

Pantai looks to promising year

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Loss due to provision for dimunition of investments

KUALA LUMPUR: Pantai Holdings Bhd which incurred a net loss of RM168.1 million for the year ended June 30, 2001 as a result of provision for dimunition of investments in public quoted securities, expects an "exciting and promising" year ahead.

Disclosing this in his latest annual statement, chairman Datuk Dr Abdul Aziz Mahmood said the losses are not expected to recur in the current year ending June 30, 2002.

This is because the company's core activity of hospital services and healthcare support is expected to remain profitable as necessary actions have been taken to ensure that the target results are achieved, he added.

Among them are the introduction of new services, expansion of present services, addressing operational risks and enhancing emphasis on human resources development and marketing.

The chairman said the company is also gearing towards attracting foreign patients from neighbouring countries in answer to the government's call to promote health tourism.

Abdul Aziz also said the entry of Fomema Sdn Bhd into the company is a further boost to the core activity and is expected to con-

tribute favourably to future results, besides providing synergies to existing businesses.

Fomema has been given a 15-year concession by the government to supervise and monitor the health of foreign workers seeking employment in the country.

The company, he added, is also looking forward to the early completion of the corporate proposals involving a three-for-one bonus, a one-for-one renounceable rights issue of irredeemable convertible unsecured loan stocks, an issue of KM150 million nominal value of five-year 5% redeemable unsecured loan stocks and the acquisition of three companies for RM304 million to be paid by an issue of 9297 million new shares at RM3.27 apiece. The three companies are Anjur Dinamik Sdn Bhd, Pengkalan Usaha (M) Sdn Bhd and Healthpac Industries Sdn Bhd.

Abdul Aziz said the purchase of the three companies would allow Pantai to be involved in a new business supervision and monitoring services of the state of health of foreign workers seeking employment in Malaysia through Fomema.

The company, he added, has also strengthened its position in the northern

The major contributor to healthcare support, Abdul Aziz said, came from Pantai Medivest Sdn Bhd and Pantai Medicare.

The net losses were due mainly to provisions for investment in Tongkah Holdings Bhd which were written down as it was no longer considered a strategic investment.

In the year under review, Pantai reduced its interest in Tongkah to 14.86% from 16.06% previously. As a result, it no longer had representation on the board of Tongkah following the resignation of Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir and Yeow Kheng Chew.

The year also saw Pantai expanding and upgrading its services. Pantai Medical Centre in Bnngsar completed the construction of its eight-storey, purpose-built, patient-focused new wings with 270 beds. The new wings are expected to be operational next month.

At Hospital Ayer Kechil in Malacca, a newly constructed wing, which is expected to be operational on Nov 15, will provide an additional 92 beds.

Hospital Pantai Mutiara in Penang also expanded its services to include radiotherapy and oncology services, day surgery, dialysis centre and a nursing school.

region with the acquisition of an additional 30% stake in Syarikat Tunas Pantai Sdn Bhd, raising its interest to 75%. Syarikat Tunas owns and operates Hospital Pantai Mutiara, Penang.

Reviewing the company's performance last year, Abdul Aziz said the company suffered a net loss of RM168 million against a net profit of RM6.15 million a year ago.

Turnover, however, had increased to RM325 million from RM223.5 million before.

In terms of turnover breakdown, hospital services contributed 55% while healthcare support services and investments accounted for 44% and 1% respectively.