

10 new projects under healthcare NKEA to bag RM1.09bil investments


BUSINESS NEWS


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PUTRAJAYA: Ten new projects announced by the Health Ministry today under the Healthcare National Key Economic Area (NKEA) will bag RM1.09bil in investments.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam said the projects are also expected to rake in RM673.9mil in Gross National Income (GNI) and create an additional 1,219 jobs by 2020. "The ten new projects cover primarily two entry point projects (EPP) clusters under the Healthcare NKEA, namely, Malaysian Pharmaceuticals and Renal Products," he said at the NKEA Healthcare progress update here today.

Also present were Health Ministry Secretary General Datuk Farida Mohd Ali and the Director General of Health, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Under Malaysian Pharmaceuticals, Dr Subramaniam said four companies planned to manufacture respiratory products, namely, Biocare (Metered Dose Inhalers (MDI) with 3M technology from the US), a joint venture between [Chemical Company of Malaysia](#)  Bhd (CCM) and Cipla of India (for respiratory products), Impian Eksekutif Sdn Bhd (complete range of respiratory products such as MDI and Nasal Sprays) and Kotra Pharma (production of MDI).

He added that in other pharmaceutical ventures, French multinational Pharmaceutical company Servier, will work with Kotra Pharma to manufacture patented drugs such as Diamicron MR60 and Vastarel MR 35 mg, with AFT Pharmaceuticals working alongside local manufacturer [Hovid Bhd](#)  to produce a range of orphan drugs to treat rare diseases.

Besides that, he said AJ Biologics through an investment by the Al Jomaih Group of Saudi Arabia, plans to set up a vaccine formulations facility to manufacture a range of vaccines for the supply of local and global markets.

On Renal Products, Dr Subramaniam said three companies had come forward.

Fresenius Medical Care will manufacture quality haemodialysis and quality haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis fluids in Malaysia.

Lucenia (M) Sdn Bhd will manufacture Intelligent Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) cyclers, designed for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patients, which will be packaged together as a home treatment programme.

Pahang Medical Device will produce dialysis filters with a long term plan to manufacture dialyzers.

"We expect the products to hit the market in two to three years," he added.

Dr Subramaniam said the strategic collaboration between local and global industry players in niche areas of the healthcare industry will cater to the local market and help slash healthcare costs in the country.

"In the long term, it will help us reduce costs as the products are manufactured locally. The government spends about RM3bil every year to purchase drugs (medicine)," he added.

He said the government is looking at buying a certain percentage of products from the companies investing under the Healthcare NKEA, and this will be decided at a later stage.

Meanwhile, Dr Subramaniam said the ministry has started to evaluate a number of projects to be announced early next year.

"The pipeline for 2014 remains positive. The ministry and relevant agencies under the guidance of the NKEA Healthcare Steering Committee have been working hard to ensure a more conducive environment for the growth of the industry," he added.

This year, the Health Ministry announced 15 projects with investments of almost RM1.5bil.

A total of 37 projects have been announced under the Healthcare NKEA since the inception of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) in 2010.

It is expected to bring in an expected GNI of RM6.43bil by 2020, creating 26,665 jobs and attracting investments of up to RM4.86bil. - Bernama

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