

EXTERNAL AUDITORS' POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Audit Committee ("**the Committee**") of Pertama Digital Berhad ("**PERTAMA**" or "**the Company**") is responsible for reviewing, assessing and monitoring the performance, suitability and independence of external auditors.

2. SCOPE

This External Auditors' Policy ("**the Policy**") applies to the external auditors of PERTAMA group of companies ("**PERTAMA Group**").

3. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Policy is to outline the guidelines and procedures for the Committee to assess and monitor the external auditors.

4. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

Pursuant to Section 273 of the Companies Act 2016, the office of auditors shall cease at the conclusion of each annual general meeting. Accordingly, the members shall appoint or re-appoint the external auditors of the Company, and the external auditors so appointed shall, hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company.

Should the Committee determine a need for a change of external auditors, the Committee will follow the following procedures for selection and appointment of new external auditors:

- (a) the Committee to identify the audit firms who meet the criteria for appointment and to request for their proposals of engagement for consideration;
- (b) the Committee will assess the proposals received and shortlist the suitable audit firms;
- (c) the Committee will meet and/or interview the shortlisted candidates;
- (d) the Committee may delegate or seek the assistance of the Chief Finance Officer/ Head of Department of Accounts & Finance/ Senior Management to perform items (a) to (c) above;
- (e) the Committee will recommend the appropriate audit firm to the Board of Directors ("**Board**") for appointment as external auditors; and
- (f) the Board will endorse, after due consideration, the recommendation and seek shareholders' approval for the appointment of the new external auditors and/ or resignation/ removal of the existing external auditors at the general meeting.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Committee will evaluate potential audit firm on a number of criteria including, but not limited to:

- (a) independency, objectivity and professional scepticism;
- (b) quality of engagement team;
- (c) reputation;
- (d) internal governance process;
- (e) human resources and qualification;
- (f) proven and demonstrated experience in audit of listed companies;
- (g) cost; and
- (h) clientele (size, spread, etc.).

6. INDEPENDENCE

The external auditor's independence is a key factor in ensuring that the financial statements of the PERTAMA Group are true and fair, and meet high standards of financial integrity.

The Committee monitors the independence of the external auditor, including any relationship with PERTAMA Group or any other person or entity that may impair or compromise, or appear to impair or compromise, the external auditor's independence.

Independence may be impaired or compromised by the provision of services of a non-audit nature to PERTAMA Group, depending on the materiality of those services and the fees charged for them. Therefore, the external auditors are precluded from providing any services that may impair their independence or conflict with their role as external auditors.

The Committee shall obtain a 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.

7. NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The external auditors can be engaged to perform non-audit services that are not, and are not perceived to be, in conflict with the role of the external auditors. This excludes audit related work in compliance with statutory requirements.

The prohibition of non-audit services is based on three (3) basic principles as follows:

- (a) external auditors cannot function in the role of Management;
- (b) external auditors cannot audit their own work; and
- (c) external auditors cannot serve in an advocacy role of PERTAMA Group.

The external auditors shall observe and comply with the By-Laws of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants in relation to the provision of non-audit services, which include the followings:

- (i) accounting and book keeping services;
- (ii) valuation services;
- (iii) taxation services;
- (iv) internal audit services;
- (v) information technology system services;
- (vi) litigation support services;
- (vii) recruitment services; and
- (viii) corporate finance services.

All engagements of the external auditors to provide non-audit services are subject to the approval/ endorsement of the Committee.

Management shall obtain confirmation from the external auditors that the independence of the external auditors will not be impaired by the provision of non-audit services.

8. ANNUAL REPORTING

The external auditors shall issue an annual audit plan for review and discussion with the Committee. The external auditors shall also provide Audit Status Memorandum to the Committee upon completion of the annual audit.

9. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Committee shall carry out annual assessment on the performance, suitability and independence of the external auditors based on the following four (4) key areas:

- (i) quality of service;
- (ii) sufficiency of resources;
- (iii) communication and interaction; and
- (iv) independence, objectivity and professional scepticism.

The Committee may also request the Chief Finance Officer/ Head of Department of Accounts & Finance/ Senior Management to perform the annual assessment of the external auditors.

10. APPOINTMENT OF FORMER PARTNER OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM

The former partner must complete a cooling-off period of at least 3 years before being appointed as a member of the Committee.

11. ROTATION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER

In compliance with the requirements of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants, the external auditors rotate their engagement partners and engagement quality control reviewer assigned to the Company every seven (7) years.

12. POLICY REVIEW

The Company will review and assess the effectiveness of this Policy as and when required and any recommendation for revisions shall be highlighted to the Committee and Board for approval.