

# **BOARD MEMBERS**



- \* The line-up of Board Members is effective 1 January 2023.\* Datuk Syed Zaid Albar was a Board member until 22 May 2022.
- \* Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin was a Board member for a full year in 2022 and resigned from the Board on 12 January 2023.

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DATO' SERI DR. AWANG ADEK HUSSIN



DATUK DR. ZUNIKA Mohamed



LYNETTE YEOW SU-YIN

# **BOARD MEMBERS**



DATO' SERI DR. AWANG ADEK HUSSIN Chairman Appointed 1 June 2022

Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin was appointed the Executive Chairman of the SC on 1 June 2022. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

Prior to his appointment as Chairman of the SC, Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek served as Malaysia's Ambassador to the United States of America (USA) from 2014 to 2016 and Chairman of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) from 2017 to 2018.

Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek has extensive experience in economics and finance, having spent over 30 years in government and public service. He served as Deputy Minister of Rural Development from 2004 to 2006 and Deputy Minister of Finance from 2006 to 2013. He was also a member of Parliament from 2004 to 2008, and a senator from 2009 to 2013.

Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek was with Bank Negara Malaysia for 17 years from 1985 until 2001, holding several positions and eventually rising to the rank of Assistant Governor. He had also served on the boards of directors of several financial institutions and organisations including the SC, the first Director General of the Labuan Financial Services Authority (LFSA), Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), Chairman of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), and also Chairman of Perbadanan Nasional Bhd (PERNAS).

Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek received his Bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Drew University, USA, as well as his Master's degree and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in economics from University of Pennsylvania, USA.



DATO' WEE HOE SOON @ GOOI HOE SOON Appointed 1 January 2019

Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon has over 35 years of experience in the fields of accounting and corporate finance. He was instrumental in the successful implementation of several corporate exercises, which includes mergers and acquisitions and corporate debt restructuring exercises by PLCs.

He is a member of the EPF Investment Panel and also currently sits on the board of directors of Yinson Holdings Bhd, Red Ideas Holdings Bhd, Perusahaan Sadur Timah Malaysia (PERSTIMA) Bhd, AIA Bhd and LMS Compliance Limited.

Dato' Gooi was the former Chairman of the Board of EON Bank Bhd from 2009 to 2012, Chairman of Amity Bond Sdn Bhd and Deputy Chairman of Avenue Capital Resources Bhd. He was also the CEO/Executive Director-Dealing of Avenue Securities Sdn Bhd. Dato' Gooi is a Member of the Malaysian Association of Certified Public Accountants and Malaysian Institute of Accountants.



DATUK DR. ZUNIKA MOHAMED Appointed 1 June 2020

Datuk Dr. Zunika Mohamed is currently the Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Ministry of Economy. She is a trained economist and has served in various capacities at several ministries over the last 25 years, including as the Deputy Secretary General (Policy) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

She holds a doctorate in Economics from Universiti Putra Malaysia and obtained her postgraduate and undergraduate economics degrees at the International Islamic University Malaysia and University of Texas, USA respectively. Datuk Dr. Zunika also has a diploma in Public Administration from the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) Malaysia.

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DATIN RASHIDAH MOHD SIES Appointed 15 September 2020

Datin Rashidah Mohd Sies is currently the Deputy Secretary General (Management) of the Ministry of Finance, a position she has held since 22 March 2021. Datin Rashidah has served the Ministry of Finance for more than 29 years. She brings onboard a wealth of knowledge and experience, being at the forefront of issues pertaining to investment, finance, economic policies, federal budgeting, and financial legislation and regulation, among others.

Datin Rashidah obtained a Master of Business Administration from International University California, US, following a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance) from Idaho State University, USA. She holds a Diploma in Public Administration from INTAN.



LYNETTE YEOW SU-YIN Appointed 11 June 2021

Lynette Yeow Su-Yin is a lawyer by profession and has been in practice since January 1995. This includes being a partner at Messrs Kadir Andri & Partners and Messrs Zaid Ibrahim & Co. She is currently a consultant at Messrs Sanjay Mohan.

Yeow has extensive experience in the fields of corporate finance, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulations and funds (including private equity and real estate investment trusts).

Prior to her appointment to the SC Board, Yeow has been an independent member of the SC's Take-Overs and Mergers Committee since January 2020.

She currently sits as an Independent Non-Executive director on the boards of Malaysia Building Society Bhd and CTOS Digital Bhd. Yeow is also a Trustee of The Datai Pledge, the environmental protection and sustainability initiative founded by The Datai, Langkawi. Yeow holds a BA and MA in law from the University of Cambridge.



TAN SRI MAZLAN MANSOR Appointed 1 March 2022

Tan Sri Mazlan Mansor was the Deputy Inspector General of the Royal Malaysia Police prior to his retirement in August 2020. He had served in the Police Force for almost 41 years, helming various senior positions including Director of Commercial Crime Investigation Department, Chief Police Officer of Selangor and Commissioner of Police Sarawak, to name a few. In addition to his vast experience in investigation work, Tan Sri Mazlan had also served as a Legal/Prosecution Officer at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Bukit Aman after having obtained an LL.B. (Honours) degree from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth United Kingdom in 1992.

In 2021, Tan Sri was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director on the board of AmREIT Managers Sdn Bhd (AmREIT). He has stepped down from the AmREIT board prior to the effective date of his appointment as a Member of the SC Board. Tan Sri Mazlan also currently sits as Independent Non-Executive Director in RCE Capital Bhd.

Tan Sri Mazlan's appointment provides diversity to the Board. He brings with him a wealth of experience, given the various positions he had helmed as a senior Royal Malaysia Police official. His appointment to the boards of the two PLCs, as well as on AmREIT, a regulated entity, had provided Tan Sri Mazlan with the relevant exposure for undertaking the role as an independent board member.

# **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**



**BUDIMAN LUTFI MOHAMED** Director Enforcement



**JALIL HAMID Executive Director** Strategic Communications & Chairman's Office

**DATUK SERI ABDUL** 



**ALEX OOI THIAM POH Executive Director** and Head Audit Oversight



**YEW YEE TEE** Executive Director and General Counsel



**MOHD MYDIN Executive Director** Market Development

**SALMAH BEE** 



Managing Director

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DATO' SERI DR. AWANG ADEK HUSSIN Chairman



DATIN AZALINA ADHAM Managing Director



SAID ALI
Executive Director
Islamic Capital
Market
Development

**SHARIFATUL** 

HANIZAH



DATO' ZAIN
AZHARI MAZLAN
Executive Director
Corporate Finance &
Investments



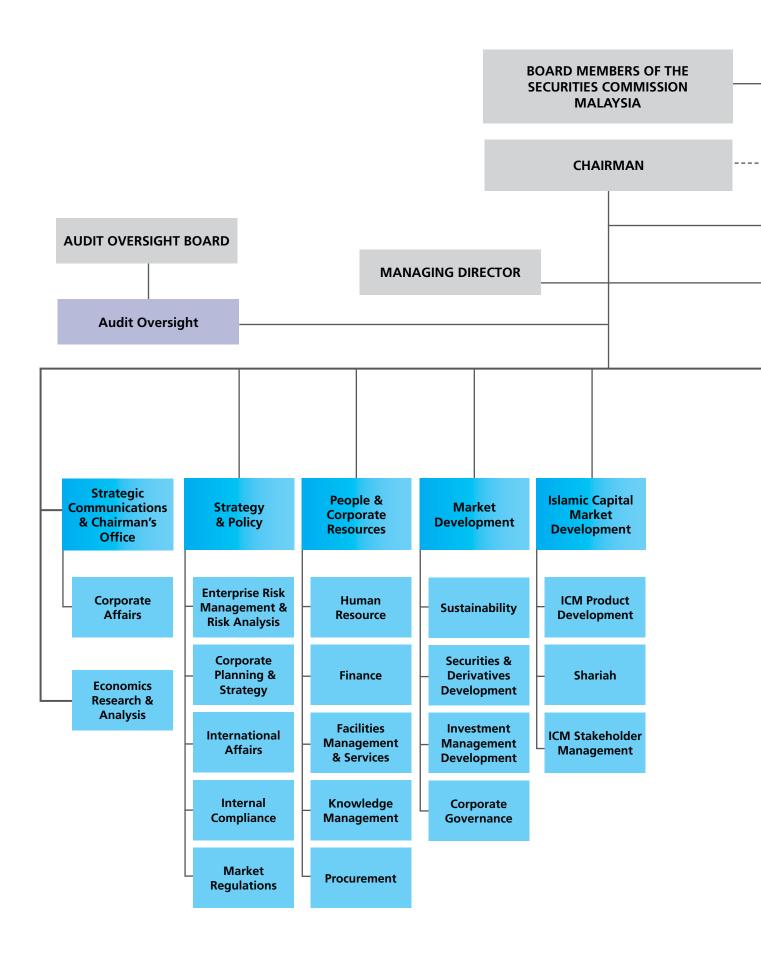
DR. WONG HUEL CHING Executive Director Digital Strategy & Innovation



BAHRIAH SHAMSUDIN Director Intermediary & Fund Supervision

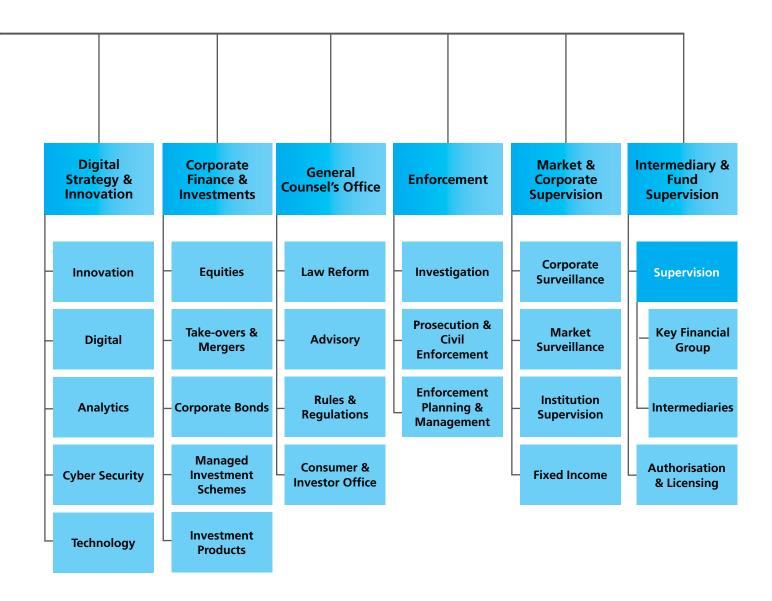
**SHAMSUL** 

# **ORGANISATION STRUCTURE**



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# SHARIAH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Daud Bakar



Deputy Chairman
Professor Dr. Aznan Hasan



**Dr. Shamsiah Mohamad** 



Professor Dr. Engku Rabiah Adawiah Engku Ali



Professor Dr. Ashraf Md Hashim



Professor Dr. Asmadi Mohamed Naim



Associate Professor
Dr. Mohamed Fairooz Abdul
Khir



Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Azmi Omar



Dr. Zaharuddin Abdul Rahman

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# STATEMENT ON GOVERNANCE

The Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) is a statutory body established under the *Securities Commission Malaysia Act 1993* (SCMA) to regulate and develop the Malaysian capital market. The SC's mission is to promote and maintain fair, efficient, and transparent securities and derivatives markets and to facilitate the orderly development of an innovative and competitive capital market. It is committed to ensure investor protection, fair and orderly markets, and monitor, mitigate and manage systemic risks arising from the capital market. The SC's responsibilities, powers and authorities are clearly defined and transparently set out in securities laws, namely the SCMA, CMSA and *Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991* (SICDA).

## **ABOUT THE COMMISSION**

#### **Board Members**

The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the Commission. The Minister of Finance appoints Board members. The Board comprises a Chairman, a Deputy Chief Executive and seven other members who may include persons representing the government and private sector. The Chairman is entrusted with the day-to-day administration of the SC as provided by section 4B(1) of the SCMA.

Datuk Syed Zaid Albar assumed the position of Chairman on 1 November 2018 until 31 May 2022. Succeeding him, Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin was appointed as the Chairman effective 1 June 2022. A profile of Board members is featured on pages 100 to 101 and their involvement in the various committees established by the Board is provided on page 109.

The Chairman is appointed for a term of 3 years, and is eligible for reappointment upon completion of his or her term. Other Board members are appointed for a term of 2 years, and are eligible for reappointment upon completion of the term.

A person is disqualified from holding the office of a Board member if he or she holds a full time office in any PLC, becomes a member of either Houses of Parliament, or becomes an officer or director of an entity that is regulated by the Commission. Similarly, a Board member shall not hold office if he or she—

- is convicted of a criminal offence involving fraud, dishonesty, corruption or violence;
- is declared a bankrupt;
- is not capable of discharging his or her duties;
- fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Board without leave;
- conducts himself in such a way as to bring disrepute to the Commission;
- fails to disclose his or her interests; or
- becomes involved in any activity which may interfere with his or her independence in discharging his or her functions

The SCMA requires a Board member to manage conflicts of interest by disclosing his or her interest in any matter under discussion by the Board or any of its committees. Once a disclosure is made, he or she—

- shall neither take part nor be present in any deliberation or decision of the Board or its committees; and
- shall be disregarded for the purposes of constituting quorum of the Board or its committees, relating to the matter.

# **Functions of the Commission**

The functions of the Commission are the following:

- Advise the Minister on all matters relating to the capital market;
- Regulate all matters relating to the capital market;
- Ensure that the provisions of the securities laws are complied with;
- Regulate the take-overs and mergers of companies;
- Promote and regulate all matters relating to fund management, including unit trust schemes and PRS;

- Supervise and monitor the activities of any exchange holding company, stock exchange, derivatives exchange clearing house and central depository;
- Take all reasonable measures to maintain the confidence of investors in the capital market by ensuring adequate protection for such investors;
- Promote and encourage proper conduct among participating organisations, participants, affiliates, depository participants and all licensed or registered persons of an exchange, clearing house and central depository, as the case may be;
- Suppress illegal, dishonourable and improper practices in the capital market, and in the provision of investment advice or other services relating to the capital market;
- Consider and make recommendations for the reform of the securities laws;
- Encourage and promote the development of the capital market in Malaysia including research and training in connection thereto;
- Encourage and promote self-regulation by professional associations or market institutions in the capital market;
- License, register, authorise, approve and supervise all persons engaging in regulated activities or providing capital market services as may be provided for under the securities laws;
- Promote and maintain the integrity of all licensed persons, registered persons, approved persons and participants in the capital market;
- Register or recognise all auditors of public-interest entities (PIEs) or schedule funds, and to exercise oversight over any person who prepares a report in relation to financial information of PIEs or schedule funds, in relation to capital market activities;
- Promote confidence in the quality and reliability of audited financial statements in Malaysia, and to promote and develop an effective and robust audit oversight framework in Malaysia;

- Take all reasonable measures to monitor, mitigate and manage systemic risks arising from the capital market;
- Promote and regulate corporate governance and approved accounting standards of listed corporations; and
- Set and approve standards for professional qualification for the capital market.

The Commission also has the functions and powers conferred upon it by or under the securities laws.

# **Board Meetings**

A total of 10 Board meetings were held in 2022. The quorum required is 5. The attendance record is set out in Table 1.

The work of the Board in governing SC is facilitated by various board committees established under section 18 of the SCMA, as listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 1**Attendance at Board meetings

Board members	Number of meetings attended	
Datuk Syed Zaid Albar <sup>1</sup>	5/5	
Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin <sup>2</sup>	5/5	
Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin³	10/10	
Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon	9/10	
Datuk Dr. Zunika Mohamed	6/10	
Datin Rashidah Mohd Sies	9/10	
Lynette Yeow Su-Yin	7/10	
Tan Sri Mazlan Mansor <sup>4</sup>	7/7	

- Resigned from the Board on 31 May 2022.
- <sup>2</sup> Appointed to the Board on 1 June 2022.
- <sup>3</sup> Resigned from the Board on 12 January 2023.
- <sup>4</sup> Appointed to the Board on 1 March 2022.

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# **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee (AC) comprises non-executive members of the SC as shown in Table 2, who are appointed by the Board. The purpose, authority and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are set out in the Audit Committee Charter as approved by the Board. Essentially, the Audit Committee provides oversight of the SC's governance, risk management and internal control practices.

The Audit Committee has an oversight role over the internal audit function, including reviewing the outcome of audits and approving the annual internal audit plan. The Audit Committee is also responsible for the review of the external auditors' proposed audit scope, approach and performance, including reviewing all significant matters relating to the financial statements with Management and the external auditors. For the current financial year of 2022, the Audit Committee had convened 6 meetings.

**TABLE 2**Board Committees

Committee	Key responsibility	Members
1. Audit Committee	Review the effectiveness of the SC's risk management and internal control systems and review the annual financial statements.	<ul> <li>Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon (Chairman)</li> <li>Datuk Dr. Zunika Mohamed</li> <li>Datin Rashidah Mohd Sies</li> <li>Lynette Yeow Su-Yin</li> </ul>
2. Issues Committee	Review and decide on primary listings of corporations, business trusts and real estate investment trusts on the Main Market; acquisition of assets which results in a significant change in business direction or policy of a corporation or business trust listed on the Main Market; and secondary or cross-listings of foreign corporations or foreign business trusts on the Main Market.	<ul> <li>Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin (Chairman)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Datuk Syed Zaid Albar (Chairman)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon</li> <li>Datin Rashidah Mohd Sies</li> <li>Lynette Yeow Su-Yin</li> </ul>
3. Take-overs and Mergers Committee	Review take-over and merger-related applications of a novel and/or complex nature and matters relating to national policy.	<ul> <li>Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin (Chairman)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Datuk Syed Zaid Albar (Chairman)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon</li> <li>Datin Rashidah Mohd Sies</li> <li>Lynette Yeow Su-Yin</li> </ul>
4. Licensing Committee	Review and decide on applications for the grant of a new Capital Markets Services Licence (CMSL), new licensed representatives, appointments of directors, key management or compliance officers that are submitted together with a new CMSL application; and to consider any policy recommendations relating to licensing issues.	<ul> <li>Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin (Chairman)<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Datuk Syed Zaid Albar (Chairman)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon</li> <li>Datuk Dr. Zunika Mohamed</li> <li>Tan Sri Mazlan Mansor<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
5. Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC)	Assess and formulate the remuneration of the Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) and make appropriate recommendations to the Minister of Finance.	<ul> <li>Dato' Gooi Hoe Soon (Chairman)</li> <li>Datuk Dr. Zunika Mohamed</li> <li>Lynette Yeow Su-Yin</li> <li>Tan Sri Mazlan Mansor<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Resigned from the Board on 31 May 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Appointed to the Board on 1 June 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Resigned from the Board on 12 January 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Appointed to the Board on 1 March 2022.

# SHARIAH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The SAC is mandated to ascertain the application of Shariah principles on any matter relating to the ICM and plays an important role in the development of Malaysia's ICM. It advises the Commission on any Shariah issue relating to the ICM and issues rulings on the ICM which are published for the benefit of the industry. The 9 SAC members as listed in Table 3, serve for a 3-year period commencing 1 July 2020, as assented by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong under Section 31ZK of the SCMA.

#### **AUDIT OVERSIGHT BOARD**

The AOB was established under Part IIIA of the SCMA and its mandate is to assist the SC in discharging its regulatory function in respect of developing an effective audit oversight framework, promoting confidence in the quality and reliability of audited financial statements, and regulating auditors of PIEs and scheduled funds.

The AOB also exercises oversight over any person who prepares a report relating to the financial information of PIEs and schedule funds, in relation to capital market activities. The AOB members are appointed by the Board (Table 4).

# RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

The SC recognised the importance of maintaining a robust risk management framework and internal control to safeguard the SC's integrity and governance. The SC's risk management and internal control approach is established and supported by the Board, Board Committees, management committees and a strong internal governance process.

The SC, through the Executive Risk Management Committee (ERMC) and the AC, periodically reviews the effectiveness and adequacy of the risk management framework and internal controls by identifying, assessing, monitoring and reporting key risks with the objective to safeguard the SC's governance, objectives and reputation.

ABLE 3

Shariah Advisory Council members

#### **SAC** members

- 1. Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Daud Bakar (Chairman)
- 2. Associate Professor Dr. Aznan Hasan (Deputy Chairman)
- 3. Dr. Shamsiah Mohamad
- 4. Professor Dr. Engku Rabiah Adawiah Engku Ali
- 5. Professor Dr. Ashraf Md Hashim
- 6. Professor Dr. Asmadi Mohamed Naim
- 7. Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Fairooz Abdul Khir
- 8. Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Azmi Omar
- 9. Dr. Zaharuddin Abdul Rahman

**TABLE 4**Audit Oversight Board members

# **AOB Members**

- 1. Dato' Anantham Kasinather (Non-Executive Chairman)
- 2. Alex Ooi Thiam Poh (Executive Officer)
- 3. Salmah Bee Mohd Mydin
- 4. Hew Ee-Lu<sup>1</sup>
- 5. Datuk Nor Azimah Abdul Aziz
- 6. Dato' Darawati Hussain
- 7. Dato' Seri Ahmad Johan Mohammad Raslan
- 8. Hong Chin Pheng<sup>2</sup>

#### Note:

<sup>1</sup> Completed his term as Non-Executive Member on 5 October 2022.

# **Risk Management**

The SC's enterprise risk management framework, which comprises the *Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Guidelines*, provides the foundation and guidance on how risks are managed across the SC and the process is consistent with ISO 31000:2018. All processes are in place to identify, evaluate, report, treat, monitor and review of strategic and operation risks within the SC.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Appointed to the Board on 11 October 2022.

The SC has continuously improved its internal risk monitoring and reporting via the 3 sub-risk committees. These sub-risk committees, chaired by the SC's senior management, manage their respective key risk areas and escalate to the ERMC for deliberation. For the safety and well-being of the SC's employees, the Safety and Health Committee will ensure compliance to the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (OSHA), who also reports to the Operational Risk Committee.

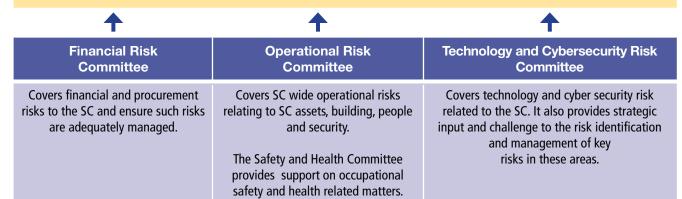
#### **Audit Committee**

The purpose of the AC is to provide a structured and systematic oversight of the SC's governance, risk management, and internal control practices.



#### **Executive Risk Management Committee**

Established to deliberate the SC enterprise risks and provide strategic direction to manage such risks. It is also responsible to review and monitor implementation of the appropriate enterprise risk management and mitigation procedures.



At the ERMC, the SC's senior management deliberates key risks for the enterprise and provides strategic direction to the line departments in addressing the risks. The 3 critical impact areas identified for the SC are strategic, organisational resiliency, as well as legal and compliance. Key risks are actively managed to ensure minimal impact to these critical impact areas.

#### **Strategic**



Risks of not achieving the SC's business plans' objectives and protecting the SC's reputation and credibility with its stakeholders with the rise of scams and complaints lodged to the SC.

#### **Organisation Resiliency**



Risks of not being able to carry out day-to-day operations effectively due to various risks such as human capital management, health and safety, technology, knowledge management, business process and finance.

## **Legal and Compliance**



Risks of non-compliance by the SC to the relevant laws and regulations, applicable standards, or responsible business ethics.

# **Business Continuity Management**

Organisational resilience is described as the ability of an organisation to anticipate, prepare and respond swiftly to business disruption, which will enable the organisation to survive paradigm shifts in an orderly manner. The SC has established a Business Continuity Management Policy and Framework, aligned with the ISO 22301: 2019 Security and Resilience — Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) requirements to ensure its resiliency and preparedness for any disruption to its critical operations. The SC continuously enhances its business continuity processes, which encompass business resumption, disaster recovery, crisis management and business impact analysis.

The SC, like most organisations, redesigned its business continuity approach to cater for the unprecedented pandemic situation in the past 2 years. The SC continues to be committed to ensure a safe and conducive working environment for its employees. Continuous improvements ensure that the SC remains vigilant, agile, and able to respond to crisis effectively and efficiently.

In addition, to ensure smooth and effective business continuity management, the SC conducts quarterly Information Technology (IT) component testing and

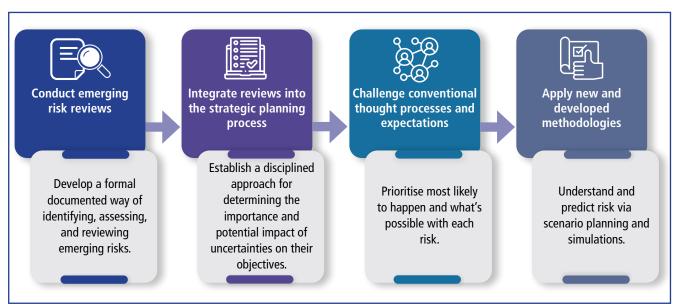
annual building evacuation drill and operational simulation. The BCM policy and framework are reviewed every 2 years to ensure relevancy and updated.

# **Emerging Risks**

As the world evolves and the rate of change increases, particularly with the heavy reliance on digital-based solutions, risks resulting from newly identified hazard could pose significant exposure to the organisation. Emerging risks are often characterised by a high degree of uncertainty in terms of likelihood of occurrence and potential impact on business functions and operations.

The SC has established an internal process to identify emerging risks on an annual basis. The methodology includes analysis of risk data points derived from leading and lagging key risk indicators; engagement with risk officers and relevant stakeholders; and environmental scan for emerging risk issues. The outcome from this holistic and robust approach is the risk outlook that illustrates the pulse of risk for 2023, which will be funnelled into the strategic planning processes. Early identification of emerging risks will ensure that risk mitigation measures and response plan can be developed accordingly (Figure 1).

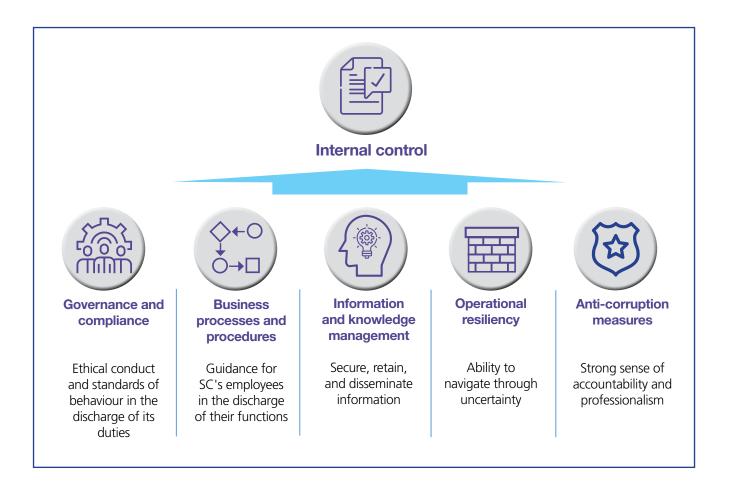
FIGURE 1



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#### **Internal Controls**

The SC has put in place a suite of internal control measures in the form of policies and procedures covering operational matters in terms of governance, staffing, procurement, operations resiliency, data protection and risk management to provide assurance on the effectiveness of control environment.



## **Governance and Compliance**

The Code of Conduct was established:

- For Members of the Board which sets out the governance expectations required of Board Members in the discharge of their duties.
- For the SC's employees which outlines the expectations required of employees during their tenure with the SC including ethical conduct and standards of behaviour.
- The statement of the SC Principles and Standards facilitates efficient and ethical engagement between the SC and its external stakeholders, which includes

suppliers, contractors, vendors, and consultants. The stakeholders are governed by ethical principles, transparency in conducting its business and declare potential conflict of interest situations. In this regard, the SC adopts a zero tolerance policy on all forms of corruption, and any allegation of corrupt practice by employees of the SC, and agents of external stakeholders doing work for the SC will be taken seriously.

• The SC has established a feedback channel for employees and agents to raise concerns on employee misconduct, including the Internal Whistleblowing Procedure to expose or report internal wrongdoing or suspected breaches of law within the organisation.

- The Framework for Handling External Complaints Against the SC and/or SC Employees presents the process for handling complaints made by external parties against the SC as an entity and/or any employee of the SC in relation to the discharge of his duties.
- A robust Conflict of Interest Declaration process has been put in place where Board members and SC's employees are required to comply with, when faced with a perceived, potential or real conflict of interest situation.
- The Compliance Management Guidelines provide a structured approach to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and internal governance standards, which has an impact on the day-to-day operations of the SC.
- The Compliance and Ethics programme is an interactive e-learning tool and aims to help the SC's employees understand the principles of the SC's internal governance standards. This biennial mandatory programme was developed for its employees to reaffirm on the importance of maintaining high standards of ethics, values, and behaviour at all times. The Compliance and Ethical Handbook (Handbook) was issued early 2022 to provide guidance and assist its employees in adopting an ethics and integrity culture when carrying out their duties. The Handbook includes key topics from relevant internal governance documents and serves as a quick reference for the SC's employees.

### **Business Processes and Procedures**

- In promoting a transparent and knowledge sharing culture, the SC facilitates its employees' understanding of the SC's operations by making available Business Process Flows and other relevant business process guidance on the SC's intranet. These business process flows, and guidance documents are reviewed periodically by the respective business process owners to ensure they remain relevant.
- The Procurement Policy and Guidelines was established to ensure fair, transparent and orderly sourcing and acquisition of goods and services for the SC. It includes a procurement strategy outlining

- proper guidance on the end-to-end procurement process as well as the reinforcement of good procurement governance and control.
- The Asset Management Policy and Guidelines ensures that the SC's assets provided its employees in discharging their functions are safe guarded and maintained in good working condition.

# **Information and Knowledge Management**

- The Authorisation for Disclosure of Information Policy governs the release of material non-public information to third parties. Requests for disclosure of such information will be referred to a committee consisting of senior management of the SC for decision.
- The Data Loss Mitigation Guidelines acts as a reference point for the SC's employees when handling both physical and electronic records containing sensitive information. The Guidelines ensures sensitive information is appropriately secured from unauthorised disclosure and protected from alteration, corruption, loss or misuse.
- The Records Management Policy was established to give clear guidance of the standards and procedures that need to be put in place to ensure that records are fit to be used as evidence and/or information by the SC, in carrying out business operations or legal obligations. Retention and dissemination process was improved to allow staff better access to knowledge and information to assist in their daily tasks.

## **Operational Resiliency**

- In light of COVID-19, the dedicated COVID-19 taskforce continues to monitor incidences, review precautionary measures and manage any emerging COVID-19 risks. This taskforce will also take a proactive approach to anticipate and respond to any emerging COVID-19 risks.
- The SC adapted and designed a single hybrid work arrangement to enable its employees to work from home and the office. Internal policy on managing and responding to the pandemic is continuously revised to align with the Government requirement(s).

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• The IT operations and cyber security are continuously assessed against updated technology and cyber security risks to ensure that the SC's infrastructure is adequately protected against malware, unauthorised access, insider threats, and other disruptions which may affect its operations. Besides processes and technology that have been put in place, ongoing user awareness are being conducted to help strengthen the SC's exposure against phishing and other social engineering attacks that may slip through the security gateway.

# **Anti-Corruption Measures**

- The SC remains fully committed to provide an environment that promotes a strong sense of accountability and professionalism among its employees. The establishment of the SC's Anti-Corruption Committee (JAR Jawatankuasa Anti-Rasuah) reiterates the SC's Principles and Standards on embracing the culture of integrity and ethics and is in line with the Government's commitment to fight against corruption. The SC JAR serves as a high-level management platform focused on addressing organisational issues pertaining to governance and integrity, while monitoring the implementation of the SC's initiatives as identified under the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP).
- As required under the NACP, the SC has established its own Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP) to strengthen its governance, integrity and anticorruption measures. The OACP covers key elements such as an explicit anti-corruption commitment from key stakeholders, controls in place which include policies and procedures, training and communication, reporting mechanisms and regular auditing and monitoring of proposed action plans.
- The development of the SC's Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) Compliance Framework marks the SC's commitment to ensure alignment of its anticorruption control measures with the ISO 37001 ABMS requirements.

#### **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The SC's Internal Audit Department (IAD) assists the Audit Committee in discharging its duties and responsibilities. IAD reports directly to the Audit Committee, which determines the adequacy of scope and function of the department as set out in the Internal Audit Charter. IAD accomplishes its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, control and governance processes.

IAD carries out its responsibilities by conducting reviews based on the internal audit plan as approved by the Audit Committee, which is developed using a risk-based methodology.

The main activities of IAD for the year 2022 included performing predominantly risk-based audits for the areas identified in the internal audit plan and ad-hoc review of certain functions as requested by Management. The results of the audits and activities performed by IAD were presented to the Audit Committee for its review and deliberation. Where applicable, IAD conducted follow-up enquiries to ensure that Management's corrective actions were implemented appropriately and provided periodic updates on the status or progress of the key actions to the Audit Committee. In addition, IAD played an advisory role in the course of discharging its responsibilities.

IAD had also reviewed the Audit Committee Charter and the Internal Audit Charter (the Charters) every 2 years to ensure that the Charters remain relevant and are in line with The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)'s International Professional Practices Framework.

The IIA's International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing requires a Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) that covers all aspects of the internal audit activities to be developed and maintained in order to evaluate the internal audit activities' conformance with the Standards and the internal auditors' application of the Code of Ethics. Such QAIP must include both internal and external assessments, and the external assessment must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside

the organisation. In 2022, IAD had undertaken an external assessment through self-assessment with independent external validation by The Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia. The outcome of the overall assessment was that IAD 'Generally Conforms' with IIA's International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and Code of Ethics.

# EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Consistent and constant communication with capital market participants is necessary to facilitate the effective discharge of the SC's responsibilities. Regular meetings and discussions with its key stakeholders enable the SC to provide facilitative policies, a robust regulatory framework, and encourage continuous growth and development of the capital market. All media releases, publications, guidelines, annual reports as well as consultation and response papers are posted on the SC's official website – www.sc.com.my.

The SC's Consumer and Investor Office acts as one of the key channels in engaging investors and the public. The office receives and handles public complaints and enquiries relating to the capital market. In addition, it is also responsible for the SC's investor empowerment strategy under the InvestSmart® brand, targeted towards the public and investors of all life stages.

Through InvestSmart®, the SC undertakes various initiatives via different modalities such as exhibitions, seminars, roadshows, digital and social media on the fundamentals of making sound investment decisions.

SIDREC is a body approved by the SC to handle capital market-related monetary disputes by investors against its members. SIDREC's members are licensed intermediaries and registered persons specified under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the CMSA, carrying out dealings in securities, derivatives, PRS, and fund management in Malaysia. They comprise banks, stockbrokers, derivatives brokers, FMCs, unit trust management companies, PRS providers and distributors as well as 2 development financial institutions.

Effective and affordable access to redress for monetary disputes between investors and market intermediaries provided by an independent and impartial body forms part of international best practice and supports the SC's investor protection and empowerment initiative.

Under SIDREC's Mandatory Scheme for claims not exceeding RM250,000, SIDREC's members are required to participate in SIDREC's dispute resolution process. Services under the Mandatory Scheme are free to investors. Under its Voluntary Scheme, where both parties must agree to use SIDREC's expert services, SIDREC is able to accept claims exceeding RM250,000 for mediation and adjudication as well as court-referred mediation.

Apart from its involvement during the dispute resolution process with both SIDREC's members and investors, SIDREC also interacts with the investing public through its awareness initiatives. In addition, SIDREC concurrently engages its members, the SC, and other stakeholders such as related industry associations and self-regulatory organisations to provide positive insights and concerns stemming from its dispute resolution process. This provides valuable feedback to the market, investors, and the regulator.

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# **HUMAN RESOURCES**

In tandem with the adoption of best practices pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic by organisations across the country, the SC has also been embracing the new norms of working. The implementation of a pilot hybrid working arrangement (HWA) for six months was initiated in August 2022, aimed at providing flexibility in the working arrangement for the employees and helping them achieve better work-life balance. This initiative has contributed positively towards raising staff morale, improving physical and mental well-being, and increasing work productivity. While these new norms of remote working proved to be challenging, the SC had rolled out several initiatives to assist and support its employees. These reaffirmed the SC's strategies, aligned to the core purpose of serving, developing, and retaining its people. The adaptation by employees to the new norms of working undoubtedly instilled resilience and improvisation to work practices which were instrumental in ensuring they adapted to unscripted and architected situations.

The SC together with an independent firm undertook an employee engagement survey to further obtain the views on work environment, leadership, well-being, culture, and organisational values. This was an important initiative where real feedback was obtained and further assisted in the formulation of best HR practices and procedures. To remain current and competitive in the market, a new salary structure review was also completed. The structure is pegged to P60 of the Financial Services and the General Market based on the categorisation of employees. The salary structure review is aimed to gradually help enhance the competitiveness in terms of remuneration and make the SC as one of the country's preferred employers.

So long as we have humans in the organisation, they are to an extent motivated by validation, appreciation, and empathy that only humans – not machines can provide. While the automated HR work transactions were further enhanced and implemented to manage critical HR transactions, the top management and departments also increased the engagements with internal stakeholders to further understand their business and developmental needs. Digitalisation of work processes and systems enabled operational continuity across the board and virtual learning interventions were conducted to enhance professional skills and to further hone the skill-sets of a model regulator.

# **Recruitment and Talent Management**

Recruitment and onboarding sessions were conducted virtually, and web-based assessment tools were widely used. These initiatives have ensured continuity of people resources and resulted in the recruitment of 127 candidates, of whom 101 were experienced hires and 26 Graduate Management Executives – GMEs (including 4 returning scholars). The recruitment for these GMEs were done twice in a year to ensure there is sufficient workforce and to build a cohesive talent pipeline. In addition, career progression opportunities were given to deserving employees, which proved to be the testament of the SC in recognising and rewarding strong performance among the employees.

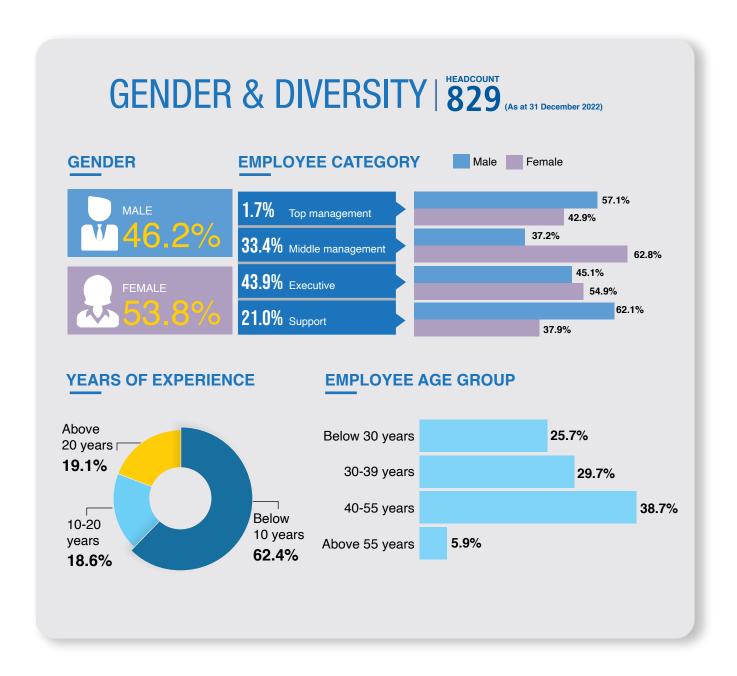
The SC also continued to provide opportunities for young graduates to gain knowledge and work experience in a regulatory environment; 40 undergraduate students from both local and foreign universities had completed their internships in 2022. Collaborating with Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the SC hosted 2 trainees under Malaysia Short-Term Employment Programme (MySTEP), an initiative to enhance the employability of young graduates.

In continuing its talent development efforts, 3 employees underwent secondment or attachment programmes, namely to the Ministry of Finance and Bursa Malaysia. The SC was also supportive of the inception of the Consumer Credit Oversight Board Task Force (CCOB-TF), an initiative jointly spearheaded by the (MOF and BNM. To support the start-up and operationalisation of CCOB, the SC seconded 5 employees. These opportunities enabled them to gain greater learning, broaden work experience, expand networking opportunities, and inculcate knowledge sharing.

Adapting to the new norms of online learning and skills development, 93% of the SC's employees had attended various programmes ranging from workshops to seminars and conferences. This demonstrates that the SC employees have further adapted to the needs and requirements of continuously equipping themselves with the relevant technical, digital and leadership skills and knowledge to face the evolving working landscape. Given the gravitating need towards digital technology, the SC introduced a Digital Curriculum with modules related to areas such as Data Analytics, Digital Assets, fintech, RegTech, SupTech and the SC's digital initiatives, which were attended by 80% of its employees.

Realising the importance of encouraging its employees to continuously upskill themselves, the SC had awarded financial assistance to employees who are keen to pursue postgraduate studies, ranging from Masters in Business Administration (MBA) to a variety of certification programmes; Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA),

Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Information System Auditor (CISA) and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM). In honing the skill-sets of the SC's investigators, the SC together with BNM co-organised the Certified Financial Investigator Programme (CFIP) whereby 16 employees will be graduating from the programme in January 2023.



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