

MALACCA: Health Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Latiff Ahmad launched a new liquid pharmaceutical plant of Xepa-Soul Pattinson (M) Sdn Bhd during his first official working visit here recently.

The opening marked the extension of Xepa-Soul Pattinson's off-patent plant that has been in operation here since 1994.

The new plant in Cheng will see manufacturing space increase to 180,000 square feet from 70,000 square feet previously.

Dr Latiff commended the company for the expansion, saying there was huge potential in the healthcare industry for Xepa to profit from.

"Xepa's proactive approach in expanding and testing foreign markets will pay off when Afta (Asean Free Trade Area) is implemented in 2010," he said.

The RM26mil plant comprises production facilities, monitoring systems and comprehensive training facilities for staff.

Executive director Goh Ser Heng said the company was celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and as a veteran healthcare provider, held a firm belief in investing in current technologies and facilities.

"The market and medical profession likes our idea of world-class medicines at affordable prices.

"Xepa's expansion in pharmaceutical liquids is set to meet increasing demand and forge ahead as a market leader in cough mixtures and eye drops," he said.

Goh said that brands like the Sedilix cough mixture, Covastin cholesterol lowering agent and Zynor anti-hypertensive were market leaders well known to patients and practitioners.

The company exports its healthcare products to more than a dozen countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.