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**PHARMANIAGA LAUNCHES MALAYSIA'S FIRST
LOCALLY OWNED BIOPHARMACEUTICAL PLANT TO
STRENGTHEN MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN**

Key highlights:

- *First locally owned biopharmaceutical plant in Malaysia*
- *Capable to produce up to 30 million doses of insulin annually*
- *Supporting Malaysia's National Vaccine Development Roadmap*

PUCHONG, 19 September 2024 – Malaysia is set to achieve a significant milestone in healthcare with the production of locally manufactured human insulin, biosimilar and vaccines, following the launch of the country's first locally owned biopharmaceutical plant by Pharmaniaga Berhad, officiated by Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Minister of Defence, today.

This plant plays a pivotal role in Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera's (LTAT) investment strategy, in line with the Ministry of Finance's GEAR-uP initiative under the Ekonomi Madani framework. As a major shareholder of Pharmaniaga through Boustead Holdings Berhad, LTAT is committed to elevate Malaysia's pharmaceutical value creation by strengthening its capacity to produce local biopharmaceutical products.

Strategically located in Puchong, this state-of-the-art plant is set to play an important part in strengthening Malaysia's healthcare sector by reducing dependence on imported biopharmaceuticals, such as insulin and vaccines.

Pharmaniaga Managing Director Zulkifli Jafar highlighted the importance of the plant, stating, "The launch of Malaysia's first locally owned biopharmaceutical

plant is a proud moment for us. This facility is not just about ensuring a steady supply of critical medicines; it is about securing the future of Malaysia's medicine supplies.

“By building local capabilities, we aim to help the Government to reduce the nation's dependency on imports, particularly for critical items such as insulin and vaccines, foster a more resilient healthcare system and increase the public's accessibility to medicines.”

He further emphasised the growing demand for insulin, noting, “With 4.4 million Malaysians currently living with diabetes and the number projected to rise to 5.1 million by 2030, the demand for insulin will continue to increase. Producing insulin locally ensures long-term supply security, and this plant will be pivotal in meeting the growing needs of diabetic patients in Malaysia.”

The biopharmaceutical facility is now fully constructed and undergoing simulation procedures to prepare for the manufacturing of process validation batches, as well as obtaining approval from the relevant regulatory authorities.

Pharmaniaga Chairman Izaddeen Daud remarked, "This plant stands as a cornerstone of Malaysia's healthcare future, marking the nation's transition toward self-sufficiency in biopharmaceuticals. It is more than just a facility – it represents a critical investment in building local expertise, reducing reliance on imports, and ensuring uninterrupted access to life-saving medicines.

"Supporting the Government's healthcare requirements has always been embedded in Pharmaniaga's DNA, and by establishing this plant, we are not only addressing current healthcare challenges but also preparing for the demands of tomorrow. This is a moment of immense national pride, positioning Malaysia as a future leader in the global biopharmaceutical arena, while enhancing the resilience of our healthcare system."

Certified by the European Union Good Manufacturing Practice (EU GMP), the

plant is capable of producing up to 30 million doses of human insulin annually, exceeding Malaysia's current demand of approximately 25 million doses per year. In addition to insulin, the plant will eventually produce other critical biopharmaceuticals, including other vaccines and biosimilars, further contributing to national healthcare resilience.

Apart from Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, the auspicious launch of the plant was also graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, including the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Dato' Mohammad Yusof Apdal; LTAT Chairman, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azizan Ariffin RMAF (Retired); LTAT Chief Executive, Mohammad Ashraf Md. Radzi; and Boustead Holdings Berhad Chairman, Tan Sri Abu Bakar Haji Abdullah.

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About Pharmaniaga Berhad

Pharmaniaga is the pharmaceutical arm of Boustead Holdings Berhad Group of Companies, which together with the Armed Forces Fund Board, are the substantial shareholders of the Company. Listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, Pharmaniaga's core businesses are generic pharmaceuticals manufacturing; research and development; marketing and sales; warehousing and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical products. With a vision to be the premier Malaysian pharmaceutical company, its operations are strengthened by six manufacturing plants, as well as extensive logistics and distribution network in Malaysia and Indonesia. Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceutical industry. For more information, please visit <https://pharmaniaga.com/>

Issued by Imej Jiwa Sdn Bhd on behalf of Pharmaniaga Berhad

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