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PHARMANIAGA TO SUPPLY MINISTRY OF HEALTH 12 MILLION DOSES CORONAVAC COVID-19 VACCINE

SHAH ALAM, 26 January 2021: Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) will supply 12 million doses of CoronaVac Covid-19 vaccine to the Ministry of Health (MOH), following the signing of an agreement by both parties today.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Health Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Dr Adham Baba representing MOH, while Pharmaniaga was represented by its Group Managing Director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope.

Recently Pharmaniaga signed a deal with CoronaVac's developer, Sinovac Lifesciences Co Ltd (Sinovac) of China to obtain the bulk supply of the vaccine which will be manufactured fill and finish at its high-tech plant. The deal also includes the vaccine technology transfer to the Company.

Datuk Zulkarnain said the Company is honoured by the trust given by the Government to supply the sought-after vaccine to the Government-owned health facilities.

"We will manufacture fill and finish CoronaVac as well as handle the logistics and distribution of the vaccine to the Government designated hospitals, clinics and other facilities.

"Our wholly owned subsidiary company, Pharmaniaga LifeScience Sdn Bhd (PLS) will manufacture fill and finish CoronaVac at its EU and GMP certified Small Volume Injectable plant which has been repurposed for this project. We expect to receive the first bulk supply of CoronaVac from Sinovac in February.

"Meanwhile, the logistics and distribution of CoronaVac will be carried out by Pharmaniaga Logistics Sdn Bhd (PLSB) which has 26 years' experience in managing vaccine distribution and has well established infrastructure to support the needs. In view of the unprecedented situation, we have beefed up the security aspect of the logistics of the vaccine," he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain said the Company is very pleased with Sinovac's preliminary results from the Phase 3 clinical trial conducted on general population in Turkey which had shown CoronaVac's efficacy at 91.25%. The study in that country makes the vaccine's efficacy comparable to all other manufacturers.

"Pharmaniaga, MOH as well as Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation have had several discussions with Sinovac on the Phase 3 clinical trial results in Indonesia and Brazil which were conducted using different study designs, yet in accordance to the strict standards and guidelines of World Health Organisation.

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“In Brazil for instance, the clinical trial was done solely on healthcare professionals’ group. Pharmaniaga is satisfied with the outcome especially when CoronaVac is the only vaccine in the market to have taken such a bold step to conduct the study in a highly infectious environment of that group.

“Therefore, we are very confident that CoronaVac is safe, efficacious and of high quality for the use of Malaysians,” added Datuk Zulkarnain.

Datuk Zulkarnain added CoronaVac has been registered and approved for emergency use in China, Chile, Brazil, Indonesia and Turkey, with presidents Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Joko Widodo themselves have taken the vaccine.

“Despite the encouraging development on the use of CoronaVac, we must adhere to the regulations in Malaysia and let NPRA review the dossier and relevant documents of the vaccine which we have submitted recently. Subject to NPRA’s approval, Insya Allah we will have the vaccines available for the *rakyat* as soon as end of March or early April,” he said.

Once CoronaVac gets registered with NPRA, PLS will be the product registration holder and exclusive distributor, authorised by Sinovac for Malaysian market of finished products both locally manufactured or imported from China for the Government and private sector.

Pharmaniaga has been identified by the Government to have the facilities that are capable and compliance ready with the very strict process of manufacturing fill and finish CoronaVac in accordance to the requirements and international standards.

CoronaVac is an inactivated virus type of vaccine which consists of virus particles that have been grown in culture and then lose disease producing capacity. This type of vaccine is very reliable and the technology has been proven to be dependable since it was established 40 years ago. It is also ready to use without the need for dilution.

Furthermore, the storage and distribution condition of this vaccine is between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius which is a common vaccine temperature catered by Pharmaniaga’s existing facilities as well as storage facilities at Government hospitals and clinics.

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad group of companies, and together with Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera, are the major shareholders of the Company.

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Photo description:

From left: Pharmaniaga Berhad Group Managing Director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope and Minister of Health Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Dr Adham Baba during the official signing ceremony to supply 12 million doses of CoronaVac Covid-19 vaccine to the Ministry of Health (MOH), held at the Ministry of Health Office today.

ABOUT PHARMANIAGA BERHAD

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad Group of Companies, which together with Armed Forces Fund Board, are the major shareholders of the Company. Listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia, Pharmaniaga'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 pharmaceutical company, Pharmaniaga is guided by its philosophy of 'Do It Right Always' and is empowered by its motto of Passion for Patients. Strengthened by nine manufacturing plants, nationwide logistics and distribution in Malaysia and Indonesia as well as products registered in 15 countries, Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceutical arena.

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

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