

# MEF: Unfair to charge employers for foreign workers' mandatory boosters because of 'Sinovac overstock'

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(The Edge filepix by Zahid Izzani)

**KUALA LUMPUR (March 6):** The Malaysian Employers Federation urges the government to reconsider making Covid-19 vaccine booster shots compulsory for foreign workers, saying they should get the jobs at home before arriving in Malaysia.

Citing reports about the health ministry mulling a decision to make additional shots necessary after Pharmaniaga Bhd reported a massive RM552 million impairment provision for its stockpile of Covid-19 vaccines, president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said “employers cannot be forced to incur additional costs on employing foreign workers due to bad management of any company”.

“And to have a plan to make it compulsory for foreign workers to take booster shots just because of overstocking of Sinovac vaccines is very irresponsible on any party.



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“To make it mandatory by the YB Minister of Health (Dr Zaliha Mustafa) to save pharmaceutical companies from bad planning, is not ethical,” he added.

“MEF hopes that the Cabinet will find other ways to assist the pharmaceutical companies and not pass on the burden to the private sector employers who have done much to assist the nation in the fight to control and eliminate Covid-19,” Syed said.

Currently, foreign workers are required to undergo and be declared medically fit at the source country, before being able to work in Malaysia, MEF said in a statement.

Within one month upon arrival, foreign workers are required to undergo further medical check-up carried out by Fomema Sdn Bhd — a company that operates a comprehensive Foreign Workers’ Medical Examination Screening System in Peninsular Malaysia on behalf of the Ministry of Health, Malaysia — and any worker who fails the medical check-up will be sent back.

*Edited by Lam Jian Wyn*