

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Introduction

The Board of Directors (“Board”) acknowledges the importance of maintaining a sound system of internal control to safeguard shareholders’ investments and the Group’s assets. Guided by the *Statement on Internal Control: Guidance for Directors of Public Listed Companies*, the Board is pleased to present the Statement on Internal Control of the Group (excluding associated companies, as the Board does not have control over their operations) pursuant to the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad Main Market Listing Requirements.

Board Responsibility

The Board affirms its overall responsibility for the Group’s system of internal control and risk management, and for reviewing the adequacy and integrity of these systems. However, in view of the inherent limitations in any system, such internal control systems are designed to manage rather than to eliminate risks that may impede the achievement of the Group’s objectives. The systems can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatements, frauds or losses. The system of internal control covers risk management and financial, organisational, operational and compliance controls.

The Board confirms that there is an on-going process of identifying, evaluating and managing significant risks by the management. This process has been put in place for the year and is reviewed periodically by the Board through its Audit Committee which is supported by the Internal Auditors.

Risk Management

The Board regards risk management as an integral part of business operations. A Corporate Risk Management Framework was developed and documented via a Corporate Risk Management Manual which sets out in a comprehensive manner the process adopted by the Group towards risk identification, evaluation, control and monitoring. The Risk Management Committee continues to play a pivotal role in overseeing the implementation of the risk management framework, periodically reviewing the risk management scorecards and reporting the status to the Audit Committee.

Control and Monitoring Process

The Board is committed to maintaining a strong internal control structure for the proper conduct of the Group’s business operations. The key elements include:

- An operational structure with defined lines of responsibility and delegation of authority together with a hierarchical structure of reporting and accountability
- Internal policies and procedures that are regularly updated to reflect changing risks or resolve operational deficiencies including to clearly define limits of authority
- A detailed budgeting process which requires all business units to prepare budget and business plan on an annual basis
- Review of key business variables and the monitoring of the achievements of the Group’s performance on a quarterly basis by the Board and the Audit Committee
- Confirmation of the effectiveness of internal control and risk assessment process by the chief executive officer or general manager of key operating companies by way of completion of the Internal Control – Self-Assessment Questionnaire on an annual basis
- Periodic examination of business processes and systems of internal control by the internal audit function which regularly submits its reports to the Audit Committee
- Adequate insurance and physical safeguards on major assets are in place to ensure assets of the Group are sufficiently covered
- A Code of Ethics for all employees which defines the ethical standards and conduct at work
- A Whistleblower Policy established under the Human Resource Policy Manual which defines the rights of informants and also the protections accorded them. The channels of escalation are also documented to encourage and enable concerned parties to report any wrongdoings so that they can be properly addressed

Conclusion

The Board is of the view that the system of internal control in place is generally satisfactory and sufficient to safeguard all stakeholders’ interest.