

Ain Medicare invests extra RM35m to boost production

W-57 1818/03

□ By **SHARIFAHMAHSINAH**

AIN Medicare Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned Bumiputera pharmaceutical company, has invested another RM35 million in its operation to boost production of its intravenous solution as well as for the purpose of diversification of products.

Its chairman Wan Ariff Wan Hamzah said yesterday that this has brought the company's overall investment in the venture to RM70 million.

"Construction of a new plant which is equipped with high bio-technology facilities is in progress.

"When commercially-operated by year-end, the company's capacity of producing intravenous solution will increase to 20 million bottles per year," he said.

Intravenous solution produced by Ain Medicare comes either in plastic bottles or collapsible medibag.

The company's range of products includes peritoneal dialysis solution, haemodialysis solution, haemodialysis powder, irrigation solution and heparin-sodium bovine injection.

"The company's main customer is still hospitals under the Health Ministry," said Wan Ariff when welcoming the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Alias Ali to Ain Medicare plant at the Pengkalan Chepa industrial area.

The plant, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on April 19 1997, remains the only local company which is involved in the venture.

As far as the quality of products is concerned, Wan Ariff said Ain Medicare was awarded the ISO 9001 quality management certificate in 1998. The company was earlier awarded the certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice.

He said Ain Medicare plant was also chosen as a model sterile factory for audition by National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau in 2001.

He added that the company was committed to continue expanding its market beyond the country's border.