



Dr Sim speaks at the function. — Photo by Muhammad Rais Sanusi

Govt to ensure every S'wakian has access to Covid-19 vaccine

KUCHING: Dato Sr Dr Sim Kui Hian has said that the Sarawak government is all out to ensure that all Sarawakians would have access to Covid-19 vaccine once it is available.

The state Local Government and Housing Minister said the vaccine would be made available to Sarawakians in batches, with the first batch expected in the first quarter of next year.

“We have to engage medical experts to assess which age group is more suitable to the vaccine, because certain vaccine may not be efficient for a certain group,” he said after attending a function at the Kidney Association of Sarawak-National Kidney Foundation Dialysis Centre at Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Aduce here yesterday.

Earlier, Dr Sim witnessed the handing-over of RM40,000 from OCBC Bank Kuching to Rotary Club of Kuching (RCK) and KAS for a haemodialysis machine meant for a haemodialysis centre in Kota Samarahan, which is expected to be operational soon.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced on Friday that Putrajaya had signed a preliminary agreement with pharmaceutical company Pfizer to procure 12.8 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to meet the immunisation needs of 20 per cent – or 6.4 million – Malaysians.

Asked whether every Sarawakian would receive the Covid-19 vaccine, Dr Sim said Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg ‘had pledged so’.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah, during his winding-up speech in the State Legislative Assembly sitting on Nov 13, said the state government would ensure that Sarawakians would have access to the Covid-19 vaccine.

Uggah, who is also State Disaster Management Committee chairman, said Abang Johari had also pledged to allocate funds to ensure that all Sarawakians would have access to the vaccine once the doses had been made available for Sarawak.