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Call to prioritise Malaysian vaccines to boost industry

SERDANG: Greater priority should be given to local vaccines to boost the industry.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Veterinary Medicine Faculty dean Professor Dr Abdul Rahman Omar said the move would allow the industry to grow and open up opportunities for locals.

“Importing is fine, provided that local technology is not available. (But) in Malaysia, we have the expertise to develop good vaccines and, by right, we should prioritise our own vaccines.”

He said this after the signing of a licensing agreement between UPM and Malaysian Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd (MVP) for genotype match Newcastle disease (ND) vaccine at the university yesterday.

Present were UPM board of

directors chairman Tan Sri Ghauth Jasmon, vice-chancellor Professor Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Zulkifli Idrus, MVP chairman Datuk Dr Mhd Nordin Mohd Nor and executive director Rashidah Ibrahim.

Rahman said some countries had adopted policies where priority was given to local vaccines.

On the genotype match ND vaccine, which was developed after more than five years of research, he said it would be able to stop the outbreak of ND.

ND is a highly contagious disease that causes devastating economic losses to the poultry industry worldwide.

Rahman, who led the project, said at the moment, vaccines were available to control the dis-



Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Veterinary Medicine Faculty dean Professor Dr Abdul Rahman Omar (left) at the signing of a licensing agreement between UPM and Malaysian Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd (MVP) for the genotype match Newcastle disease vaccine at the university in Serdang yesterday. With him are (from second left) vice-chancellor Professor Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Zulkifli Idrus, UPM board of directors chairman Tan Sri Ghauth Jasmon, MVP chairman Datuk Dr Mhd Nordin Mohd Nor and executive director Rashidah Ibrahim. PIC COURTESY OF UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

ease, but unfortunately, the outbreak of the disease was happening in farms in Malaysia and many other parts of the world.

“The immunity provided by the current vaccine is no longer optimum to provide complete protection.

“(And) after intensive research, we have successfully developed a

new generation of vaccine, the genotype match ND vaccine, which is very promising and should be able to stop the outbreak of Newcastle disease in the field,” he said.

He added that the deal with MVP would allow the vaccine to be commercialised and used in Malaysia and other countries.