

PM GETS FIRST VACCINE SHOT

Vaccination done
at Putrajaya district
Health clinic
at 2.42pm

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MALAYSIA kick-started its largest inoculation programme against Covid-19 with the administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine yesterday.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin received the first dose of the vaccine at the Putrajaya district Health office, Precinct 11. The shot was televised live on

RTM to reassure the people of the vaccine's safety.

The vaccines arrived at the vaccination centre at 2.20pm in blue cooler boxes.

Muhyiddin, accompanied by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, arrived at 2.25pm.

Muhyiddin went through a MySejahtera scanning procedure and five stations at the centre, with the first being a screening for symptoms and a temperature check.

He then went through the registration process at the second station, followed by a video briefing in an auditorium at the third station.

After that, he signed an immunisation consent form at the fourth station.

Present was Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Muhyiddin then headed for the fifth station where he sat and rolled up his sleeve and received the shot in his left arm at 2.42pm, administered by nurse Lina Ibrahim, who has been a nurse for more than 20 years.

He remained calm and smiled throughout the process. He then held up a card saying "Lindung Diri, Lindung Semua" and a consent form.

He was then placed under observation for 15 to 30 minutes.

Medical and non-medical frontliners will soon join Muhyiddin and Dr Noor Hisham to be vaccinated.

The first batch of 312,390 vaccine doses arrived on Sunday.

Khairy, the Coordinating Minister for the National Covid-19

Immunisation Programme, had said the second batch of Pfizer vaccines was expected to arrive on Friday, to be followed by batches every two weeks until the full delivery of Malaysia's purchase order.

The government had last month signed an agreement with Pfizer (Malaysia) for the procurement of 12,799,800 doses of vaccine, covering 20 per cent of the population, with two doses per person.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is the first to be given conditional approval by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency.

The immunisation programme will be implemented in three phases, targeting 80 per cent of the nation's population, or 26.5 million people.

In the first phase from Feb 26 to April, the vaccines will be admin-

istered to frontliners, including personnel from the Health Ministry, armed forces, police, Civil Defence Force and People's Volunteer Corps.

The second phase is from April to August for senior citizens aged 65 and above and vulnerable groups with comorbidity issues, as well as persons with disabilities.

The third phase will be from May to February next year for those aged 18 and above.

This will be the biggest-ever vaccination exercise in Malaysia. All Malaysians will receive the vaccination for free.

The vaccination will be available at 605 vaccination centres.

Registration for the vaccination programme is open to the public.

Inoculation is on a voluntary basis.