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PHARMANIAGA ALL GEARED UP FOR COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION NATIONWIDE

SHAH ALAM, 30 November 2020: Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) has set up a task force and all geared up to distribute COVID-19 vaccine nationwide which is expected to be available end of first quarter next year.

This is in line with the recent announcement by YAB Prime Minister that the Government has signed agreement to purchase Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to cover 6.4 million of Malaysian population. The announcement has led the pathway for the Government to have more such arrangements with other vaccine manufacturers.

Pharmaniaga Group Managing Director, Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said Pharmaniaga's core competency lies in its pharmaceutical grade logistic services and internationally recognised halal drug manufacturing facility.

He said, the Company's wholly owned subsidiary Pharmaniaga Logistics Sdn Bhd (PLSB) has 26 solid years of vaccine logistics and distribution experience covering both for -20°C and 2-8°C constant temperature requirements, and it will give utmost priority to the compliance of the temperature requirement of the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine to ensure its continued quality, safety and efficacy.

"Vaccine transportation is not like any other drug as any temperature breach out of the allowed range will impact its efficacy. In order to manage this especially with the delivery challenge to remote locations in Sabah and Sarawak, Pharmaniaga has perfected the transportation medium and the process complies to the Good Distribution Practice (GDP) requirements.

"Each of the box will be sealed together with a temperature monitoring device which allows the customer to verify the temperature compliance. On top of that, the delivery vehicles are equipped with Internet of Things (IOT) devices which allows us to monitor the vehicle's movement, arrival time as well as the temperature.

"We note that Pfizer's vaccine requires ultra-cold temperature of -70°C, thus the frozen pre-filled syringes will be delivered in thermal shippers which are filled with dry ice to maintain ultra cold temperature," he said.

Commenting further, Datuk Zulkarnain cited there are other COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers such as Moderna Inc. requiring -20°C temperature compliance.

"Majority of other vaccine manufacturers have announced standard temperature requirement of 2-8°C. This brings about the need for the high volume of vaccines to be managed in compliance to GDP requirements and the specifications set by the vaccine manufacturers," he said.

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Datuk Zulkarnain added that Pharmaniaga's current warehouses in Bukit Raja Shah Alam, Juru, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching have cold chain facilities with environmental monitoring system and backup power to ensure the vaccines are safe for use. In addition, all these warehouses have been licensed to handle cold chain products by National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA), and the facilities are continuously enhanced.

"We note the possibility that hospitals' stores will have a major constrain if a big volume of COVID-19 vaccine arrives beyond their storage capacity. On this aspect, Pharmaniaga is looking at Just-in-Time (JIT) based delivery system to ensure smooth and orderly vaccination and stock replenishment," he said.

Pharmaniaga will continue to support the nation during these trying times by delivering its best efforts and quality of services, to achieve the great vision of the country.

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ABOUT PHARMANIAGA BERHAD

Pharmaniaga Berhad, a member of Boustead Group is an investment holding company listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia. The Pharmaniaga Group's core businesses are generic pharmaceuticals manufacturing; research and development; marketing and sales; warehousing and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical products; supply, trading and installation of medical and hospital equipment as well as community pharmacy.

With a vision to be the premier Malaysian pharmaceuticals company, Pharmaniaga is guided by its philosophy of 'doing business with a conscience' and is empowered by its mission of Passion for Patients. Already operating in 38 sites across 3 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia & Vietnam) the Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceuticals arena.

Issued for Pharmaniaga Group by Corporate Communications Department, Pharmaniaga Berhad.

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