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**PHARMANIAGA BERHAD ON TRACK TO FULFIL
ITS VACCINE SUPPLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

PUCHONG, 26 MAY, 2021 – Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) is on track to meet its contractual obligation to the Federal Government ahead of the agreed delivery schedule by supplying both filled and finished as wells as finished Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine.

Confident that it will be able to supply a total of 8.6 million doses by end of June 2021, Pharmaniaga’s wholly-owned subsidiary Pharmaniaga LifeScience Sdn Bhd (PLS) is also ready to ramp up production from 2 million to 4 million doses a month in order to help the Government expedite the vaccination programme and achieve herd immunity.

Pharmaniaga Berhad Group Managing Director, Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said up to 23 May 2021, PLS’s high-tech plant has completed fill & finish manufacturing a total of 1,889,800 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 doses.

“From the total completed doses, the EU certified plant has rolled out a total of 290,480 doses to the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) on 11 May 202 which was from the 200L of bulk vaccine received in February for process validation.

“320,000 doses are awaiting approval from the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (NPRA) before it is ready to be distributed and administered for use of *Rakyat*. This stringent process for every batch of vaccine production is required for an approval called Lot Release by the NPRA. Whilst 319,320 doses in the process of delivery.

“Meanwhile the remaining 960,000 doses are undergoing 12 quality control tests before the Lot Release process for NPRA approval which is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

“And the plant is expected to fill and finish 720,000 doses which it has carried out since last Sunday and to be completed by 31 May 2021, then will undergo through 12 quality control tests. Accumulatively, PLS will have 2,609,800 doses of vaccine by end of May 2021,” he said.

In tandem, Pharmaniaga has also received 1 million doses of finished vaccine from Sinovac in Beijing, China which has been approved its Lot Release by the NPRA. Altogether, the combination of finished vaccine from China as well as filled and finished finish vaccine by PLS has reached a total of more than 3.6 million in May alone.

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Whereas in June, PLS is expecting to complete another 2 million doses of fill and finish vaccine, as well as receive 3 million doses of finished vaccine from Sinovac in China. Thus, the total number of doses for June is expected to reach 5 million.

In the meantime, Datuk Zulkarnain said Pharmaniaga is awaiting approval by the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) for the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 3 to 17 years and manufacturing of 2 doses per vial before submitting it to NPRA for variation process. The production capacity is expected to increase by 4 million per month once the 2 doses per vial is approved.

“We expect it will take about 2-3 weeks of evaluation upon submission to NPRA, followed by running another stability test for 2 doses per vial. All these requirements are standards practice in the vaccine industry to ensure the vaccine is safe prior to distribution to the public.

“Nevertheless, looking at the critical current COVID-19 situation in Malaysia, we have proposed to the Government that we supply both finished vaccine as well as filled and finished vaccine in order to help the Government expedite the completion of NIP and at the same time review our contract obligation, thus shortened the supply period.

“Upon completion our obligation to the Government, we can start offering Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine to the private sector,” he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain added that Pharmaniaga intends to import 10 million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 finished vaccine from China.

“Taking into consideration the current geopolitics and supply issues around the world, the supply of vaccines is unpredictable and there could be possibility of vaccine supply shortage in Malaysia if this happens.

“World Health Organisation is expected to approve Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine very soon and we foresee that once this happens, the global demand for Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine will spike and we may not be able to obtain it easily like now. Thus, we plan to place the order now before that occurs,” he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain noted the circulation of baseless and malicious allegations on Pharmaniaga and the procurement as well as fill and finish manufacturing of the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccines that have been circulating on social media and text messaging platforms.

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“We are very disappointed with the irresponsible actions by certain quarters who created slanders not only towards Pharmaniaga, but also the Government and JKJAV (Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee) who have worked tirelessly in the war against Covid-19 in this country.

“The rakyat do not need all these rumour mongers who clearly wanted to create chaos and unrest, causing mistrust and divisions amongst ourselves, thus jeopardise the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme. In a critical period like now, we need to be united and stay objective in our fight against the pandemic.

“We at Pharmaniaga are not intimidated and have lodged police reports, so that official investigations can be conducted and bring the unscrupulous parties who spread these hateful messages to justice. As the nation continues to face the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain steadfast and committed to meet the healthcare requirements and vaccine supply for the *Rakyat*,” he said.

He added that an informative and educational video on the fill and finish manufacturing of the vaccine at PLS has also been released on the company’s official YouTube account for public viewing to dispel any misperception on the whole process.

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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About Pharmaniaga Berhad

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad Group of Companies, which together with the 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.

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