

BIMB INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT BERHAD

BOARD CHARTER

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Board Charter contains broad principles and requirements on the Board's governance in accordance with the principles of good corporate governance as set out in the recommendation and guidelines issued by the relevant regulatory authorities. The Board is expected to be fully committed in promoting and sustaining a strong culture of good corporate governance and uphold high standards of business integrity and professionalism when carrying out their duties and responsibilities as directors of BIMB Investment Management Berhad ("BIMB Invest") in line with ethical values and Islamic principles.

SECTION 2: BOARD COMPOSITION

- 2.1 The Board and the Board Committees must be of a size that promotes effective deliberations, encourages active participation of all directors and allows the work of the various Board Committees to be discharged without giving rise to an over extension of directors that are required to serve on multiple Board Committees.
- 2.2 Clause 77(a) of BIMB Invest's Constitution specifies that the number of directors shall not be less than two (2) and not more than nine (9).
- 2.3 The Board composition shall comply with the following requirements of Group Governance policy and recommendations of the Malaysian Code of Corporate Governance 2021 ("MCCG 2021"):-
 - (a) Majority of the Board members must be independent directors;
 - (b) Have at least one (1) nominee director of Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad ("Bank Islam");
 - (c) Chairman of the Board is preferably an Independent Director and he/she shall not be a member of the Board Committees and Investment Committee;
 - (d) The position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) must be held by different individuals; and
 - (e) Directors who are board members of BIMB Invest and its affiliates must remain in the minority of BIMB Invest's board.
- 2.4 In addition, the Board's composition shall give due regard to the Securities Commission ("SC") Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds which specifies that a director of a management company¹ must not hold office:-
 - (a) as a director of more than one management company at any one time; and

¹ A management company is a company that establishes a fund, issues, offers for subscription, makes an invitation to subscribe for or purchase units of the fund and operates and administers the fund.

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- (b) as a member of an investment committee of a fund operated by another management company.
- 2.5 The Board's composition shall also give due regard to the SC Licensing Handbook which further specifies the requirement for the Board to have at least one (1) director who:-
- (a) has a minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in the licensed regulated activity;
 - (b) holds a Capital Market Services Representative's License ("CMSRL") for the regulated activity; and
 - (c) must be approved by the SC prior to undertaking the function as a licensed director.
- 2.6 The Chairman of Shariah Committee ("SC") attends the Board meeting as a permanent invitee. In addition, SC representatives are also invited as permanent invitee to the Board Audit & Risk Committee ("BARC") meeting. Their attendance at the Board and BARC meetings will facilitate and assist the Board and BARC members when deliberating issues relating to Shariah. Similarly, representatives of the Board shall be invited to the Shariah Committee meeting as a permanent invitee to improve the quality of engagement between the Board and the Shariah Committee.
- 2.7 BIMB Invest encourages diversity from a number of aspects which include skills, knowledge, professional experience, gender and length of service in the Board's composition as it is an important factor that drives a board's effectiveness.

SECTION 3: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Fiduciary Duties of Director

- 3.1.1 Directors of BIMB Invest have the fiduciary duties to ensure that at all times they exercise their powers for a proper purpose and in good faith in the best interest of BIMB Invest. In discharging their duties, the directors must exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence with the knowledge, skill and experience which may reasonably be expected of a director who has the same responsibilities and any additional knowledge that the director in fact has.

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- 3.1.2 Directors who make a business judgment is deemed to meet the above requirements, if the director:-
- (a) makes the business judgment for a proper purpose and in good faith;
 - (b) does not have a material personal interest in the subject matter of the business judgment;
 - (c) is informed about the subject matter of the business judgment to the extent the director reasonably believes to be appropriate under the circumstances; and
 - (d) reasonably believes that the business judgment is in the best interest of BIMB Invest.
- 3.1.3 To enable the directors to discharge their fiduciary duties properly, the directors may be provided with information, professional or expert advice, opinions, reports or statements including financial statements and other financial data prepared or presented by the Management or any independent professional advisor engaged by BIMB Invest.

3.2 Roles & Responsibilities of the Board

- 3.2.1 The Board has the overall responsibility for promoting the sustainable growth and financial soundness of BIMB Invest and for ensuring reasonable standards of fair dealing, without undue influence from any party. This includes a consideration of the long term implications of the Board's decision on BIMB Invest, its stakeholders and the general public.
- 3.2.2 The Terms of Reference stipulates the primary duties and responsibilities of the Board and the conduct of the Board meeting.
- 3.2.3 In general, the Board's key roles and responsibilities include but not limited to the following:-
- (a) Oversee the implementation of BIMB Invest's governance framework, risk and internal control framework, and periodically review whether these remain appropriate in light of material changes to the size, nature and complexity of BIMB Invest's operations;
 - (b) Oversee BIMB Invest's compliance with any regulatory requirements as imposed by the relevant regulatory authorities including SC;
 - (c) Give due regard to the interest of, as the case may be, the unit holders/investors;

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- (d) Oversee the selection, performance, remuneration and succession plans of the CEO, control function heads and other members of senior management, such that the Board is satisfied with the collective competence of senior management to effectively lead the operations of BIMB Invest;
- (e) Oversee that the overall remuneration system of BIMB Invest operates as intended in line with the business and risk strategies, corporate values and long term interests of BIMB Invest;
- (f) Promote together with the senior management, a sound corporate culture within BIMB Invest which reinforces ethical, prudent and professional behavior. This include the setting of tone from the top to ensure reasonable standards of fair dealing of managing the fund for the best interest of the unit holder;
- (g) Promote sustainability through appropriate environmental, social and governance considerations in BIMB Invest's business strategies;
- (h) Promote timely and effective communication between BIMB Invest and SC on matters affecting or that may affect the safety and soundness of BIMB Invest;
- (i) Give due regard to any decision of BIMB Invest Shariah Committee and SC Shariah Advisory Council on any issue relating to the business, affairs or activities of BIMB Invest; and
- (j) Promote Shariah compliance in accordance with the expectations set out by the SC and ensure its integration with BIMB Invest's business and risk strategies.

Notwithstanding the above, the responsibilities to oversee the implementation of SC Shariah Advisory Council rulings and decisions within all business and functional lines, including any business or risk implications has been delegated to the Shariah Committee of BIMB Invest. In the event of any inconsistency between the decision of the Shariah Committee and the Board on Shariah matters, the Shariah Committee's decision shall prevail.

While the Shariah Committee has distinct responsibilities in relation to Shariah matters, the Board shall remain responsible for the direction and control of BIMB Invest's business and risk strategies.

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- (k) Promote together with the senior management, the practice high level of integrity and ethics which include the setting of "tone from the top" leadership by example and cultivate a transparent culture towards anti-bribery and corruption, to effectively manage the corruption risks in BIMB Invest and to ensure BIMB Invest fully comply with the laws and regulation on anti-corruption.

3.3 Roles & Responsibilities of the Board Committees

3.3.1 The Board delegates specific responsibilities to the following Board Committees to support and facilitate the Board in carrying out its duties and responsibilities:-

- (a) Board Audit and Risk Committee; and
- (b) Board Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

3.3.2 The Board Committees operate within clearly defined roles and responsibilities as stipulated in their respective Terms of Reference.

3.3.3 The Board Committees report to the Board on their deliberations, findings and recommendations. Minutes of the Board Committees are submitted to the Board for notification.

3.3.4 The Board remains fully accountable for any authority delegated to the Board Committees.

3.4 Roles & Responsibilities of the Chairman

3.4.1 The Chairman, in leading the Board, is responsible for the effective overall functioning of the Board. In fulfilling this role, the Chairman must:-

- (a) ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to govern the Board's operation;
- (b) ensure that decisions are taken on a sound and well-informed basis, including by ensuring that all strategic and critical issues are brought to the Board's attention, and that directors receive the relevant information on a timely basis;
- (c) encourage healthy discussion and ensure that dissenting views can be freely expressed and discussed;
- (d) provide leadership to the Board and steer the Board to achieve its objectives; and
- (e) lead efforts to address the Board's developmental needs.

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3.5 Roles & Responsibilities of the CEO and Senior Management

3.5.1 The key role of the CEO, amongst others, include:

- (a) develop the strategic direction of BIMB Invest;
- (b) ensure that BIMB Invest's strategies and corporate policies are effectively implemented;
- (c) ensure that Board decisions are implemented and Board directions are responded to;
- (d) provide directions in the implementation of short and long term business plans;
- (e) provide strong leadership; i.e. effectively communicate the vision, management philosophy and business strategy to the employees;
- (f) keep the Board fully informed of all important aspects of BIMB Invest's operations and ensuring sufficient information is distributed to the Board members; and
- (g) Ensure the day-to-day business affairs of BIMB Invest are effectively managed.

3.5.2 The CEO in leading senior management bears primary responsibility over the day-to-day management of BIMB Invest. The responsibilities of senior management include:-

- (a) implement the business and risk strategies, remuneration and other policies in accordance with the direction given by the Board;
- (b) establish a management structure that promotes accountability and transparency throughout the company's operations, and preserves the effectiveness and independence of control functions;
- (c) promote, together with the Board, a sound corporate culture within BIMB Invest which reinforces ethical, prudent and professional behaviour;
- (d) address actual or suspected breaches of regulatory requirements or internal policies in a timely and appropriate manner; and
- (e) regularly update the Board with the material information the Board needs to carry out its oversight responsibilities, particularly on matters relating to:-

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- (i) the performance, financial condition and operating environment of BIMB Invest;
- (ii) internal control failures, including breaches of risk/regulatory limits; and
- (iii) legal and regulatory obligations, including supervisory concerns and the remedial actions taken to address them.

3.6 Roles & Responsibilities of Independent Director

- 3.6.1 Independent directors should ensure a strong element of independence on the Board, both in thought and actions.
- 3.6.2 The effective participation of independent directors enhances accountability in the Board's decision making process. The responsibilities of an independent director include the following:-
 - (a) Provide and enhance the necessary independence and objectivity to the Board;
 - (b) Ensure effective checks and balances on the Board;
 - (c) Mitigate any possible conflict of interest between the policy making process and the day-to-day management of BIMB Invest;
 - (d) Constructively challenge and contribute to the development of business strategy and direction of BIMB Invest; and
 - (e) Ensure that adequate systems and controls to safeguard the interests of BIMB Invest are in place.
- 3.6.3 An independent director must immediately disclose to the Board any change in his/her circumstances that may affect his/her status as an independent director. In such a case, the Board must review his/her designation as an independent director and notify SC in writing of its decision to affirm or change his/her designation.
- 3.6.4 All independent directors are required to provide a declaration to confirm the status of his/her independence on annual basis to Corporate Secretarial Department of Bank Islam.

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3.7 Roles & Responsibilities of Nominee Director

3.7.1 Nominee director shall act in the best interest of BIMB Invest. In the event of any conflict between his/her duty to act in the best interest of BIMB Invest and his/her duty to his/her nominator, he/she shall not subordinate his/her duty to act in the best interest of BIMB Invest to his/her duty to the nominator.

3.7.2 The conduct / manner of the nominee director in exerting the influence of the shareholder are also assessed via the annual Board evaluation exercise.

3.8 Roles & Responsibilities of Company Secretary

3.8.1 The Company Secretary is responsible in supporting the effective functioning of the Board. In discharging this role, the Company Secretary provides counsel to the Board on governance matters and facilitates effective information flows between the Board, the Board Committees and senior management. All directors have direct and unrestricted access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary.

3.8.2 The Company Secretary shall record the proceedings including any significant concerns or dissenting views and resolutions of all proceedings of the Board and BIMB Invest's general meeting. The minutes must also indicate whether any director abstained from voting or excused himself from deliberating on a particular matter.

3.8.3 The Company Secretary shall keep confidential the affairs of BIMB Invest and its officers at all times.

3.8.4 The Company Secretary shall ensure that all statutory documents which include the register books and minutes of meetings are properly kept at the registered office of BIMB Invest.

3.8.5 The Company Secretary of BIMB Invest must devote the whole of her professional time to the affairs of BIMB Invest or its affiliates.

3.8.6 The appointment and removal of BIMB Invest's Company Secretary must be approved by the Board.

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SECTION 4: AUTHORITY & DELEGATION

- 4.1 The Board derives its authority to act from BIMB Invest's Constitution and the laws and regulations governing the fund managers and companies in Malaysia. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Board has the authority to decide and approve matters within its primary duties and responsibilities in line with the Authority Limits document or such limits as may be determined by the Board from time to time.
- 4.2 The Board may delegate any of its authority to the Board Committees, a director, the Management, employee or other person subject to the ultimate responsibility remains at the Board.

SECTION 5: MATTERS RESERVED FOR THE BOARD

- 5.1 The Board is the highest authority in BIMB Invest which carries ultimate responsibility for the proper stewardship of BIMB Invest. Therefore, matters or issues that are deliberated and decided at the Board meeting must be strategic in nature which include, amongst others, the following:-
- (a) Strategic policy matters including the business plan, budget, corporate organisation structure and significant business and operating policies;
 - (b) Financial results;
 - (c) Declaration of dividends;
 - (d) Authority Limit document including discretionary authority vested to any employees of BIMB Invest;
 - (e) Any corporate exercise including acquisition or divestment of strategic interests in a business venture;
 - (f) Major acquisition or disposal of capital expenditure within the limits stipulated in the Authority Limit document;
 - (g) Appointment of directors, Shariah Committee members, CEO, Company Secretary and key senior management officers;
 - (h) Remuneration of directors, Shariah Committee members, CEO and key senior management officers;
 - (i) The entry into any contract, arrangement or commitment with any related party;
 - (j) Any new outsourcing proposals; and
 - (k) Any other specific matters as determined by the Board from time to time.

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SECTION 6: APPOINTMENT / REMOVAL / SUCCESSION PLANNING

6.1 Appointment / Removal / Succession Planning of Board of Directors

6.1.1 The SC Licensing Handbook stipulates that directors can be appointed without prior approval of the SC. However it is subject to a proper due diligence assessment to ensure the candidate is fit and proper to assume the responsibility. However, the Company is required to notify the SC on the appointment of a director within two (2) business days or prior to any public announcement, whichever is earlier.

6.1.2 A director must fulfil the following minimum requirements at the time of his appointment and on continuing basis:-

(a) he/she must not be disqualified as per section 198(1) of the Companies Act 2016 and must have been assessed by the Board Nomination & Remuneration Committee ("BNRC") to have complied with the fit and proper requirements under para 6.4 below.

(b) he/she must not be an active politician.

(c) Where a firm has been appointed as the external auditor of BIMB Invest, any of its officers directly involved in the engagement and any partner of the firm must not serve or be appointed as a director of BIMB Invest until at least two (2) years after:

(i) He/she ceases to be an officer or partner of that firm; or

(ii) The firm last served as an auditor of BIMB Invest.

In addition, he/she must observe a cooling-off period of at least three (3) years before being appointed as a member of the BARC.

(d) Practising lawyers who are partners in a legal firm, which is on the panel lawyers of BIMB Invest / Bank Islam, may be appointed to the Board. However, he/she is required to disclose the relationship so as to address any potential conflict of interest situation.

(e) He/she must not be a director or a member of an investment committee of another company that is in the same industry/sector with BIMB Invest.

(f) He/she must comply with the restriction on external professional commitment as stipulated in para 6.5 below.

(g) He/ she must not has an adverse record in Lexis/ Nexis screening.

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- 6.1.3 Each director must be assessed against the above minimum requirements at least annually, and as and when the Board becomes aware of information that may materially compromise the director's fitness and propriety, or any circumstances that suggest that the director is ineffective, errant or otherwise unsuited to carry out his/her responsibilities. A director must immediately disclose to the Board any circumstance that may affect his/her ability to meet the minimum requirements.
- 6.1.4 The Board must establish and regularly review succession plans for the Board to address any vacancies.
- 6.1.5 The Constitution of BIMB Invest provides that at every annual general meeting of BIMB Invest, one-third of the directors other than the CEO are subject to retirement by rotation. The directors to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election. The retiring directors are eligible for re-election. Directors who are appointed as additional new directors or to fill casual vacancies during the year are eligible for re-election but shall not be taken into account in determining the directors who are to retire by rotation at the annual general meeting.
- 6.2 Appointment / Removal of Independent Director**
- 6.2.1 The Board must determine whether an individual to be appointed as an independent director is independent in character and judgment and free from associations or circumstances that may impair the exercise of his/her independent judgement.
- 6.2.2 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, an individual must not be considered to be an independent director if he/she or any person linked to him/her:-
- (a) has been an executive in the last 2 years and is an officer (except as a non-executive director) of BIMB Invest or any of its related companies. For this purpose, "officer" has the meaning given in section 2 of the Companies Act 2016;
 - (b) is a substantial shareholder of BIMB Invest or any of its affiliates. For this purpose "Affiliates" refers to corporation that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with BIMB Invest;
 - (c) is a family member of any executive director, key senior management officer or a major shareholder of BIMB Invest;
 - (d) is acting as a nominee or representative of any executive director or major shareholder of BIMB Invest;

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- (e) has been engaged as an adviser by BIMB Invest or any of its related company under such circumstances as prescribed by Bursa Securities or is presently a partner, director (except as an independent director) or major shareholder, as the case may be, of a firm or corporation which provides professional advisory services to BIMB Invest or any of its related company under such circumstances as prescribed by Bursa Securities; or
- (f) has been engaged in any significant business or other contractual relationship with BIMB Invest or any of its affiliates within the last 2 years.

Note : Significant business or other contractual relationship refers to any transaction with a value of above RM1.0 million.

However, "transactions" stated above shall exclude the following transactions:-

- (a) for personal use of the said director;
- (b) for personal investment of the said director except for the purpose of carrying on a trade or business; or
- (c) normal banking transactions other than financing and advances;

provided that such transactions are on normal commercial terms.

- 6.2.3 An independent director is subject to a maximum tenure of nine (9) years. An independent director who has served for nine (9) years, may, subject to the shareholder's approval, continue to serve BIMB Invest in the capacity of independent director. In any event, no independent director will continue to serve the Board for more than 12 years..

(Note : This provision to take effect by 1 January 2022 to allow transition period to facilitate smooth succession planning to be implemented.)

An independent director who has been re-designated to non-independent director and does not represent any shareholder may continue to be a member of the Board subject to the Board being satisfied that he/she meets the following criteria:

- a) His/her knowledge, expertise, as well as experience are vital and are not possessed by any of the current board members.
- b) His/her knowledge, expertise and experience are unique and difficult to be replaced.

- 6.2.4 Generally, a non-independent director may be appointed as an independent director after two (2) years grace period upon his/her resignation as non-independent director in BIMB Invest.

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6.3 Appointment / Removal of CEO

- 6.3.1 The SC Licensing Handbook requires BIMB Invest to submit a written application to seek SC's approval on the appointment or reappointment of a CEO.
- 6.3.2 BIMB Invest shall submit an application to SC for the appointment or reappointment of the CEO when the Board is fully satisfied that the candidate meets the following minimum requirements:-
- (a) he/she must have been assessed by the BNRC to have complied with the fit and proper requirements;
 - (b) he/she must have the relevant experience in the areas of fund management of not less than 10 years; OR holds a Capital Market Services Representative's License ("CMSRL") for the regulated activity;
 - (c) he/she must not be a substantial shareholder of BIMB Invest; and
 - (d) he/she must devote the whole of his professional time to the service of BIMB Invest unless SC approves otherwise in writing.

6.4 Fit & Proper Criteria

- 6.4.1 In determining whether an individual is "Fit & Proper", the following are the minimum factors that must be taken into considerations:-
- (a) Probity, personal integrity and reputation;
 - (b) Competency and capability; and
 - (c) Financial integrity.
- 6.4.2 Probity, personal integrity and reputation are values that can be demonstrated through personal qualities such as honesty, integrity, diligence, independence of mind and fairness. These qualities are demonstrated over time and demand a disciplined and on-going commitment to high ethical standards.
- 6.4.3 Competency and capability are demonstrated by a person who possesses the relevant knowledge, experience and ability to understand the technical requirements of the business, the inherent risks and the management process required to perform his/her role in a key function in the relevant capacity effectively.
- 6.4.4 Financial integrity is demonstrated by a person who manages his own financial affairs properly and prudently.

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6.4.5 In assessing a person's "fit & proper", the BNRC and/or the Board shall have the discretion to conduct an interview with the individual concerned prior to the appointment / re-appointment.

6.4.6 To facilitate the BNRC and the Board in the appointment or reappointment of directors, BIMB Invest shall adopt the following set of criteria in evaluating the fit & proper of a director:-

(a) Necessary Skills & Experience

- (i) Possess the necessary qualification in the relevant industry;
- (ii) Possess the necessary functional / technical expertise in the relevant area; and
- (iii) Possess the relevant working experience and holding senior position of not less than 10 years;

(b) Character & Financial Standing

- (i) Not an undischarged bankrupt and no bankruptcy proceeding / legal action in relation to dishonesty and fraud is taken against him/her;
- (ii) Has not committed any criminal offence relating to dishonesty and fraud and no charge for such offence under any law; and
- (iii) Has not been a director of a company that has been wound up due to insolvency.

(c) Commitment & Contribution (applicable for re-appointment)

- (i) Attended at least 75% of the Board meetings in each financial year;
- (ii) Obtained at least satisfactory rating from the peer evaluation in terms of his/her contribution and participation in Board meetings; and
- (iii) Comply with the restriction on External Professional Commitment under para 6.5 below.

6.4.7 The fitness and propriety of the directors will be reassessed annually by executing the fit and proper declaration.

6.5 Restriction on External Professional Commitment

6.5.1 A director must not have competing time commitments that impair his/her ability to discharge his/her duties effectively. In this regard, each director is required to ensure that the maximum number of external professional commitments must not be more than ten (10), unless with the prior approval of the Board.

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Note : External professional commitments are defined as holding directorship or any position (executive or non-executive) in organisations other than BIMB Invest.

The above limit is subject to the maximum number of directorship in listed companies must not be more than five (5).

6.5.2 Notwithstanding the above, the CEO must not hold any directorship other than BIMB Invest, unless with the prior approval of the Board.

6.5.3 Each director is required to notify the Company Secretary on any change in the status of their external professional commitment within fourteen (14) days from the date of the said changes. In addition, Corporate Secretarial Department of Bank Islam will obtain confirmation from each director on the status of their external professional commitment, on a bi-monthly basis.

SECTION 7: BOARD TRAINING

7.1 Any director that is newly appointed to the Board will undergo an induction program with the Management on the company's governance structure, key management members, business and operations and important regulations and laws. A director's handbook, the latest financial report of BIMB Invest and other relevant information will be made available to the director. The said session will be organised as soon as practicable not later than three (3) months upon the appointment of the director.

7.2 All directors of the company will be required to register and complete Capital Market Directors Programme (CMDP) within six (6) months upon their appointment to the Board.

7.3 In addition to the above, each director will be required to complete their Individual Development Plan ("IDP") effective year 2021. The IDP must consist of a minimum of three (3) trainings on technical knowledge and one (1) training on leadership/ soft skill.

7.4 The directors are encouraged to attend other trainings that are relevant to enable them to discharge their responsibilities.

7.5 The directors may also attend other trainings organised by local professional bodies and regulatory authorities within Malaysia in areas that are relevant to the Group.

7.6 The Board may approve any directors to attend trainings overseas if such trainings are viewed to be crucial for BIMB Invest and the trainings are not available within Malaysia.

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SECTION 8: BOARD EVALUATION

- 8.1 A Board evaluation must be carried out annually to assess the performance and effectiveness of the Board, Board Committees and the individual directors (which include assessment on their role as independent or nominee director).
- 8.2 Where necessary, a consultant will be engaged to assist in and to lend objectivity to the annual assessment.

SECTION 9: BOARD REMUNERATION

- 9.1 BIMB Invest has in place a remuneration structure for the directors that are sufficient to attract, retain and remunerate for their contribution to BIMB Invest.
- 9.2 The review of remuneration for the non-executive directors is conducted every three (3) years to ensure that it remains competitive with the industry.
- 9.3 The remuneration of the CEO is recommended by the BNRC and determined by the Board. The performance of the CEO is assessed annually based on the set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) approved by the Board. This is taken into consideration when determining the renewal of contract for the CEO and in payment of bonus, where applicable.
- 9.4 Group Policy for Common Director and Director with Executive Position within the Group - any director who receive more than one (1) benefit-in-kind of the same nature arising from his directorship or his executive position in other companies within the group, he/she should only be entitled to a single benefit of the same nature from either one (1) of the companies that he/she choose.

SECTION 10: CODE OF ETHICS

- 10.1 The Board observes the following Code of Ethics:-
 - 10.1.1 Code of Ethics for the Financial Services Industry issued by the Financial Services Professional Board;
 - 10.1.2 Code of Ethics for Company Directors issued by the Companies Commission of Malaysia; and
 - 10.1.3 Such other code of ethics issued by the relevant governing authority.
- 10.2 The directors are expected to demonstrate utmost integrity and conduct themselves with high standard behaviour based on the following fundamental principles:-

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10.2.1 Duty to Avoid Conflict of Interest

A director must not allow himself/herself to get into a position where there is a conflict between his/her duty to BIMB Invest and his/her own interest. Under section 219 and 221 of the Companies Act 2016, director has a duty to disclose his/her interest in material transaction or material arrangement. If the material transaction or material arrangement is being deliberated during the Board meeting, the director concerned must make the disclosure before the commencement of the deliberation and he/she must not be present during such deliberation.

10.2.2 Duty to Avoid Misuse of Position

Directors must not use BIMB Invest's name or facilities for personal advantage in political, investment or retail purchasing transactions, or in similar types of activities. The directors and their relatives must not use their connection with BIMB Invest to borrow from or become indebted to customers or prospective customers. In addition, the directors must not use BIMB Invest's facilities and influence for any speculation activities, whether acting personally or on behalf of friends and relatives. The directors should also not engage in "back-scratching" exercise with staff and directors of other financial institutions to provide mutually beneficial transactions in return of similar facilities.

10.2.3 Duty of Confidentiality and Prevent Misuse of Information

All directors are required to respect the confidentiality of sensitive information held by BIMB Invest. A director is prohibited from making improper use of information obtained in the course of performing his/her duties for his/her gain or advantage. In addition, a director cannot disclose information relating to the business and affairs of BIMB Invest or that he/she obtains in the course of performance of duties and functions, as well as information about customers of BIMB Invest. All confidential information remains confidential even when they are no longer on the Board and it cannot be exploited or improperly used.

10.2.4 Integrity of Records and Transactions

Directors should ensure that all accounting records and reports must be complete and accurate. Directors should never make entries or allow entries to be made for any account, record or document of BIMB Invest that are false or would obscure the true nature of the transactions, as well as to mislead the true authorization limits or approval by the relevant authority of such transactions.

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10.2.5 Fair and Equitable Treatment

Directors must ensure that all business dealings of BIMB Invest with current and potential customers, with the employees and with all those who may have cause to rely upon BIMB Invest to be conducted fairly and equitably. Directors must not be influenced by friendship or association, either in meeting a customer's requirements or in recommending that they be met. Such decisions must be made on a strictly arms-length business basis.

10.2.6 Operational Issues

The Board's role is to consider and approve strategies, plans and policies for BIMB Invest and to monitor and review the Management's performance. It is the role of the Management to recommend and implement those plans and strategies. The directors should avoid interfering in the day to day running of BIMB Invest.

The Board is to hold the Management to account more effectively and to make decisions on BIMB Invest's priorities.

10.2.7 Responsibility for Board Decisions

The directors must be capable of providing constructive challenge. They are also expected to share responsibility for decisions taken by the Board as a whole. If any of the directors fundamentally disagree with the decision taken by the Board, they have the option of recording their disagreement in the minutes. However ultimately, they must accept and support the collective decision of the Board.

10.2.8 Loyalty to BIMB Invest and the Board

All directors must be loyal to BIMB Invest, the Board and fellow directors on the Board, and be fully committed to all Board-related activities. A director is prohibited from doing, saying or publishing anything that may be detrimental to BIMB Invest's interest. A director should never publicly criticise BIMB Invest or fellow directors, attempt to undermine the Board's decision or distance himself from the other directors outside of the Boardroom. If a director has specific concerns about the manner in which BIMB Invest is being run, these concerns should be raised with the Chairman and Management or during Board meetings.

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10.2.9 Speaking in Public and Usage of Social Media

The CEO is the designated spokesperson who may issue statement or make comments regarding BIMB Invest. If any director is asked to comment publicly, the director is required to decline and refer the question to the CEO.

However, on case to case basis, the Board may also appoint the Chairman of the Board or such other director to be the spokesperson for BIMB Invest.

In addition, all directors are required to be mindful when using social media such as, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Blogs, YouTube, Google+, LinkedIn, WhatsApp and Telegram, that they do not disclose confidential information about BIMB Invest's business or its customers. The directors are prohibited from posting and making commentaries that would adversely affect the image and reputation of BIMB Invest. If such comments are made in the director's personal capacity, the said director must refrain from identifying himself as BIMB Invest's director.

SECTION 11: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

11.1 Conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding the director's primary obligation to act in the best interest of the company will be unduly influenced by the interest to do favours for family and friends either for financial gain or such other motives that will be beneficial to the directors or person connected to the directors.

11.2 Circumstances that may constitute or may give rise to conflicts of interests situation include but not limited to the following:-

11.2.1 a director or person connected to him/her will or might profit from the proposed transaction to be entered by BIMB Invest;

11.2.2 a director or person connected to him/her proposing to contract personally with BIMB Invest;

11.2.3 a director or person connected to him/her sit on the Board of direct competitor, the customer, potential customers or suppliers of BIMB Invest;

11.2.4 a director or person connected to him/her being the majority shareholder of BIMB Invest;

11.2.5 a director or person connected to him/her being the potential customer, supplier or advisor/consultant to BIMB Invest; and

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- 11.2.6 a director or person connected to him/her accepting costly entertainment or gifts from customers, potential customers or suppliers. However, directors may accept token gifts with no commercial value during the festive seasons if such act will not put the director in compromising position.
- 11.3 Each director is required to declare upon his/her appointment and subsequently upon come to his/her knowledge of any conflict of interest, a notification pursuant to sections 219, 221 of the Companies Act 2016. The Corporate Secretarial Department shall keep record of the said declaration.
- 11.4 In the event where there may be a conflict of interest, the interested director shall declare at the beginning of the Board meeting the facts and nature of the conflict and to leave the meeting room and abstain from participating in discussions and decisions on the matters directly involving the said director. In circumstances where a director is unsure as to whether or not a conflict of interest exists or is material, he/she should discuss the matter with the Chairman prior to the meeting.

Where a conflict of interest exists and the Board Member does not declare his or her interest and/or offer to withdraw, the Chairman should, if he is aware, take appropriate action to ensure that the Board (and the Board Member concerned) is not compromised.

The fundamental principle is that no one should use, or give the appearance of using, their public position to further their private interests. This is an area of particular importance as it receives considerable media attention and even innocent acts could be misinterpreted.

- 11.5 In the event of any non-compliance with the above conflict of interest requirement, the Board shall take or impose such actions as it considers appropriate in the best interest of the Company.

SECTION 12: WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

- 12.1 BIMB Invest has established its Whistle Blowing Policy which sets out avenues for immediate reporting and/or disclosing of any wrong doings, malpractices or irregularities, committed by employees and/or external parties against BIMB Invest's interest. The policy protects the confidentiality of the matters raised and the identity of the whistleblower.
- 12.2 The Chairman of the Board Audit and Risk Committee who is an independent director of BIMB Invest is the designated non-executive director responsible for the effective implementation of the policy.