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Pantai aims to be more focused player

PANTAI Holdings Bhd will focus on expanding and reviewing local healthcare industry trends to ensure that it emerges as a more focused player while maintaining interest in a diverse range of other investments.

The company needs a re-look at the industry if it is to be among the major players as it is not a recession-proof business, says executive chairman Mokhzani Mahathir in the company's annual report.

Pantai Holdings, in its attempts to be the recognised dealer in the private healthcare industry, has also upgraded its services and facilities to ensure optimum requirements are met.

This includes forging strategic alliances with suitable industry partners to bring in new technology to its hospitals.

Some of its current projects include a comprehensive telemedicine unit which will be part of Pantai Medical Centre's new wing, to be completed by end-2000.

Mokhzani says the telemedicine unit will allow the hospital's specialists to assist in diagnosing treatment through the exchange of medical data from remote locations.

This technology will enable specialists to seek second opinions from a larger pool of specialists within the group.

The telemedicine unit will also function from Pantai Holdings' other branch hospitals in Klang, Cheras, Penang, Ipoh and Malacca.

Other facilities planned for the new wing are a mother and child centre, an integrated rehabilitation centre and a well-women centre.

Reviewing the group's activities last year, Mokhzani says Pantai Holdings has widened its scope of activities with the acquisition of Tongkah Medinvest, HMO Pacific Sdn Bhd and Hospital Pantai Ayer Keroh.

Tongkah Medinvest is involved in the provision of healthcare support services such as facilities and biomedical engineering management, clinical waste management, cleansing, laundry and linen services.

The group has also increased its stake in Premier Carrier Sdn Bhd to 100 per cent from 65 per cent previously.

Premier Carrier provides basic pathology laboratory testing services.

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