

20 OCT 2000

PMCare-MEDICAL

PMCare IN TARGET TO ACHIEVE 200,000 MEMBERS BY YEAR END

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Pantai Medicare Sdn Bhd (PMCare), a member of the Pantai Group of Companies, is in target to achieve its 200,000 members under its Health Maintenance Organisation (HMO) service by year end.

Pantai Holdings Bhd chief executive officer Mokhzani Mahathir said the company is currently in advanced negotiations with some 10 companies in engaging its service.

"We are looking at getting some 1,000 new members each month for next year," he told reporters after the signing ceremony between Telekom Malaysia Bhd and PMCare, here today.

Currently, PMCare manages a total of 180,000 members from over 100 corporations under the health maintenance service including its newest and biggest client, Telekom.

Touching on the health management industry, Mokhzani noted a growing trend among companies engaging such services as they look for a more efficient and cheaper method of managing the healthcare of their employees.

He said PMCare, formerly known as HMO, is gaining grounds after facing difficulties in the early stages under the previous management.

"We have the expertise base of handling 155,000 members so far. Although we cannot say our service is perfect, we are continuously improving it in meeting clients requirements," he added.

PMCare has a panel of 1,400 general practitioners' clinics nationwide and also a network of secondary and tertiary care services which include most private specialist clinics, private hospitals and all government hospitals.

Meanwhile Telekom chief operating officer Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Daud said the company will save about five percent from its average RM22 million a year in medical expenditure through the arrangement with PMCare.

"With this outsourcing of healthcare management, we will be able to streamline our activities and focus on our core services which is in telecommunications," he added.

Currently, Telekom has a group of 90 personnel to manage the health services of its 25,000 employees. -- BERNAMA

MOT SD