

Ekuinas eyes healthcare entry

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Ekuinas Nasional Bhd, a government-owned private equity firm, is looking to expand its investments within and beyond the six sectors it has already invested in, singling out healthcare as one sector that the fund may enter into.

“Although we are allowed to invest in any sector except construction and property, we have identified upfront the six

sectors to invest in,” said Ekuinas chief executive officer Abdul Rahman Ahmad to reporters today.

At present Ekuinas is involved six sectors namely fast-moving consumers goods (FMCGs), oil and gas (O&G), services, food and beverage (F&B), education and manufacturing. Speaking at a media briefing after presenting the fund’s FY13 results today, Abdul Rahman singled out healthcare as a sector in the fund’s crosshairs.

“I guess there are a couple of sectors we still haven’t invested in yet one is probably healthcare I think we’ll continue to actually try to do investments in that sector,” said Abdul Rahman, adding however that “our focus has always been to trying to invest in the sectors that we believe we can add value.”



Abdul Rahman Ahmad

Examples of these sectors include “services, for instance, and O&G is where we’ve only invested in one segment in oil and gas namely offshore support vessel, so there are other segments in that sector we can invest in”, added Abdul Rahman.

He added that Ekuinas is commencing preparations for its next company exit, namely ILMU Education Group. “We hope it will be our next (exit) but it will probably be in 2015. The exit strategy is to list the company in Bursa Malaysia. We are also open to a strategic sale as long as it maximises the value and meets the social objective that we are pursuing”, he said.

Ekuinas’ first exit was Konsortium Logistik Bhd (KLB), its first major divestment via a sale of its 61.6% stake in the logistics firm to DRB-Hicom group in October last year. Earlier, during a briefing on Ekuinas’ results, Abdul Rahman commented on the sale, saying: “We are pleased to generate good returns from the investment, not only for ourselves but also for all KLB shareholders and management, as well as help to expand employment throughout Ekuinas’ ownership.”

“More importantly, we are pleased to have found KLB its rightful home as part of DRB-Hicom Group to continue its journey to be the leading integrated logistics company in Malaysia,” he said.

Commenting on investments for 2014, he said that Ekuinas has a number in the pipeline and that “we have our returns to focus on, we have to negotiate the right pricing and see if it is in the right sector that we can help expand.”