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A Formula to Prevent Coronavirus Has Been Requested for Registration to DGIP

JAKARTA – In the midst of the high hope and expectancy on the recovery from the Coronavirus, news came in that the Directorate General of Intellectual Property (DGIP) recently received a patent application for Bromhexine Hydrochloride (BCL) formula which purportedly could prevent this rapidly evolved and contagious virus from penetrating lungs. This formula would act as a receptor blocker to prevent Coronavirus SARS-Cov-2 from latching onto lungs.

The Director of Patent, Integrated Circuit Layout Design and Trade Secret of DGIP, Dede Mia Yusanti, confirmed DGIP has received the submission of the patent application on such formula and a filing date has been assigned.

As cited from DGIP's official website dgip.go.id, she said that each formulation of medicine which differs from the existing formulas can only be administered to human upon receipt of marketing authorization from Indonesian Food and Drugs Agency (BPOM). "The DGIP would only grant a patent to the formula when the patentability is satisfied. However, to be able to administer such formula to human, it is required to assess its efficacy, toxicity, and safety, which fall under the BPOM's authority."

The joint researchers from biotechnology companies PUFF, Nucleus Farma, and Professor Nidom Foundation (PNF) have successfully developed this formula with receptor blocker method to prevent the virus from penetrating lungs.

As quoted from CNN Indonesia, the leader of Research and Vaccine Formulating on Coronavirus Team of PNF, Chairul Anwar Nidom of the University of Airlangga said that the death of Covid-19 patients is caused by the Coronavirus SARS-Cov-2 that penetrates the lungs and further lead to inflammation. Hence, it is important to create a formula to block the receptor. The researcher team has successfully invented BCL formula to pose as the receptor blocker to hinder the virus from latching onto lungs.

The formula consists of 4 (four) ingredients, namely BCL, Guaifenesin, Vegetable Glycerine (VG), and Propylene Glycol (PG). "This formula would hold the ACE2 (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2) receptor in lungs. Aside from the lungs, ACE2 receptor also exists in heart," said Nidom.

The BCL, he further said, has been frequently used as a mucolytic medicine to treat respiratory disorders, especially the one with persistent cough. BCL itself is a result from chemical reaction between Bromhexine and Hydrogen Chloride under a balanced composition. Its form would be in the form of vaporizer, instead of capsule or syrup. Therefore, it would be administered through an aerosol (vaporization) method.

Yusanti affirmed that there is no medicine or vaccine related to Covid-19 that has been requested for patent registration in Indonesia, and there is only an application on formula to prevent the Coronavirus from penetrating lungs exists.

Patent application for pandemic-related medicine and vaccine will be processed under the usual procedure, she said. Each application must comply with the requirement and prevailing procedures, including formality examination, publication, and substantive examination. Nevertheless, the invention would retroactively be protected as of its filing date, even though the patent would only be granted to the invention upon completion of the prevailing procedure.

She further affirmed that Hydroxychloroquine, a medicinal formula which has been claimed to be the cure for Coronavirus, can no longer be patented as Chloroquine has been used for long time and therefore it has become a public domain. The use or manufacture of such formula would not be considered as patent infringement.

For further inquiries on Patent Registration in Indonesia, please feel free to contact Ms. Risti Wulansari at risti.wulansari@kk-advocates.com and Ms. Rizka Khairunnisa at rizka.khairunnisa@kk-advocates.com.
