global supply disruption of vaccines.

"By using the remaining stock of vaccines available in 2020, a total of 34,933 students have received the first dose.

"This means that there are a total of 187,151 students who have not received the vaccine," she said when replying to a question from Yeo Bee Yin (PH-Puchong) in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Yeo had asked about the status of the vaccination for more than 500,000 girls who missed the injection as well as the procurement allocation of RM120 million this year.

Meanwhile, Zaliha said in 2022, the price of the vaccine increased six-fold and only 100,000 doses were procured in December last year, Bernama reported.

"We have distributed all the vaccines to the states to be given to the students who have yet to receive it and the ministry expects this new procurement will be finalised in the third quarter," she added.

Zaliha said female students from 2021 who are currently in Form 3 would be given priority for the vaccination before being dispensed to those from 2022 and 2023, depending on the number of vaccines received.