



MINORITY SHAREHOLDER WATCHDOG GROUP
Shareholder Activism and Protection of Minority Interest
BADAN PENGAWAS PEMEGANG SAHAM MINORITI BERHAD
(Incorporated in Malaysia • Company No : 524989-M)

NEWS RELEASE
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**MSWG LAUNCHED ITS
“CORPORATE GOVERNANCE SURVEY 2008”
ON
26 NOVEMBER 2008
AT
RENAISSANCE KUALA LUMPUR HOTEL**

Badan Pengawas Pemegang Saham Minoriti Berhad or better known as Minority Shareholder Watchdog Group (MSWG) has launched its annual **“Corporate Governance Survey 2008” (CG Survey 2008)** on 26 November 2008 (Wednesday) at the Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel. The event was attended by 190 guests including the Retail Shareholders.

The CG Survey 2008 marks a significant milestone for MSWG and its joint partner, Nottingham University Business School (NUBS). It presents the findings on the compliance or otherwise by **ALL** public listed companies (PLCs) on Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad with the corporate governance principles and best practices. It is the aim of the CG Survey to fulfill objectives such as contributing to good corporate governance, to build a governance benchmark for companies to emulate, excel and lead in corporate governance practices.

The CG Survey 2008 shows the ranking of each company based on its Corporate Governance Score (CGS). The CGS is the sum of two (2) components, i.e. the Basic Compliance Score (BCS) and the International Best Practices Score (IBP). BCS comprises the company’s compliance with 40 key items reflecting the principles and best practices enjoined by the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance and the Listing Requirements. The IBP comprises 35 key items of international best practices drawn from other influential principles, guidelines or codes on corporate disclosure and governance.

The main findings of the CG Survey 2008 are presented under four (4) key headings; **Board of Directors, Directors’ Remuneration, Shareholders (Investor Relations) and Accountability & Audit**. It also offer findings on the level of CG compliance of companies in the different types of boards/markets, sectors and certain categories like government-linked companies, foreign-owned companies, state-linked companies or “others” category of companies.

The overall findings of the CG Survey 2008 show that the average CGS compliance of companies surveyed is still much to be desired, attributed to the less than the encouraging level of compliance with the international best practices. Larger companies tend to demonstrate higher level of compliance, whereas the smaller ones tend to show a lag with regard to BCS and lag further in respect of IBP when compared with the larger companies. Statistical tests conducted also appear to corroborate the assertion that the adoption of sound CG best practices had resulted in tangible benefits directly for companies and indirectly for equity capital market participants.

The CG Survey 2008 is part of MSWG's efforts for continued drive to promote corporate governance and shareholder activism. It is an essential guide to stakeholders as well as to allow them to examine directors' contribution to board oversight and management participation in corporate governance reforms and to help them keep abreast of corporate governance trends and practices not only from the viewpoints of local perspectives, but international aspects as well.

It is hoped that every public listed company, director and stakeholder will derive tangible benefits by studying the findings of the CG Survey 2008.

For this year, three (3) categories of awards were made to the top companies, i.e. **Industry Excellence Awards**, **Overall Excellence Awards** and **Corporate Governance Challenge Trophy**.

(1) **Industry Excellence Awards:** Awards were given to 10 PLCS ranked top under the various industry sectors. They were as follows :-

- **Consumer Products**
British American Tobacco (Malaysia) Berhad
- **Industrial Products**
Chemical Company of Malaysia Berhad
- **Construction**
UEM Builders Berhad
- **Trading/Services**
Telekom Malaysia Berhad
- **Finance**
Public Bank Berhad

- **Infrastructure**
Digi.Com Berhad
- **Properties**
Naim Cendera Holdings Berhad
- **Plantation**
United Plantations Berhad
- **Technology**
Formis Resources Berhad
- **Hotel**
Landmarks Berhad

(2) **Overall Excellence Awards:** Awards were given to 16 PLCS ranked top 15 to the following winners :

- 1st - *Public Bank Berhad*
- 2nd - *Bursa Malaysia Berhad*
- 3rd - *Telekom Malaysia Berhad*
- 4th - *British American Tobacco (Malaysia) Berhad*
- 5th - *Symphony House Berhad*
- 6th - *Bumiputra-Commerce Holdings Berhad*
- 7th (Joint) - *Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad*
- 7th (Joint) - *Media Prima Berhad*
- 9th - *Tanjong Public Limited Company*
- 10th - *Digi.Com Berhad*
- 11th - *Malayan Banking Berhad*
- 12th - *Tenaga Nasional Berhad*
- 13th - *Opus Group Berhad*
- 14th (Joint) - *Plus Expressways Berhad*
- 14th (Joint) - *Naim Cendera Holdings Berhad*
- 14th (Joint) - *Chemical Company of Malaysia Berhad*

- (3) **Corporate Governance Challenge Trophy** was introduced in recognition of the company's achievements in terms of corporate governance compliance with the recommended CG principles and best practices.

The winner for the Corporate Governance Challenge Trophy was Public Bank Berhad (Public Bank) which was ranked first in the CG Survey 2008. Public Bank had emerged top for four (4) consecutive years in the CG Survey published by MSWG in collaboration with NUBS. Public Bank was the only company which breached the 90% mark and has further improved its overall CG score compared to last year, having scored the highest in both the BCS and IBP.

The CG Survey Report will be distributed and marketed to the public-listed companies included in the Survey as well as local and international organisations including professional bodies, fund managers, research houses, institutional shareholders, statutory bodies, regulators, financial institutions, institutes of higher learning and international corporate governance bodies. The Report is also available to the general public including the retail investors at special prices.

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