

MASKARGO, Tenaga Nasional and military ready to go

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PUTRAJAYA: MAB Kargo Sdn Bhd (MASKargo) has formed a special team to coordinate the process of receiving the Covid-19 vaccine supply.

Its chief operations officer, Mohd Zulkefly Ujang, said the team set up two months ago comprises 30 members who have expertise in vaccine management.

"The team will manage the vaccine when the shipment arrives here this Sunday (today), as well as in the following phases. The members have been given adequate training."

MASKargo, the air cargo division of Malaysia Airlines, has been tasked with coordinating the process of receiving vaccines at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Zulkefly said MASKargo's expertise in handling vaccines had been recognised as it had been managing and receiving various types of vaccines on a daily basis.

"We manage various types of vaccines, not just the Covid-19 one. If the vaccines need to be stored at KLIA first, we have the facilities for that."

Meanwhile, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) said preliminary

preparations had been made to ensure electricity supply at vaccine storage centres and vaccination centres nationwide remained stable throughout the implementation of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

TNB chief distribution network officer Datuk Baharin Din said discussions with the Health Ministry had been ongoing to detail the ministry's needs, especially on efforts to avoid supply disruptions at vaccine storage locations.

"TNB will ensure that major and alternative electricity supply systems operate properly at all storage and vaccination centres.

"TNB is drafting a rapid recovery contingency plan at several substations through the installation of a remote control automation supply system, including Normal Off Point, Automated Transfer Scheme and Remote Terminal Unit."

Condition-based maintenance of substations and electricity suppliers to vaccine storage centres has also been carried out to prevent system failures.

TNB has also carried out engagements with hospitals and health clinics to ensure their

power sets are functional and ready to be used if needed.

TNB's technical team will be on standby and mobile power sets will be placed at strategic locations to ensure swift action can be taken if there are supply disruptions at vaccine storage centres.

Malaysia will receive 312,390 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine today. It is the first vaccine delivery to Malaysia.

The National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme will begin on Feb 26.

The first phase of the programme, from February to April, involves frontliners.

The second phase, from April to August, involves high-risk groups, namely senior citizens aged 60 and above, vulnerable groups with morbidity problems and the disabled. The third phase, from May to February next year, involves adults aged 18 and above.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will receive his job on

the first day of the programme, along with frontline workers.

Stable electricity supply is vital as the vaccine needs to be stored at -70°C.

Baharin said TNB would open two special communication channels for vaccine storage centres to ensure fast communication with TNB in the event of a disruption.

Meanwhile, the armed forces said it would provide coordination assistance in movement control and logistics management for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Affendi Buang said the military would escort the delivery of the vaccine from vaccine storage centres to vaccine administration centres throughout the country.

"The armed forces have outlined a vaccine management and handling action plan to ensure the immunisation programme can be implemented in an orderly manner, can achieve its goals and to

reduce the wastage of vaccines."

He said armed forces representatives would be placed at the secretariat at the national and state levels to help the Health Ministry and Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force plan the implementation of the immunisation programme, especially on coordinating logistics.

"The armed forces' role in terms of logistics assistance includes storage, delivery and distribution, besides security control at all phases of the programme's implementation.

"We have outlined the implementation of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme at the armed forces' level based on the priority given by the government to armed forces members to receive the vaccine job."

Affendi said the immunisation programme would ensure the armed forces had the capacity and were ready to protect the country's wellbeing and sovereignty, and to ultimately achieve the herd immunity objective.

He said the vaccination process would be supervised in stages by the military's Health Service Division. **Bernamea**



General Tan Sri Affendi Buang