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MOKHZANI MAHATHIR, NOW LARGEST SHAREHOLDER OF HOSPITAL PANTAI

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Encik Mokhzani Mahathir, executive chairman and chief executive officer of Tongkah Holdings bhd, will acquire 22.275 million shares or 35.53 percent of Hospital Pantai Bhd (HPB) from Berjaya Group Bhd at RM13.75 per share or a total of RM306.3 million, it was announced today.

Under the country's code on takeovers and mergers, Mokhzani, who currently holds about 21 percent of HPB of which he is also deputy chairman, is obliged to make a mandatory general offer for the remaining shares of HPB on terms which were no less favourable than the just concluded deal.

With the latest deal, Mokhzani will hold about 56.53 percent of HPB, making him the largest shareholder. HPB, a healthcare firm, was listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange on Jan 25, 1990.

BGroup said in a statement that the disposal price of RM13.75 represented a premium of 7.42 percent over the weighted average price of RM12.80 and a premium of 2.61 percent over the closing price of RM13.40 on Feb 27.

Berjaya Leisure Bhd, a subsidiary of BGroup, is to sell 19.983 million ordinary shares in HPB representing 31.87 percent of the latter's issued and paid up capital to Mokhzani.

In addition, he will buy a further 2.292 million shares in HPB representing about 3.65 percent of the latter's equity from Berjaya General Insurance Sdn Bhd and Prime Credit Leasing Sdn Bhd, both subsidiaries of Berjaya Capital Bhd, which in turn is a subsidiary of BGroup.

BGroup said it would place for sale RM11.678 million nominal amount of 5.0 percent irredeemable convertible unsecured loan stocks (ICULS) to Krestrel Securities Sdn Bhd at RM4.38 per ICULS totalling RM51.15 million.

All in all, the Berjaya Group of companies will realise RM357.4 million in cash and gross extraordinary gain at company levels of about RM162.1 million.

BGroup said since it took control of HPB about 20 months ago, the company's market capitalisation had risen four-fold to about RM850 million.

During the period, HPB also took a 20 percent stake in Parkway Holdings Ltd, a major healthcare group in Singapore. It said the investment was made at S\$4.10 per share and Parkway shares are trading around S\$6.

BGroup also said it initiated the re-development of a two hectare plot adjoining HPB's flagship hospital, Hospital Pantai, in Bt Pantai. --

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