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MEDIA RELEASE

PIKAS ACCELERATES RATE OF IMMUNIZATION IN PENANG BY TARGETING THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WORKFORCE

Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali together with the Chief Minister of Penang YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow have monitored operations of the vaccination center (*Pusat Pemberian Vaksin* - PPV) under the COVID-19 Public-Private Partnership Industry Immunization Program (PIKAS) at the Bukit Jawi Golf Resort in Penang. A total of 16,402 workers will be vaccinated at this location since its opening on 16 June 2021.

Apart from this, site visits to view preparations at other PIKAS PPVs in Penang, such as at Hotel Equatorial Penang, Intel Technology Sdn Bhd and Jabil Circuit Sdn Bhd, were also conducted.

These visits follow the launch of PIKAS yesterday in Selangor which was attended by the Prime Minister YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

As of 16 June 2021, more than 1,733 companies with a total of 280,820 employees have registered with PIKAS, of which 186 companies and a total of 139,851 employees are from industry players in Penang.

The PIKAS program is a responsive measure following suggestions from industry associations, chambers of commerce and Small and Medium Enterprises to help expedite vaccination of the people in order to achieve herd immunity in the community. PIKAS plays an important role in protecting workers from the risk of COVID-19 infection as their safety can ensure the economy can recover quickly and continue to be resilient.

Running concurrently with the implementation of PIKAS, the COVID-19 National Immunization Program (PICK) for the most vulnerable groups remain a priority.



Various industry associations, chambers of commerce and other trade unions have expressed their support for the PIKAS program and welcome its implementation to ensure the safety of workers.

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali has assured that employees who participate in this program will not be burdened with additional costs. "Under the PIKAS program, the vaccine will be given for free by the Government to employees whereas the employer must bear the costs of administering the vaccination process and they are not allowed to cut workers' wages to finance the costs involved," he stated.

The Senior Minister also stated that the Government will increase the vaccination rate in June, July and August with a target of herd immunity to be achieved in the Klang Valley and Putrajaya, at this stage.

PIKAS is an initiative under PICK and is implemented by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for the manufacturing sector. PIKAS is an innovative collaboration between the public and private sector in which the Government will provide free vaccine doses whereas the private sector will bear the costs of administering the vaccine, such as the provision of a PPV. Vaccination for the manufacturing sector under PIKAS focuses on critical manufacturing sub-sectors such as electrical and electronics, food processing, iron and steel, medical devices, personal protective equipment (PPE), oil and gas as well as rubber products including the manufacture of medical gloves.

For more information on PIKAS, visit www.miti.gov.my

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About MITI:

MITI is a key driver in making Malaysia a preferred destination for quality investments and to enhance the country's status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and role are oriented towards ensuring rapid economic development for Malaysia and to assist in the nation's stated goals to become a developed nation.

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