

Government will reactivate task force to encourage Orang Asli parents to vaccinate kids

By Sharifah Mahsinah Abdullah - April 12, 2022 @ 9:37pm



KOTA BARU: The government will reactivate its task force to help relevant agencies in persuading Orang Asli parents to send their children, aged 5 to 11, for vaccination.

Deputy Rural Development Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad said many parents from the community had refused to send their children to take part in the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids).

He said the task force had been deployed to Orang Asli settlements, including in Gua Musang previously, to encourage the adults to take their booster shots.

"This task force from the Education Ministry will work with other agencies such as the Health Ministry as well as local community leaders including the tok batin.

"They will enter the Orang Asli villages together with the tok batin to encourage them to send their kids for PICKids.

"Apart from using the normal approach, we will use the service of tok batin. It has been that the deployment of this Orang Asli village heads were effective to attract parents to send their kids for vaccination," he said.

Rahman told this to reporters after breaking the fast with the South Kelantan Development Authority (Kesedar) and local media practitioners here today.

Also present were Kesedar board of directors chairman Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz and managing director Dr Shahrir Mohammad Zakey.

Rahman said members of the task force are expected to go on the ground after Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"In Kelantan, their main focus will be the Orang Asli settlements in Gua Musang.

"This task is very important as the Orang Asli kids who have yet to be vaccinated are also facing the risk of being infected by the virus.

"The government wants to ensure its people including the Orang Asli were protected from Covid-19," he said.