

# MALAYSIA'S TOP GLOVE MAY ANNOUNCE AN ACQUISITION IN ONE MONTH-CHAIRMAN

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**KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 17):** Malaysia's Top Glove Corporation, the world's largest natural rubber glove maker by capacity, is aiming for more acquisitions and may announce one such deal in a month, its chairman said Tuesday.

"We're very close to a deal that we may announce in one month," Lim Wee Chai said at a news conference.

Top Glove has been building new factories to raise production capacity and has sought to acquire smaller rivals in an ambitious bid to capture 30% global market share from the current level of about 25%. The company currently cranks out as many as 48 billion pieces of gloves annually from 30 factories.

By December 2018, Top Glove aims to operate 31 factories manufacturing up to 59.7 billion pieces of gloves a year. In May, Top Glove announced the acquisition of two plants for a total 39 million ringgit in a deal analysts said will give the company greater access to China.

The company, which expects to sustain a 9.8% margin after tax, aims to produce one billion condom pieces within two years as it diversifies from glove manufacturing, Lim said.