

Company Name : Pharmaniaga Berhad
Date : 24 August 2020
Source : New Straits Times

COVID-19 VACCINE FILL-AND-FINISH PROCESS

PHARMANIAGA READY TO MODIFY PLANTS

Firm also on track to set up world's 1st halal vaccine facility

KUALA LUMPUR

PHARMANIAGA Bhd said it is all geared up to make the necessary changes to its existing plants that will enable it to undertake the fill-and-finish process for the Covid-19 vaccine as soon as it is developed.

Acting managing director Mohamed Iqbal Abdul Rahman said the company had presented its plan to the National Science Council.

"This is part of the short-term plan of the group in addressing the urgent need for the Covid-19 vaccine."

Last month, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said facilities owned by Duopharma Biotech Bhd and Pharmaniaga would be used for the fill-and-finish process of the vaccine.

Iqbal said Pharmaniaga, Malaysia's largest pharmaceutical company, was on track to establish the world's first halal vaccine facility, targeted for comple-

tion by 2022.

"In 2018, Pharmaniaga announced plans to establish a vaccine plant. We have since completed the due diligence and secured partnerships with international vaccine producers," he said.

In addition, Pharmaniaga has long-term plans for sustainable growth and six strategic thrusts to drive the company to the next level.

"Although we have secured a logistics and distribution contract with the Health Ministry until November 2024, we are hopeful that our track record, infrastructure, integrated information technology and experienced human capital will position us well to secure an extension."

Iqbal said Pharmaniaga had benefited from digitalisation ef-

forts that ensured minimal disruptions during the Movement Control Order period.

Pharmaniaga will also expand its product portfolio, strengthen its agency and distributorship segment and expand its one-stop centre facilitation.

"With a workforce of more than 3,500, our human capital is our most valuable asset. We are also committed to prioritising local employment, with a workforce comprising 99.5 per cent of locals, supported by specialised international talent mainly in our research and development team."

This is part of the short-term plan of the group in addressing the urgent need for the Covid-19 vaccine.

MOHAMED IQBAL ABDUL RAHMAN

Pharmaniaga Bhd acting managing director

For the six months ended June 30, Pharmaniaga posted a net profit of RM32.38 million compared with RM28.89 million in the same period last year. **Bernama**