

MEF: Having national vaccine centre cuts dependence on others

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Recovery Plan should have included plans to set up a national vaccine centre, the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) said yesterday.

President Datuk Dr Syed Husman J.P. said the plan had provided employers with a roadmap to return life to normalcy.

Syed Husman, however, said there was a need to put in place long-term safeguards to ensure that Malaysia would not have to face a lockdown again.

“MEF urges the government to set up a national vaccine centre to deal with issues of long-term vaccine supply and its efficacy by harnessing the utilisation of local experts and resources.

“Though the number of people being vaccinated has been encouraging recently, the supply of vaccines is often disrupted by high demand.

“The setting up of our own vac-



Datuk Dr Syed Husman J.P.

cine research centre will look into the long-term prospects of producing our own vaccines without the need to depend on others,” he said.

Separately, the government has been urged to consider channelling monthly aid in the form of e-wallet credit to target-

ed groups.

Universiti Putra Malaysia School of Business and Economics Associate Professor Dr Anuar Shah Bali Mohamed said the move reflected a two-pronged strategy that would assist people as well as boost businesses.

Anuar Shah said: “If the government channels RM100 to RM200 aid every month instead of a one-off assistance, as previously done for B40 and M40 groups, this will stimulate the economy when people use the money to buy basic necessities or food.” **Bernama**