

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

STOCK CODE : 5665
COMPANY NAME : Southern Steel Berhad (“the Company”)
FINANCIAL YEAR : June 30, 2019

OUTLINE:

SECTION A – DISCLOSURE ON MALAYSIAN CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Paragraph 15.25 of Bursa Malaysia Listing Requirements.

SECTION B – DISCLOSURES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES PURSUANT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Appendix 4 (Corporate Governance Disclosures) of the Corporate Governance Guidelines issued by Bank Negara Malaysia. This section is only applicable for financial institutions or any other institutions that are listed on the Exchange that are required to comply with the above Guidelines.

SECTION A – DISCLOSURE ON MALAYSIAN CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Paragraph 15.25 of Bursa Malaysia Listing Requirements.

Intended Outcome

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

Practice 1.1

The board should set the company's strategic aims, ensure that the necessary resources are in place for the company to meet its objectives and review management performance. The board should set the company's values and standards, and ensure that its obligations to its shareholders and other stakeholders are understood and met.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The Board of Directors ("Board") assumes responsibility for effective stewardship and control of the Company and has established terms of reference ("TOR") to assist in the discharge of this responsibility.</p> <p>In discharging its responsibilities, the Board has established functions which are reserved for the Board and those which are delegated to management. The key roles and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Board Charter, which is reviewed annually by the Board and published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com. The key roles and responsibilities of the Board broadly cover formulation of corporate policies and strategies, overseeing and evaluating the conduct of the Group's businesses, identifying principal risks and ensuring the implementation of appropriate systems to manage those risks, and reviewing and approving key matters such as financial results, investments and divestments, acquisitions and disposals, and major capital expenditure.</p>
Explanation for departure	:	
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

Intended Outcome

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

Practice 1.2

A Chairman of the board who is responsible for instilling good corporate governance practices, leadership and effectiveness of the board is appointed.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Chairman is a Non-Executive Director. He leads the Board and ensures its smooth and effective functioning and has specific responsibilities as set out in the Board Charter as published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com .	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

Practice 1.3

The positions of Chairman and CEO are held by different individuals.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	There is a clear division of responsibilities between the Chairman of the Board and the Group Managing Director ("GMD"). This division of responsibilities between the Chairman and the GMD ensures an appropriate balance of roles, responsibilities and accountability.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

Practice 1.4

The board is supported by a suitably qualified and competent Company Secretary to provide sound governance advice, ensure adherence to rules and procedures, and advocate adoption of corporate governance best practices.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board is supported by a Company Secretary who is qualified to act under Section 235 of the Companies Act 2016 and she is an Associate Member of the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA). The Company Secretary attends programmes and seminars to keep abreast with, inter alia, regulatory requirements, company law and corporate governance.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

Practice 1.5

Directors receive meeting materials, which are complete and accurate within a reasonable period prior to the meeting. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the minutes are circulated in a timely manner.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	Prior to Board and Board Committee meetings, Directors are provided with minutes of previous meeting(s). The agenda together with meeting reports and reference materials are disseminated electronically via 'Board PAC', an iPad-based solution which stores meeting documents digitally in a secured manner.	
Explanation for departure	:		
	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

There is demarcation of responsibilities between the board, board committees and management.

There is clarity in the authority of the board, its committees and individual directors.

Practice 2.1

The board has a board charter which is periodically reviewed and published on the company's website. The board charter clearly identifies–

- the respective roles and responsibilities of the board, board committees, individual directors and management; and
- issues and decisions reserved for the board.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The key roles and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Board Charter and published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com . The last review of the Board Charter by the Board was carried out in August 2019.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

The board is committed to promoting good business conduct and maintaining a healthy corporate culture that engenders integrity, transparency and fairness.

The board, management, employees and other stakeholders are clear on what is considered acceptable behaviour and practice in the company.

Practice 3.1

The board establishes a Code of Conduct and Ethics for the company, and together with management implements its policies and procedures, which include managing conflicts of interest, preventing the abuse of power, corruption, insider trading and money laundering.

The Code of Conduct and Ethics is published on the company's website.

Application	: Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	<p>The Board observes the Code of Ethics for Company Directors established by the Companies Commission of Malaysia, which has been adopted by the Board and published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com.</p> <p>The Group is committed to good business ethics and integrity as set out in the Hong Leong Manufacturing Group Code of Conduct and Ethics ("Code") for employees. To this, the Group commits to a high standard of professionalism and ethics in the conduct of our business and professional activities.</p> <p>The Code serves as guiding principles in our day to day activities and reminds our employees to maintain at all times the highest standards of conduct and to always demonstrate professional and personal integrity in the conduct of our business activities and in our dealings with stakeholders, customers, colleagues and regulators.</p> <p>The Code is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all employees who work in the Group across the jurisdictions in which we operate – including but not limited to permanent, part-time and temporary employees; and• any other persons permitted to perform duties or functions within the Group – including but not limited to vendors, service providers, contractors, secondees, interns, industrial attachment and agency staff. <p>As the Code forms part of the terms and conditions of employment, employees are required to adhere to a high standard of professionalism and ethics in the conduct of their business and professional activities.</p> <p>The Code is available on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com.</p>

Explanation for departure :		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Intended Outcome

The board is committed to promoting good business conduct and maintaining a healthy corporate culture that engenders integrity, transparency and fairness.

The board, management, employees and other stakeholders are clear on what is considered acceptable behaviour and practice in the company.

Practice 3.2

The board establishes, reviews and together with management implements policies and procedures on whistleblowing.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Company has a Whistleblowing Policy and it provides a structured channel for all employees of the Group to report any concern on any improper conduct or wrongful act committed within the Group. The Whistleblowing Policy is published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com .	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.1

At least half of the board comprises independent directors. For Large Companies, the board comprises a majority independent directors.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board currently comprises seven (7) Directors, four (4) of whom are independent.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.2

The tenure of an independent director does not exceed a cumulative term limit of nine years. Upon completion of the nine years, an independent director may continue to serve on the board as a non-independent director.

If the board intends to retain an independent director beyond nine years, it should justify and seek annual shareholders' approval. If the board continues to retain the independent director after the twelfth year, the board should seek annual shareholders' approval through a two-tier voting process.

Application	:	Not applicable - No independent director(s) serving beyond 9 years	
Explanation on application of the practice	:		
Explanation for departure	:		
	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.3 - Step Up

The board has a policy which limits the tenure of its independent directors to nine years.

Application	:	Not Adopted
Explanation on adoption of the practice	:	

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.4

Appointment of board and senior management are based on objective criteria, merit and with due regard for diversity in skills, experience, age, cultural background and gender.

<p>Application</p>	<p>: Applied</p>
<p>Explanation on application of the practice</p>	<p>The nomination, assessment and approval process for new Board appointment is as follows:</p> <div data-bbox="544 692 1406 976" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <pre> graph LR A[Identification of candidates] --> B[Meeting with candidates] B --> C[Assessment against Assessment Criteria and Guidelines Recommendation by the Nominating Committee ('NC')] C --> D[Deliberation by the Board and decision thereof] </pre> </div> <p>All candidates to the Board are assessed by the NC prior to their appointments, taking into account, inter alia, the strategic and effective fit of the candidates for the Board, the overall desired Board composition including Board diversity and the required mix of skills, expertise, knowledge and experience in the industry, market and segment to enhance the Board’s overall effectiveness and having regard to the candidates’ attributes, qualifications, management, leadership, independence and time commitment, before they are recommended to the Board for approval. The Company maintains a pool of potential Board candidates from internal and external introductions, recommendations and independent sources with director databases in its search for suitable Board candidates.</p> <p>In evaluating any new appointment of senior management (“SM”), the Company is guided by the Hong Leong Group Recruitment Policy where all potential candidates are given equal opportunity regardless of gender, race, and religion and/or whether or not one has disability. SM positions are awarded based on qualifications, experience and potential.</p> <p>Generally, in the assessment and selection of SM, the following factors will be considered in determining the role-profile fit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) skills, knowledge, expertise and industry experience; (b) past contribution and performance; and (c) character, professionalism and integrity.

	<p>Each and every candidate for SM role has to go through a screening process where his/her competency and potential are assessed through a mix of interviews, aptitude test, competency and/or psychometric assessments in order to ensure the candidate has the right personal profile to be successful in the role.</p> <p>Pre-employment Reference Checks and Post-Employment Reference Checks are also performed to determine past performance track records, conduct, and behaviour of the selected candidate.</p> <p>For most of the SM positions, final approval for hiring would be obtained from the President of Hong Leong Manufacturing Group Sdn Bhd, in addition to the review and approval of the respective Human Resource Hiring Manager and GMD to ensure hiring decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the Company, taking into account multiple perspectives and insights. Where required, Board's approval is also obtained for certain roles.</p>	
Explanation for departure :		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.5

The board discloses in its annual report the company's policies on gender diversity, its targets and measures to meet those targets. For Large Companies, the board must have at least 30% women directors.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Company has in place a Board Diversity Policy. Currently, there is one (1) woman director on the Board.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.6

In identifying candidates for appointment of directors, the board does not solely rely on recommendations from existing board members, management or major shareholders. The board utilises independent sources to identify suitably qualified candidates.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	In search for suitable Board candidates, the Company maintains a pool of potential Board candidates from internal and external introductions, recommendations and independent sources with director databases, including databases for women directors.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

Practice 4.7

The Nominating Committee is chaired by an Independent Director or the Senior Independent Director.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	An Independent Non-Executive Director chairs the NC.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Stakeholders are able to form an opinion on the overall effectiveness of the board and individual directors.

Practice 5.1

The board should undertake a formal and objective annual evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the board, its committees and each individual director. The board should disclose how the assessment was carried out and its outcome.

For Large Companies, the board engages independent experts periodically to facilitate objective and candid board evaluations.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>A formal evaluation process has been put in place to assess the effectiveness of the Board as a whole, Board Committees as a whole and the contribution and performance of each individual Director, Board Committee member, chief executive and chief financial officer on an annual basis (“Annual Board Assessment”). For newly appointed chairman, directors, chief executive and chief financial officer, the Annual Board Assessment will be conducted at the next annual assessment exercise following the completion of one year of service.</p> <p>Assessment criteria for Board as a whole include, inter alia, the effectiveness of the Board composition in terms of size and structure vis-à-vis the complexity, size, scope and operations of the Company, the core skills, competencies and experience of the Directors, and the Board’s integrity, competency, responsibilities and performance. The assessment criteria for Board Committees include the effectiveness of the respective Board Committees’ composition in terms of mix of skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their respective roles and responsibilities per the Board Committees’ TOR and the contribution of Board Committee members. Each individual Director is assessed on, inter alia, the effectiveness of his/her competency, expertise and contributions. The skills, experience, soundness of judgment as well as contributions towards the development of business strategies and direction of the Company and analytical skills to the decision-making process are also taken into consideration.</p> <p>The NC will deliberate and present the results of the Annual Board Assessment to the Board. The results of the assessment form one of the criteria of the NC’s recommendation to the Board for the re-election/retention of Directors at the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”).</p>

Explanation for departure :		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Intended Outcome

The level and composition of remuneration of directors and senior management take into account the company's desire to attract and retain the right talent in the board and senior management to drive the company's long-term objectives.

Remuneration policies and decisions are made through a transparent and independent process.

Practice 6.1

The board has in place policies and procedures to determine the remuneration of directors and senior management, which takes into account the demands, complexities and performance of the company as well as skills and experience required. The policies and procedures are periodically reviewed and made available on the company's website.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The level of remuneration of Non-Executive Directors reflects the scope of responsibilities and commitment undertaken by them, industry benchmark as well as complexity of the Group's businesses.</p> <p>Hong Leong Manufacturing Group adopts Hong Leong Group's total compensation philosophy which promotes high performing culture, alignment of corporate values and vertical and horizontal equity. The rewards strategy focuses on providing a competitive remuneration and benefits package, as well as ample career progression opportunities for employees.</p> <p>The rewards framework focuses on a balanced and right pay mix to achieve the desired long-term business performance. The framework includes base pay, cash allowances, performance-based variable pay, long-term incentives, benefits and other employees' programmes.</p> <p>The rewards framework ensures that employees are paid competitively against the industry and talent market the company is operating in, delivered via a combination of cash and non-cash elements such as shares or share-linked instruments.</p> <p>Key performance indicators and key results areas ("KRA") of employees are measured and tracked diligently to ensure strong alignment of employee output to the overall business strategy and direction of the company.</p> <p><u>Remuneration Process</u></p> <p>Another critical part of the remuneration delivery process is the review and approving structure. Each year, the variable remuneration pool is reviewed and approved by the management of Hong Leong Manufacturing Group. The pool will be allocated to the business units and functions corresponding to their respective performance.</p>

	<p>Remuneration of each individual is then formulated based on the Strategic Business Group's performance, the operating company's performance, the department's performance and the individual's contribution.</p> <p>Remuneration of the GMD and SM will also be tabled to the Remuneration Committee ("RC") and the Board for consideration and approval.</p> <p><u>Remuneration Structure</u></p> <p>GMD and SM</p> <p>The remuneration structure for the GMD and SM varies in accordance with the job grades and the operational/functional responsibilities and is weighted towards performance-related elements that take into account individual, functional and corporate performance.</p> <p>The components of the remuneration include the following:</p> <p>(a) Fixed remuneration</p> <p>The fixed remuneration includes the following:</p> <p>(i) basic salary (including the statutory contribution to the Employees Provident Fund) which is based on duties, responsibilities and job grades; and</p> <p>(ii) others.</p> <p>(b) Variable remuneration</p> <p>The variable remuneration of the GMD and SM depends on the performance of the Group for the relevant financial year ("FY"), which is determined based on the individual KRA and aligned to the Hong Leong Vision, guided by the Group Reward Handbook. It includes the following:</p> <p>(i) cash based;</p> <p>(ii) share and share linked instruments; and</p> <p>(iii) others.</p>
<p>Explanation for departure</p>	<p>:</p>
<p><i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i></p>	
<p>Measure</p>	<p>:</p>
<p>Timeframe</p>	<p>:</p>

Intended Outcome

The level and composition of remuneration of directors and senior management take into account the company's desire to attract and retain the right talent in the board and senior management to drive the company's long-term objectives.

Remuneration policies and decisions are made through a transparent and independent process.

Practice 6.2

The board has a Remuneration Committee to implement its policies and procedures on remuneration including reviewing and recommending matters relating to the remuneration of board and senior management.

The Committee has written Terms of Reference which deals with its authority and duties and these Terms are disclosed on the company's website.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board has a RC comprising a majority of independent directors. The RC's responsibilities include recommending to the Board a framework of remuneration of executive directors and SM. The TOR of the RC are published on the Company's website, www.southsteel.com .	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

Practice 7.1

There is detailed disclosure on named basis for the remuneration of individual directors. The remuneration breakdown of individual directors includes fees, salary, bonus, benefits in-kind and other emoluments.

Application :	Applied																																																															
Explanation : on application of the practice	<p>The remuneration to be received by each of the Director for the FY ended 30 June 2019 ("FY 2019") is set out in the tables below:</p> <p>A) Company</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Salaries and bonuses and defined contribution retirement plan RM</th> <th>Director fees RM</th> <th>Estimated money value for benefits- in-kind RM</th> <th>Total RM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Executive Director</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr Chow Chong Long</td> <td>3,069,393</td> <td>-</td> <td>53,687</td> <td>3,123,080</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Non-Executive Directors</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Datuk Kwek Leng San</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dato' Dr Tan Tat Wai</td> <td>-</td> <td>110,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>110,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr Seow Yoo Lin</td> <td>-</td> <td>135,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>135,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr Ang Kong Hua</td> <td>-</td> <td>160,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>160,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr Kwa Lay Keng</td> <td>-</td> <td>160,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>160,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dato' Ahmad Johari bin Abdul Razak</td> <td>-</td> <td>85,000</td> <td>-</td> <td>85,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Directors' remuneration</td> <td>3,069,393</td> <td>650,000</td> <td>53,687</td> <td>3,773,080</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Salaries and bonuses and defined contribution retirement plan RM	Director fees RM	Estimated money value for benefits- in-kind RM	Total RM	2019					<u>Executive Director</u>					Mr Chow Chong Long	3,069,393	-	53,687	3,123,080	<u>Non-Executive Directors</u>					Datuk Kwek Leng San	-	-	-	-	Dato' Dr Tan Tat Wai	-	110,000	-	110,000	Mr Seow Yoo Lin	-	135,000	-	135,000	Mr Ang Kong Hua	-	160,000	-	160,000	Dr Kwa Lay Keng	-	160,000	-	160,000	Dato' Ahmad Johari bin Abdul Razak	-	85,000	-	85,000	Total Directors' remuneration	3,069,393	650,000	53,687	3,773,080
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B) Group				
2019	Salaries and bonuses and defined contribution retirement plan RM	Director fees RM	Estimated money value for benefits- in-kind RM	Total RM
<u>Executive Director</u>				
Mr Chow Chong Long	3,069,393	-	53,687	3,123,080
<u>Non-Executive Directors</u>				
Datuk Kwek Leng San	-	-	-	-
Dato' Dr Tan Tat Wai	-	110,000	-	110,000
Mr Seow Yoo Lin	-	135,000	-	135,000
Mr Ang Kong Hua	-	160,000	-	160,000
Dr Kwa Lay Keng	-	160,000	-	160,000
Dato' Ahmad Johari bin Abdul Razak	-	85,000	-	85,000
Total Directors' remuneration	3,069,393	650,000	53,687	3,773,080
<p>Note:</p> <p>During the FY, Directors and Officers of Hong Leong Manufacturing Group Sdn Bhd, together with its subsidiaries (the "Group", which includes Southern Steel Berhad and its subsidiaries and where applicable, associated companies) are covered under the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance in respect of liabilities arising from acts committed in their respective capacity as, inter alia, Directors and Officers of the Group subject to the terms of the policy. The total amount of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance effected for the Directors and Officers of the Group was RM10 million. The total amount of premium paid for the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance by the Group was RM43,663 and the apportioned amount of the said premium paid by the Company was RM17,859.</p>				
Explanation for departure				
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>				
Measure				
Timeframe				

Intended Outcome

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

Practice 7.2

The board discloses on a named basis the top five senior management's remuneration component including salary, bonus, benefits in-kind and other emoluments in bands of RM50,000.

Application	:	Departure	
Explanation on application of the practice	:		
Explanation for departure	:	It is not in the interest of the Group to disclose detailed remuneration components of the top five (5) SM in bands of RM50,000 on a named basis in view of confidentiality and security reasons. In addition, the Group is operating in a very competitive environment where talent retention is a challenge.	
		The Company has disclosed below the information from an alternative perspective which is intended to achieve a similar outcome. The remuneration of the top five (5) SM of the Group (who are not Directors or the GMD of the Company) is disclosed on an aggregate basis, taking into account, inter alia components such as salaries, bonuses, defined contribution retirement plan and benefits-in-kind and amounted to RM4,316,230 in the FY 2019.	
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:	N/A	
Timeframe	:	Choose an item.	

Intended Outcome

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

Practice 7.3 - Step Up

Companies are encouraged to fully disclose the detailed remuneration of each member of senior management on a named basis.

Application	:	Not Adopted
Explanation on adoption of the practice	:	

Intended Outcome

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee’s findings and recommendations.
The company’s financial statement is a reliable source of information.

Practice 8.1

The Chairman of the Audit Committee is not the Chairman of the board.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board Audit & Risk Management Committee (“BARMC”) comprises three (3) members who are Independent Directors. The Chairman of the BARMC is not the Chairman of the Board.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

Practice 8.2

The Audit Committee has a policy that requires a former key audit partner to observe a cooling-off period of at least two years before being appointed as a member of the Audit Committee.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The BARMC has observed Practice 8.2 and incorporated such policy into the Company's Board Audit & Risk Management Committee Charter.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee’s findings and recommendations.
The company’s financial statement is a reliable source of information.

Practice 8.3

The Audit Committee has policies and procedures to assess the suitability, objectivity and independence of the external auditor.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The BARMC has adopted a process and procedure for assessment of new appointment or re-appointment of external auditors and the criteria used in such assessment.</p> <p>The BARMC has obtained written assurance from the external auditors confirming that they are, and have been, independent throughout the conduct of the audit engagement in accordance with the terms of all relevant professional and regulatory requirements.</p>	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations.
The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

Practice 8.4 - Step Up

The Audit Committee should comprise solely of Independent Directors.

Application	:	Adopted
Explanation on adoption of the practice	:	All members of the BARMC are Independent Directors.

Intended Outcome

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

Practice 8.5

Collectively, the Audit Committee should possess a wide range of necessary skills to discharge its duties. All members should be financially literate and are able to understand matters under the purview of the Audit Committee including the financial reporting process.

All members of the Audit Committee should undertake continuous professional development to keep themselves abreast of relevant developments in accounting and auditing standards, practices and rules.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The members of the BARMC collectively possess the necessary skills and knowledge to discharge their duties and are financially literate. The profiles of the members are provided in the Annual Report. The Chairman of the BARMC is a Chartered Accountant.</p> <p>The BARMC members had during the FY 2019 attended various training programmes and seminars organised by relevant regulatory authorities and professional bodies to broaden their knowledge and to keep abreast with the relevant developments in finance, laws, regulations, risk management, governance and business environment.</p>
Explanation for departure	:	
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

Intended Outcome

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company’s objectives is mitigated and managed.

Practice 9.1

The board should establish an effective risk management and internal control framework.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The Board recognises its overall responsibility for the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group’s system of internal controls and risk management framework to safeguard shareholders’ investment and the Group’s assets.</p> <p>The Board exercises its oversight of risk management and internal control through the BARMC which meets on a quarterly basis and supported by an adequately resourced Internal Audit Department (“IAD”).</p> <p>Management is accountable to the Board for the risk management and internal control system and for the implementation of processes to identify, evaluate, monitor and report risks and controls.</p> <p>The Board adopts MS ISO 31000:2010 as its risk management framework. The Group’s system of risk management and internal control are designed to meet the Group’s particular needs, to efficiently and effectively manage risks that may impede the achievement of the Group’s business objectives, and to provide information for accurate reporting and ensure compliances with regulatory and statutory requirements.</p> <p>Key business risks and risks exceeding tolerance levels would be escalated to the BARMC and if necessary, to the Board for deliberation.</p> <p>Further details can be obtained from the Statement on Risk Management and Internal Control in the 2019 Annual Report of the Company.</p>
Explanation for departure	:	
<p><i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i></p>		

Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company's objectives is mitigated and managed.

Practice 9.2

The board should disclose the features of its risk management and internal control framework, and the adequacy and effectiveness of this framework.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The Board has entrusted the BARMC to provide oversight of the Group's system of risk management and internal control. The BARMC is assisted by the IAD in this role.</p> <p>The Board adopts MS ISO 31000:2010 as its risk management framework. The Group's system of risk management and internal control is designed to manage and mitigate, rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Group's business and corporate objectives within the risk appetite established by the Board and management. These systems can therefore provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement, loss or fraud.</p> <p>On an on-going basis, each operating company's chief executive and authorised risk owners have clear accountabilities to monitor its existing risks, identify emerging risks and update the enterprise-wide risk registers, maintain the adequacy, effectiveness and relevance of action plans and control systems to manage risks, and prepare risk management report on a quarterly basis for reporting to the BARMC.</p> <p>Key business risks and risks exceeding tolerance levels would be escalated to the BARMC and if necessary, to the Board for deliberation.</p> <p>Further details on the risk management and internal control systems are provided in the Statement on Risk Management & Internal Control in the 2019 Annual Report of the Company.</p>
Explanation for departure	:	
<p><i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i></p>		

Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company's objectives is mitigated and managed.

Practice 9.3 - Step Up

The board establishes a Risk Management Committee, which comprises a majority of independent directors, to oversee the company's risk management framework and policies.

Application :	Not Adopted
Explanation on adoption of the practice :	

Intended Outcome

Companies have an effective governance, risk management and internal control framework and stakeholders are able to assess the effectiveness of such a framework.

Practice 10.1

The Audit Committee should ensure that the internal audit function is effective and able to function independently.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>The internal audit (“IA”) function is carried out in-house by the IAD.</p> <p>The purpose, authority, scope, independence and responsibilities of IA function is provided in the Internal Audit Charter, which is approved by the BARMC.</p> <p>The IAD, led by the Head of IA, reports to the BARMC which has the authority to decide, among others, the appointment and removal, scope of work, and performance evaluation of the IA function.</p> <p>During the FY, the BARMC had approved the IAD’s FY 2019 Audit Plan, reviewed the audit scope plan based on the risk assessment conducted, as well as the IAD’s resource requirements. The IAD had performed its approved audits as guided by the Audit Charter.</p> <p>The IAD challenges and adds value to the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of operating companies’ operations, usage of assets and resources, and the integrity of management information systems. The IA function is performed with impartiality, proficiency and due professional care.</p> <p>IA reports are discussed and issued to management for their feedback and to formulate action plans with target implementation dates for improvements. Any resulting salient control concerns are reviewed by the BARMC, and the implementation status of audit recommendations are monitored and reported to the BARMC on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Further information can be obtained from the Board Audit & Risk Management Committee Report in the 2019 Annual Report of the Company.</p>
Explanation for departure	:	
<p><i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i></p>		

Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Companies have an effective governance, risk management and internal control framework and stakeholders are able to assess the effectiveness of such a framework.

Practice 10.2

The board should disclose–

- whether internal audit personnel are free from any relationships or conflicts of interest, which could impair their objectivity and independence;
- the number of resources in the internal audit department;
- name and qualification of the person responsible for internal audit; and
- whether the internal audit function is carried out in accordance with a recognised framework.

Application	: Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	<p>a) Independence and Objectivity</p> <p>It is a requirement stated in the Internal Audit Charter that all IA personnel have no operational responsibility and authority over the activities of its audits in order to maintain its independence and objectivity. In addition, all the IA personnel had declared to the BARMC that they are free from any relationships or conflicts of interest which would impair their impartiality or objectivity.</p> <p>The IAD is guided by its Internal Audit Charter which defines the organisational status, accountability, independence and objectivity, responsibilities, the professional proficiency and ethics.</p> <p>The BARMC is responsible for deciding on the appointment, transfer and dismissal of the Head of IA, and to provide oversight on the adequacy of resources.</p> <p>b) IA Resources</p> <p>There were five (5) staff in the IAD during FY 2019. As for continuous professional development, the IA personnel had kept abreast with developments in the profession, industry and regulations by attending internal and external training courses.</p> <p>c) Head of IA</p> <p>Mr Teh Boon Ang (Head of IA, HLMG Management Co Sdn Bhd) has been assigned to oversee the IA functions of the Company on 5 March 2018.</p>

	<p>He holds the qualifications of Master of Criminal Justice from the University of Malaya, Advanced Diploma in Commerce, and is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) from the Institute of Internal Auditors, the United States of America (“USA”), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, USA, Professional Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (“IIA”) Malaysia and Associate Member of the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, United Kingdom.</p> <p>d) IA Framework</p> <p>The IAD is guided by the International Standards for the Professional Practices Framework issued by the IIA Malaysia and applies appropriate auditing standards in assessing the integrity and effectiveness of internal controls and compliance with the established policies and procedures, and is committed to continuously monitoring and improving the IA function.</p> <p>Further information can be obtained from the Board Audit & Risk Management Committee Report in the 2019 Annual Report of the Company.</p>	
<p>Explanation for departure</p>	<p>:</p>	
<p><i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i></p>		
<p>Measure</p>	<p>:</p>	
<p>Timeframe</p>	<p>:</p>	

Intended Outcome

There is continuous communication between the company and stakeholders to facilitate mutual understanding of each other's objectives and expectations.

Stakeholders are able to make informed decisions with respect to the business of the company, its policies on governance, the environment and social responsibility.

Practice 11.1

The board ensures there is effective, transparent and regular communication with its stakeholders.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board acknowledges the importance of regular communication with shareholders and investors via the annual reports, circulars to shareholders, quarterly financial reports and the various announcements made during the year, through which shareholders and investors can have an overview of the Group's performance and operation.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

There is continuous communication between the company and stakeholders to facilitate mutual understanding of each other's objectives and expectations.

Stakeholders are able to make informed decisions with respect to the business of the company, its policies on governance, the environment and social responsibility.

Practice 11.2

Large companies are encouraged to adopt integrated reporting based on a globally recognised framework.

Application	:	Departure	
Explanation on application of the practice	:		
Explanation for departure	:	The Company is not a large company.	
		N/A	
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:	N/A	
Timeframe	:	Choose an item.	

Intended Outcome

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

Practice 12.1

Notice for an Annual General Meeting should be given to the shareholders at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Company despatches its notice of AGM to shareholders at least 28 days before the AGM to enable them to consider the resolutions and make an informed decision in exercising their voting rights at the AGM.	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

Practice 12.2

All directors attend General Meetings. The Chair of the Audit, Nominating, Risk Management and other committees provide meaningful response to questions addressed to them.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	<p>All Directors are committed to attend General Meetings of the Company, which are scheduled in advance, save for unforeseeable circumstances.</p> <p>The Chair of Board Committees are aware of their respective scope of responsibilities and will respond to questions addressed to them at General Meetings.</p>	
Explanation for departure	:		
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Intended Outcome

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

Practice 12.3

Listed companies with a large number of shareholders or which have meetings in remote locations should leverage technology to facilitate–

- including voting in absentia; and
- remote shareholders' participation at General Meetings.

Application	:	Departure
Explanation on application of the practice	:	
Explanation for departure	:	<p>According to the Register of Depositors as at 30 September 2019, the Company does not have a large number of shareholders. All General Meetings of the Company are held at its principal place of business in Prai, Penang, which is accessible by shareholders.</p> <p>Shareholders who are unable to attend General Meetings of the Company may, in accordance with the Constitution of the Company, appoint their respective proxies or the Chairman of the meeting to vote on their behalf. The Company will continually enhance the content of the annual report to improve our communication to our stakeholders.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Company will monitor the development of technology and market practice.</p>
<i>Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.</i>		
Measure	:	N/A
Timeframe	:	Choose an item.

**SECTION B – DISCLOSURES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES PURSUANT
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA**

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Appendix 4 (Corporate Governance Disclosures) of the Corporate Governance Guidelines issued by Bank Negara Malaysia. This section is only applicable for financial institutions or any other institutions that are listed on the Exchange that are required to comply with the above Guidelines.

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