

PHARMANIAGA SPREAD ITS COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES THROUGH SKUAD OPERASI SIHAT NEGARAKU

SHAH ALAM, 19 April 2017 - Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) as one of the Government-Linked Companies (GLC) in Malaysia has strengthen the establishment of the Group's Corporate Responsibility (CR) signature programme, Skuad Operasi Sihat Negaraku (SOSN) by offering free health check services to the general public.

Introduced in [year], SOSN is a volunteering programme, which serves as a platform for employees to contribute their time, skills and efforts back to the communities. Besides involving in the health education related activities, SOSN also provides immediate post-disaster relief and rehabilitation assistance across Malaysia. Our SOSN currently has more than 200 registered volunteers to date.

According to a survey conducted by the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS), 9.6 million people aged above 18 years or nearly half the population at 47.7% had high cholesterol levels. Four out of five of them are not aware that they had high cholesterol which involved 38.6% or an estimated 7.8 million Malaysians.

In addition, the study also found that obesity among children doubled in the same period to 11.9% or an estimated one million of those aged below 18 years. The NHMS 2006 survey reported the prevalence of obesity in children at 5.4%, while the figure spiked to 6.1% in the NHMS 2011 study. NHMS 2015 also reported that as of last year, 17.7% or 3.3 million Malaysians aged above 18 years were obese, while 30% or 5.6 million were overweight.

“As a responsible corporate citizen, we are very mindful on the current health issue in Malaysia, thus, we have mobilised our SOSN volunteers to reach out the rural and suburban communities in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah & Sarawak and provide them with the free basic health check services” said Dato’ Farshila Emran, Managing Director of Pharmaniaga.

SOSN is well equipped with the basic health check facilities which will be able to provide the communities with four complimentary health check services comprising **Blood Glucose Reading, Body Mass Index (BMI), Blood Pressure Checking** and **Healthcare Education & Counseling**. The Group has a total of five SOSN primary teams located in Shah Alam, Selangor; Bangi, Selangor; Juru, Kedah; Kota Kinabalu, Sabah; and Kuching, Sarawak. Each SOSN mission led by the primary team will be participated by approximately ten volunteers.

“This is part of our duty to address the society’s real challenge through promoting and creating the awareness as well as educating the communities on healthy living and lifestyle. Some of us are fortunate to have the privileges in obtaining health information at our fingertips while some are still unable to access such information due to numbers of restrictions. This is why, we at Pharmaniaga are very keen to bring these free health check services to those who have facilities constrains” add Dato’ Farshila.

SOSN is a programme initiated by Pharmaniaga’s parent company, Boustead Holdings Berhad. The programme has benefitted more than 5,000 communities throughout the nation since it was introduced. It has reached out multiple communities including the Orang Asli settlements in Raub, Pahang; XXXX, XXX and XXX [please add few more].

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