

Medical device industry expected to grow further

By **TEH ATHIRA YUSOF**
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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's medical device industry is surging ahead, contributing RM1.8bil annually to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and creating over 130,000 high-skilled jobs, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

He said the sector's exports jumped 31% in 2024 to RM37bil, buoyed by RM20bil in domestic and foreign investments between 2021 and 2024 – a sign of Malaysia's growing stature as Asean's emerging MedTech hub.

"Malaysia's medical device industry continues to demonstrate remarkable growth and resilience. In 2024 alone, medical device exports surged by 31%, reaching RM37bil.

"Between 2021 and 2024, the sector attracted RM20bil in domestic and foreign investments," he said during the pre-launch of the International Medical Device Exhibition and Conference (IMDEC) 2026 and the MedTechPreneur 1.0 Programme here yesterday.

Dzulkefly also announced the biennial event, IMDEC 2026, will be held from Aug 26-28 next year with the theme "Revolutionising Medical Technology: Powering Tomorrow's Era of Healthcare" at the KL Convention Centre.



He said the previous IMDEC held in 2024 recorded RM550mil in investments, featured 89 exhibitors and showcased 245 innovations.

"IMDEC 2026 will once again serve as a premier global platform for knowledge exchange, innovation and collaboration," he added.

IMDEC 2025 is also organised in partnership with local and international stakeholders including Universiti Malaya, Clinical Research Malaysia and the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council.

Dzulkefly said these partner-

ships embody Malaysia's strategic ambition to become the MedTech hub of Asean, catalysing innovation and investment while strengthening regional collaboration.

He also said the Medical Device Authority (MDA) continues to exemplify progressive and effective regulatory leadership.

Through the Regulatory Reliance Programme with China and Singapore, Dzulkefly said devices approved by MDA can now be registered through an abridged pathway in those countries, and vice versa.

Revolutionary:
Dzulkefly (left) and Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick (third from right) at the official launch of IMDEC 2026 and MedTechPreneur 1.0.
— AZHAR MAHFOF/
The Star

"This milestone signifies a new era of regional collaboration and mutual recognition, reducing duplication and accelerating market access across borders," he added.

The MDA has also streamlined approval processes for medical devices based on classifications, Dzulkefly highlighted.

For Class A devices, the approval will take 14 days from 30 days, and 21 days for Classes B, C and D instead of 90 days.

"This demonstrates our commitment to efficiency, transparency and innovation in public ser-

vice. It forms part of a broader transformation toward a more agile, responsive and digitally enabled health governance system," he added.

Medical devices are classified as Class A (low risk), Class B (low to moderate risk), Class C (moderate to high risk) and Class D (highest risk).

Meanwhile, Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick said the MedTechPreneur 1.0 programme was a platform that will open opportunities for local entrepreneurs to venture into the medical device industry.

"Through this industry, the local entrepreneurs are able to position themselves within the global value chain and not merely as manufacturers, but as creators of future medical technologies," he said in his speech at the pre-launch of the programme.

Ewon added that through the MedTechPreneur 1.0 programme, more entrepreneurs will likely emerge in the medical device sector, paving new pathways for local small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) to enhance production capacity, technological expertise and access to international markets.

"The ministry and its agencies remain committed to supporting and assisting entrepreneurs nurtured by the Medical Device Authority," he added.

Expand access to influenza vaccine, urges pharmacists society

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) has proposed that access to the influenza vaccine be expanded nationwide and trained pharmacists be given full authority to implement community vaccination programmes.

It said the move is to curb the increase in infection cases in schools and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

Its president Prof Amrahi Buang said the initiative is important to protect high-risk groups, maintain continuity of teaching in schools and ensure the health system remains resilient in the face of a surge in infectious disease cases.

"We could ease pressure on our emergency departments while protecting those most at risk.

"By fully authorising trained pharmacists as vaccination providers, working alongside our medical and nursing colleagues, and routing mild influenza-like illness to primary care, we add capacity where Malaysians live and work, without compromising safety."

MPS recommended that trained community pharmacists be given continued authorisation to administer adult vaccines, in accordance with the standards and SOPs of the Health Ministry.

It also recommended the implementation of a test-to-treat primary care initiative, as well as the

issuance of standard school circulars on symptom screening, wearing of face masks when symptomatic, ventilation and a 24-hour fever-free period before returning to school.

It said such measures are part of a broader strategy of long-term prevention.

"More vaccination points in the community, consistent school protections and one safety standard for anyone who vaccinates. These are practical steps we could maintain beyond this wave so that families get timely protection and hospitals stay available for emergencies," he said.

According to MPS, these measures have been implemented in several regional countries.

For example, Singapore launched an influenza vaccination initiative by community pharmacists in 2024, and as of July more than 1,200 individuals have received the vaccine at retail pharmacies.

In the Philippines, pharmacists are legally authorised to administer adult vaccines, including influenza and pneumococcal, under the Philippine Pharmacy Act (RA 10918).

MPS also urged the government to publish weekly dashboards on vaccination rates, influenza clusters and severe acute respiratory infections to assist in the effective distribution of public information and management of health resources.

– Bernama

Murid Tahun 5 maut disyaki influenza

Meninggal dunia di klinik kesihatan, kes disiasat KKM

Oleh NORHASPIDA YATIM
 KUALA TERENGGANU

Seorang murid Tahun Lima Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Durian Mas, Al-Muktafi Billah Shah (AMBS) di Dungun meninggal dunia awal pagi Rabu dipercayai akibat jangkitan influenza.

Mangsa, Muhammad Amsyar Farhan Mohd Noor, 11, yang juga anak bongsu daripada dua beradik disahkan meninggal dunia pada jam 1.40 pagi di Klinik Kesihatan Al-Muktafi Billah Shah (AMBS).

Ibunya, Normala Mohd Nor, 42, berkata, anaknya mula menunjukkan tanda-tanda tidak sihat pada pagi Selasa sebelum dibawa ke sebuah klinik swasta di Paka untuk mendapatkan rawatan.

"Pagi Selasa lalu anak saya demam, tetapi suhu badannya tidak terlalu tinggi. Saya bawa ke klinik swasta di Paka kira-kira jam 12.30 tengah hari.

"Doktor buat ujian swab dan beritahu dia dijangkiti influenza sebelum memberi ubat antivirus,"

katanya ketika ditemui di Jabatan Perubatan Forensik Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah (HSNZ) di sini pada Rabu.

Menurut Normala, keadaan anaknya mula merosot pada malam hari selepas mengambil ubat seperti diarahkan doktor.

"Malam itu dia muntah banyak kali tetapi masih boleh makan. Lepas muntah kali ketiga, badannya tiba-tiba kejang dan saya terus bawa ke Klinik Kesihatan AMBS sekitar jam 11 malam.

"Masa itu suhu badannya tidak begitu panas dan dia masih boleh bercakap seperti biasa dengan ayahnya. Tapi, sekitar jam 1.40 pagi, doktor maklumkan anak saya sudah meninggal dunia," katanya sebak.

Normala berkata, jenazah pada awalnya dijangka dikebumikan jam 10 pagi Rabu namun ditangguhkan kerana kes berkenaan perlu dirujuk kepada Kementerian Kesihatan untuk siasatan lanjut.

"Saya terpaksa bawa anak dari Dungun ke HSNZ untuk proses bedah siasat. Jenazah dikebumikan selepas solat Maghrib di Tanah Perkuburan Islam AMBS," katanya.

Jelas Normala, anaknya sebelum ini berada dalam keadaan sihat dan tidak pernah menghidap sebarang penyakit kronik.

Sementara itu, abang mangsa, Muhammad Aniq Farhan Mohd Noor,



Normala menunjukkan gambar arwah Muhammad Amsyar Farhan (duduk, kiri) ketika ditemui di HSNZ pada Rabu.

15, yang bersekolah di asrama, dilaporkan tidak mengalami sebarang gejala demam atau influenza.

Sinar Harian masih mendapatkan pengesahan lanjut daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Terengganu (JKNT) berhubung kes berkenaan.

Kluster influenza di NS meningkat

SEREMBAN - Jumlah kluster influenza di Negeri Sembilan menunjukkan peningkatan ketara apabila 10 kluster baharu dilaporkan minggu lalu, berbanding hanya empat kluster pada minggu sebelumnya.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun berkata, sebanyak tujuh kluster dikesan di daerah Seremban dan satu kluster masing-masing dilaporkan di Kuala Pilah, Jelebu dan Rembau.

"Daripada keseluruhan kluster tersebut, sembilan melibatkan institusi pendidikan di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) dan satu kluster dikesan di sebuah tadika swasta.

"Sebanyak 299 kes dilaporkan berbanding 154 kes pada minggu sebelumnya.

"Majoriti kes melibatkan pelajar sekolah serta institusi pendidikan kerajaan dan swasta, termasuk sekolah berasrama," katanya selepas Mesyuarat Exco di Wisma Negeri di sini pada Rabu.

Menurutnya, kebanyakan kes dirawat sebagai pesakit luar dan berada dalam keadaan stabil.

Beliau berkata, Jabatan Kesihatan telah pun melaksanakan langkah kawalan di semua sekolah yang terlibat dan antara tindakan yang diambil termasuk kerja-kerja disinfeksi di bilik darjah, asrama dan surau serta pemberian pendidikan kesihatan kepada pelajar, guru dan ibu bapa.

Selain itu katanya, sebanyak 46 kes denggi direkodkan minggu ini dengan tujuh lokaliti wabak denggi yang masih aktif, namun masih dalam kategori stabil.

"Majoriti wabak dilaporkan di daerah Seremban dan aktiviti kawalan berterusan termasuk pemeriksaan premis, gotong-royong komuniti dan penguatkuasaan di kawasan berisiko masih diteruskan," katanya.

Gagal bawa masuk 974kg sosej import tanpa dokumen sah

Bukit Kayu Hitam: Cu-baan membawa masuk 974 kilogram (kg) pelbagai jenis sosej ke negara ini secara tidak sah gagal apabila dirampas Agensi Kawalan dan Perlindungan Sempadan (AKPS), kelmarin.

Komander AKPS, Senior Asisten Komisioner Mohd Nasaruddin M Nasir berkata, AKPS dengan kerjasama Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melakukan pemeriksaan dan mendapati semua sosej yang dibawa masuk ke negara ini itu didapati tidak mempunyai dokumen pengesahan import yang sah.

Beliau berkata, rampasan dilakukan hasil pemeriksaan rutin sekitar jam 6 petang hingga 7.10 malam



SEBAHAGIAN daripada 974kg sosej yang dirampas kerana tidak mempunyai dokumen pengenalan import sah.

di laluan kenderaan awam (kereta) di Kompleks Imigresen, Kastam, Imigresen dan Keselamatan (ICQS) Bukit Kayu Hitam.

“Pemeriksaan mendapati sebuah kenderaan awam cuba membawa masuk sejumlah besar makanan (sosej) tanpa dokumen kelulusan yang sah serta tidak mematuhi pelabelan mengikut Akta Makanan 1983.

“Jumlah rampasan adalah seberat 974 kilogram dengan anggaran nilai pasaran RM14,000 yang membabitkan 974 kilogram (kg) pelbagai jenis sosej.

“Barang rampasan itu kemudian disimpan di stor sejuk/chiller kesihatan untuk tindakan lanjut oleh

pihak KKM,” katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Mohd Nasaruddin berkata, bagaimanapun tiada individu ditahan dalam kes ini kerana pemiliknya menyerahkan secara sukarela barangan terbabit kepada pihak AKPS.

Beliau berkata, semua barang rampasan akan dilupuskan selepas tempoh 30 hari mengikut tatacara pelupusan yang ditetapkan.

“Sehubungan itu, AKPS menyeru orang ramai supaya sentiasa mematuhi peraturan import makanan dan minuman serta memastikan setiap produk yang dibawa masuk mempunyai dokumen kelulusan dan pelabelan yang sah,” katanya.

Call for stronger child protection systems: Unicef

PETALING JAYA: Unicef Malaysia has sounded the alarm over a worrying surge in school violence, from sexual assaults to brutal beatings with some ending in tragedy.

Unicef Malaysia representative Robert Gess said no child should ever feel unsafe, least of all in a classroom and urged tougher action to stamp out violence, protect victims and make schools the safe havens they're meant to be.

"We commend the swift response of the Malaysian authorities and the support extended to victims, survivors and their families.

"No child should ever feel unsafe, particularly in a place of learning."

He stressed that prevention must be at the heart of all efforts, calling for comprehensive violence-prevention programmes, stronger support for parents and caregivers, and effective reporting and response mechanisms to protect children at home, in school and online.

Gess also warned against sharing videos, images or personal details of children on social media, saying such acts risk deepening trauma and violating children's rights to privacy and protection.

"The mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of survivors, families, peers and educators must be prioritised. Safety and confidentiality during investigations, as well as responsible reporting are essential."

Unicef further highlighted that girls are disproportionately affected by violence, noting that nearly one in three women and girls globally experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime - often driven by harmful gender and social norms that normalise abuse and silence survivors.

"Such violence inflicts devastating and long-lasting harm on children's physical and mental wellbeing and erodes trust in the institutions meant to protect them."

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia deputy director of the Institute of Inclusive Development and Advancement Dr Anuar Ahmad said the nation's education system is facing a critical moment.

"We have to admit that our education system is in distress - this is no longer about minor misbehaviour such as noisy classrooms or unfinished homework. We are now dealing with bullying, sexual assault and even murder. These are serious crimes taking place in schools."

Anuar said parents are increasingly anxious about their children's safety, while many students fear going to school. He urged the government to take immediate and long-term steps to restore public confidence in the education system.

Among the short-term measures, he suggested:

- ➊ **Installing** CCTV cameras in all schools;
- ➋ **Identifying** at-risk parents and students for professional counselling sessions; and
- ➌ **Conducting** safety audits in every school.

For the long term, he proposed:

- ➍ **Empowering** greater parental involvement in schools;
- ➎ **Prioritising** safety, health and character education from primary level;
- ➏ **Ensuring** at least one certified counsellor for every 250 students; and
- ➐ **Enforcing** disciplinary action against education officials who conceal cases of misconduct.

"When misconduct becomes extraordinary, the solutions must also be extraordinary," Anuar stressed. - By KIRTINEE RAMESH

Kakitangan veterinar koma di Vietnam dibawa pulang

Temerloh: Selepas koma hampir sebulan dan dirawat di sebuah pusat perubatan di Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, kakitangan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) Pahang akhirnya dibawa pulang ke tanah air untuk menerima rawatan susulan.

Mohamad Basri Ibrahim, 49, tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) kira-kira 7 malam kelmarin dan terus dibawa ke Hospital Sultan Ahmad Shah (HOSHAS) di Temerloh.

Menyambut kepulangnya, isterinya, Husna

Hamid, 39, bersama ahli keluarga dan kenalan.

Kakak Mohamad Basri, Norainun Ibrahim, 57, berkata, adiknya pulang dengan pesawat komersial dan diiringi dua doktor dari Malaysia yang melakukan pemantauan berterusan sepanjang penerbangan.

"Alhamdulillah, akhirnya adik saya dibawa pulang ke tanah air dan akan terus mendapat rawatan di sini," katanya ketika ditemui di sini, semalam.

Mohamad Basri koma ketika bercuti bersama keluarga di Ho Chi Minh pada

17 September lalu akibat pendarahan dalam kepala.

Dalam pada itu, Husna yang hamil anak pertama selepas 15 tahun mendirikan rumah tangga, bersyukur suaminya dapat dibawa pulang serta berterima kasih kepada Kerajaan Negeri Pahang, Kedutaan Malaysia di Vietnam dan orang ramai yang memberikan sumbangan.

"Alhamdulillah suami saya sudah balik dan harapan saya supaya dia cepat sembuh dan dapat menyambut kelahiran anak sulung kami, dijangka November depan," katanya.



Harian Metro 16/10/2025 MS/13

BASRI yang koma hampir sebulan di Vietnam selamat tiba di KLIA, semalam.

NGOs bemoan lack of funds for animal welfare in Budget 2026

■ BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
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PETALING JAYA: Animal welfare organisations have raised concern over the repeated omission of allocations for stray management and welfare in successive budgets, saying the continued oversight risks undermining efforts to improve public health and safety.

Persatuan Haiwan Terbiar Malaysia president Kalaivanan Ravichandran said the lack of dedicated funding reflects the government's continued under-recognition of animal welfare as a national responsibility.

"Stray animal management and welfare are matters of public health, road safety and community responsibility.

"Every year, NGOs and volunteers shoulder the full burden of rescuing and caring for thousands of strays, often without any government assistance. The absence of a budget allocation once again leaves these efforts unsupported and unsustainable."

He said animal welfare continues to be treated as a secondary issue despite its clear links to disease control, road collisions and disaster response.

"Issues such as rabies control, road crashes involving strays and post-disaster animal rescue are intertwined with public health and safety. As long as animal welfare is viewed purely as an NGO responsibility, Malaysia would continue to face preventable problems."

The association is urging the government to establish an official Animal Welfare Fund under the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry or in collaboration with the Veterinary Services Department.



Kalaivanan said with proper policy support, Malaysia could build a humane and sustainable model for stray management that protects both people and animals. – MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

He said such a fund would provide consistent and transparent support for key programmes, including large-scale trap-neuter-release (TNR) operations, shelter aid, veterinary care and disaster response.

"A formal fund would bring structure, accountability and long-term continuity, something *ad hoc* grants or corporate social responsibility donations cannot achieve," he said.

He added that an annual allocation of between RM20 million and RM30 million would be a practical start for coordinated programmes, such as a Stray Animal Healthcare Fund, shelter

support and an Animal Disaster Response Unit.

"What matters most is that animal welfare finally receives its own line in the federal budget, recognising it as a legitimate public concern."

Before the budget announcement, the association had outlined a seven-point wish list, which included a nationwide TNR programme, a Stray Animal Healthcare Fund, shelter grants for NGOs, an Animal Disaster Response Unit, stronger enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015, regulated feeding stations and a national pet registration system.

Kalaivanan said these measures would not

only protect animals but also improve public health, road safety and disaster preparedness while promoting shared responsibility between citizens and the state.

"Animal welfare reflects a nation's values and compassion. How we treat the most vulnerable shows who we are as a society. With proper policy support, Malaysia could build a humane and sustainable model for stray management that protects both people and animals."

Malaysian Animal Welfare Association founder Mukunnam Sugumaran echoed the concern, saying the omission reflects gaps within the responsible ministry.

"The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, which oversees the Veterinary Services Department, has failed to look at the full ecosystem needs," he said.

"The department has long claimed to be under-resourced, and without a budget allocation, the situation would only worsen. Their ability to investigate cruelty cases and uplift capabilities would remain limited."

He also called for a review of the Act, describing it as outdated and full of loopholes.

"The Act does not even cover the welfare of homeless or stray animals. A new team with real on-ground understanding is needed to draft an effective and compassionate policy."

He added that NGOs and activists should work more closely with authorities to raise awareness and educate younger generations about animal welfare.

"Malaysia should move towards a no-kill policy. If trap-neuter-release-manage is not ideal, then local councils should allocate land to house strays under NGO management, with adoption as a key priority," he said.



AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT

Reports by MARTIN CARVALHO, ARFA YUNUS and BENJAMIN LEE

Budget has misguided priorities, says Dr Wee

MP warns spending plans may shift financial burden onto rakyat

BUDGET 2025 contains misguided priorities where the financial burden was "transferred" to the people, says Ayer Hitam MP Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

He added that the Budget was relying on lower government revenue, with the risk of the people having to shoulder the financial responsibility.

"Because revenue collection is insufficient, what happens is that the burden of the public sector is transferred to consumers and taxpayers."

"Even more worrying is that the government is spending the very little revenue it has under

Budget 2025 on priorities that are somewhat a little misguided," he said, citing the RM400mil investment by Khazanah Nasional Bhd for the restoration of Carcosa Seri Negara and heritage buildings.

He described them as vanity projects whose allocation could have been put to better use, such as education and healthcare.

"This is seen where allocation for vanity projects was given priority at a time when there are doctor shortages at hospitals and public universities struggling due to lack of funds," he said when debating the motion of thanks on Budget 2025.

Dr Wee said that having fiscal responsibility also means that every ringgit spent must bring benefit to the rakyat.

"It must be for strengthening the foundation, not for promoting political agendas or shifting the burden to the rakyat."

"When the previous government introduced transformation programmes, they were rejected in the name of reform," he said.

"Now, what we see is not real reform but 'transfer-kasi', where the government's financial burdens are being transferred to the people through new taxes, charges and hidden subsidy cuts."

He added that the government must not treat government-linked companies and investment companies as its "ATM card" for vanity projects.

On health, he said the increase in allocation for the Health Ministry to RM46.5bil from RM45.3bil last year would not be enough to match the government's plans to increase public healthcare doctor salaries while hiring more new ones.

"Doctors' salaries are to be raised by 8%, with 4,500 new doctors and nearly 1,000



Words of caution: Dr Wee says the Budget was relying on lower government revenue, with the risk of the people having to shoulder the financial responsibility.

nurses to be hired. So it is clear that the RM1.2bil increase in funding will be inadequate," he added.

Dr Wee also said the government's plan to increase the general practitioner's consultation fees ceiling from RM15 to RM30 would burden the people.

"The Health Ministry said the minimum fee remains at RM10, but where can one find a private clinic charging RM10 today?" he added.

On another issue, he called on the Higher Education Ministry to clarify which institutions would be eligible for the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (NHEFC) first-class honours loan repayment exemption.

Dr Wee said it would be unfair if students from private higher education institutions (IPIS) became ineligible for the exemption.

"The government should not penalise students simply because they study at private universities as they, too, are Malaysians who may not have had the opportunity to study at public universities," he said.

He suggested the government set clear quality benchmarks, such as limiting the exemption to the top 10% of each programme, or restricting it to non-profit and fully accredited IPIS.

Earlier, Dr Wee, who is MCA president, thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the continued RM80mil matching grant for Tunika Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT).

He said this was the continuous effort that has been ongoing since the college was first set up in 1969 and subsequently approved by Parliament.