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Industry players laud Selgate to speed up Selangor's vaccination process

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File picture of the elderly who received the vaccine at PWTC.

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The Selgate programme, initiated by the Selangor government, has been receiving support from real estate industry stakeholders, with the expectation that it could help to achieve herd immunity faster and in turn put the country's economy back on track.

There are close to 10.36 million Malaysians registered for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK), while the vaccinated people stood at 1.41 million, according to data from PICK as of May 20.

Meanwhile, Malaysia recorded 6,806 Covid-19 positive cases on May 20, another new record high since the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. Over 2,900 cases were in Klang Valley.

Looking at the current progress of PICK, Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda) president Datuk Soam Heng Choon hoped the state's initiatives could help speed up the inoculation process.

He added that many Rehda members in Selangor have expressed their interest. However, the association did not have the number of members who have registered.

Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) president Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin also concurred that many members are interested in the Selgate programme, anticipating the

sooner people get inoculated, the less the impact on the construction industry will be.

Meanwhile, the associations representing the shopping malls and retail chains nationwide lauded the state government's effort, but appealed to the government to review the additional charges on employers to purchase the vaccines for their employees, citing that RM100 million has been allocated by the state government for the vaccination of the state's population.

Malaysia Shopping Malls Association (PPK), Malaysia Retailers Association (MRA), Malaysia Retail Chain Association (MRCA) and Bumiputra Retailers Organisation (BRO), in a joint statement on May 20, said the additional charges will burden business owners who are already struggling to survive.

During a virtual media briefing on May 19, Selangor Public Health, Unity, Women and Family Development Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said over 3,500 companies and around one million employees have expressed their interest to participate in the Selgate Programme.

Further details of the Selgate Programme will be announced next week by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.