

**SPEECH BY**  
**YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI**  
**AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF**  
**NATURAL PRODUCTS, VACCINES AND BIOLOGICALS (9-BIO)**  
**AT ENSTEK, NEGERI SEMBILAN**  
**4 SEPTEMBER 2006**  
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BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH DAN SALAM SEJAHTERA

YB DATO' DR CHUA SOI LEK  
MENTERI KESIHATAN MALAYSIA

YAB DATO' SERI MOHAMAD BIN HASAN  
MENTERI BESAR NEGERI SEMBILAN

YAB DATO' SERI KHIR TOYO  
MENTERI BESAR NEGERI SELANGOR

TUAN-TUAN TERUTAMA, DUTA-DUTA DAN PESURUHJAYA TINGGI

DIF-DIF JEMPUTAN

TUAN-TUAN DAN PUAN-PUAN SEKELIAN

1. ALHAMDULILLAH, BERSYUKUR KITA KEHADRAT ALLAH S.W.T. KERANA DENGAN LIMPAH, KURNIA DAN IZIN-NYA, MAKA DAPAT KITA BERKUMPUL PADA PAGI YANG BERBAHAGIA INI UNTUK MERAIKAN MAJLIS PECAH TANAH "NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL PRODUCTS, VACCINES AND BIOLOGICALS", ATAU SINGKATANNYA "9-BIO". MAJLIS PECAH TANAH INI BEGITU BERMAKNA BAGI NEGARA, KERANA IA MELAMBANGKAN USAHA BESAR KERAJAAN UNTUK MEMPERKUKUHKAN LAGI ASAS SAINS DAN KESIHATAN DI MALAYSIA, DALAM KITA MELAKSANAKAN MISI NASIONAL KE ARAH MENCAPAI WAWASAN 2020.

2. SAYA INGIN MENGUCAPKAN SYABAS DAN TAHNIAH KEPADA DATO' DR CHUA SOI LEK DAN SELURUH WARGA KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN DI ATAS KOMITMEN PADU MEREKA MELAKSANAKAN PROJEK NASIONAL INI. INSTITUT "9-BIO" INI BERTUJUAN UNTUK MENYUMBANG KEPADA USAHA PEMBINAAN SEMULA KAPASITI NEGARA UNTUK MENGHASILKAN VAKSIN SERTA MENJAMIN KESELAMATAN VAKSIN ("VACCINE SECURITY") BAGI TANAHAIR. VISI UNTUK MENGHASILKAN VAKSIN MALAYSIA BEGITU PENTING BUKAN HANYA BAGI TUJUAN PEMBANGUNAN INDUSTRI BIOTEKNOLOGI DAN SAINS HAYAT, MALAH IANYA BEGITU KRITIKAL KEPADA USAHA MENINGKATKAN KESIHATAN AWAM DI DALAM NEGARA.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

3. IMMUNISATION IS STILL THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PREVENTING CHILDHOOD MORTALITY CAUSED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN THE SUPPLY OF VACCINES GLOBALLY, PARTICULARLY FOR DISEASES PREVALENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. VACCINES AGAINST DISEASES WHICH ARE PARTICULAR TO OUR REGION ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED COMMERCIALY UNATTRACTIVE. AS A RESULT, THEIR DEVELOPMENT HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED, OR AT BEST, ONLY MARGINALLY CONSIDERED BY THE LARGE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. THIS LEADS TO AN ACUTE LACK OF ACCESS TO VACCINES IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, AS MANY VACCINES ARE BEING MARKETED AT PRICES LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES CAN ILL AFFORD.

4. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE FOR MALAYSIA TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR VACCINE SUFFICIENCY AND SECURITY TO AVOID HEALTH CRISES AMONG THE RAKYAT. THESE STRATEGIES NOT ONLY ENCOMPASS PRODUCTION, BUT ALSO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO NEW VACCINES FOR DISEASES PREVALENT IN OUR REGION. SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT, VACCINE PROGRAMMES ARE CRUCIAL NOT ONLY FOR GENERAL WELL-BEING, BUT ALSO FOR MALAYSIA'S LARGER ROLE IN ISSUES OF HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

5. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE FORMATION OF 9-BIO WILL ADDRESS SOME OF THESE ISSUES. THE FORMATION OF 9-BIO IS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S AIM OF ACCELERATING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW AS WELL AS UNDER-UTILISED VACCINES. I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT ONE OF THE W.H.O.'S GOALS IS TO HELP MAKE AVAILABLE VACCINE-MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKETS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THIS IS CRITICAL TO MITIGATE SHORTAGE OF VACCINES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS SUPPORT THE PREPAREDNESS PLANS AGAINST NEW AND EMERGING DISEASES.

6. THE 9-BIO INITIATIVE COMES AT A TIME OF EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF LIFE SCIENCES. THE WORLD IS IN THE MIDST OF A REVOLUTION IN VACCINE, DIAGNOSTIC AND DRUG DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IS YIELDING MANY NEW APPROACHES TO DISEASE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

7. ONE OF THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF 9-BIO WILL BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF 'HALAL VACCINES', OR VACCINES WHICH ADHERE TO INGREDIENTS AND PROCESSES THAT ARE IN LINE WITH THE RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY. THIS IS CURRENTLY AN UNDER-APPRECIATED APPROACH TO THINKING ABOUT HEALTH AND MEDICAL NEEDS. WHERE POSSIBLE, THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE HEALTH-RELATED PRODUCTS THAT COMPLY WITH A COMMUNITY'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. THE O.I.C. COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN VERY RECEPTIVE TO THIS IDEA, AND I HOPE TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF MANY PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES, OR EVEN WITH MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, TO FULFIL THE NEED FOR HALAL VACCINES AROUND THE WORLD.

8. PART OF 9-BIO'S STRATEGIC INTENT IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART PARTNERSHIPS. THEREFORE, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT TODAY, FIVE MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WILL BE SIGNED BY 9-BIO WITH KEY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS GLAXOSMITHKLINE, A LEADING GLOBAL VACCINE MANUFACTURER. THE CENTRE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING FROM CUBA IS ALSO HERE AS WELL; THEY INTEND TO PARTNER WITH A MALAYSIAN COMPANY, EMERGENT, TO JOINTLY DEVELOP VACCINES. IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF GLOBALISATION, GOOD PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRUCIAL IN ANY ENDEAVOUR, PARTICULARLY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. I WISH THESE PARTNERSHIPS EVERY SUCCESS.

9. I LOOK FORWARD TO 2008 WHEN THIS INSTITUTE IS COMPLETED AND FULLY OPERATIONAL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INITIAL FOCUS ON VACCINES WILL EXPAND TO INCLUDE HERBAL MEDICINES DERIVED FROM MALAYSIA'S RICH BIODIVERSITY. IN THE MEANTIME, I HOPE OTHER PLAYERS IN THE MALAYSIAN LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY WILL ACCELERATE THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE NATION'S WEALTH AND WELL-BEING. MY GOVERNMENT WILL BE UNVEILING A SET OF BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND I HOPE THAT THESE INITIATIVES WILL ENCOURAGE ALL PLAYERS TO ANSWER THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VIBRANT, COMPETITIVE AND INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY. MAY ALLAH S.W.T. BLESS AND GUIDE US IN OUR ENDEAVOURS TOWARDS THE CREATION OF VALUE, THE BIRTH OF MANY COMPANIES, THE RISE OF INVESTMENTS, THE CREATION OF JOBS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

10. ON THAT NOTE, AND WITH THE RECITATION OF BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO LAUNCH THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF 9-BIO, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL PRODUCTS, VACCINES AND BIOLOGICALS.

THANK YOU.