AUDIT OVERSIGHT BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial statements
for the financial year ended
31 December 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 RM	2020 RM
CURRENT ASSETS			
Other receivables	4	81,990	7,488
Other investments	5	2,191,477	1,870,955
Cash and bank balances	6	612,741	621,314
		2,886,208	2,499,757
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Other payables and accruals	7	(463,426)	(820,300)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		2,422,782	1,679,457
REPRESENTED BY:			
Funds from the SC	8.1	34,516,438	30,516,438
Accumulated deficit	8.2	(32,093,656)	(28,836,981)
	8	2,422,782	1,679,457

The notes set out on pages 40 to 52 are an integral part of these financial statements.

SYED ZAID ALBAR
CHAIRMAN
SECURITIES COMMISSION MALAYSIA

ALEX OOI THIAM POH
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AUDIT OVERSIGHT BOARD

28 January 2022

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 RM	2020 RM
Registration fees		3,060,400	3,043,000
Finance income from fixed deposits		52,275	51,891
Penalty income		647,500	344,000
Other income		31,388	3,751
		3,791,563	3,442,642
Operating expenditure			
Administrative expenses	9	(7,048,238)	(6,509,686)
Deficit before tax		(3,256,675)	(3,067,044)
Tax expense	10	-	-
Deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year		(3,256,675)	(3,067,044)

The notes set out on pages 40 to 52 are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Funds from the Securities Commission Malaysia RM	Accumulated deficit RM	Total RM
At 1 January 2020	27,516,438	(25,769,937)	1,746,501
Funds from the SC	3,000,000	-	3,000,000
Deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(3,067,044)	(3,067,044)
At 31 December 2020/1 January 2021	30,516,438	(28,836,981)	1,679,457
Funds from the SC	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(3,256,675)	(3,256,675)
At 31 December 2021	34,516,438	(32,093,656)	2,422,782
	Note 8.1	Note 8.2	Note 8

The notes set out on pages 40 to 52 are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 RM	2020 RM
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Deficit before tax		(3,256,675)	(3,067,044)
Adjustment for:			
Finance income		(52,275)	(51,891)
OPERATING DEFICIT BEFORE WORKING CAPITAL CHANGES		(3,308,950)	(3,118,935)
Changes in working capital:			
Other receivables		(69,840)	80,596
Other payables and accruals		(356,874)	440,111
NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(3,735,664)	(2,598,228)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		47,613	44,403
Increase in other investments		(320,522)	(259,438)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(272,909)	(215,035)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY			
Funds from the SC		4,000,000	3,000,000
NET CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY		4,000,000	3,000,000
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND BANK BALANCES		(8,573)	186,737
CASH AND BANK BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY		621,314	434,577
CASH AND BANK BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER		612,741	621,314

The notes on pages 40 to 52 are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

On 1 April 2010, the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) established the Audit Oversight Board (AOB) under Section 31C of the *Securities Commission Malaysia Act 1993* (SCMA). The AOB was established for the purposes set out in Section 31B of the SCMA, namely:

(a) to promote and develop an effective and robust audit oversight framework in Malaysia.

(b) to promote confidence in the quality and reliability of audited financial statements in Malaysia.

(c) to regulate auditors of public-interest entities or schedule funds; and

(d) to exercise oversight over any person who prepares a report in relation to financial information, required to be submitted under the securities laws, guidelines issued by the Commission or the rules of a stock exchange, of a:

(i) public-interest entity or schedule fund;

(ii) non-public interest entity seeking approval to become a public-listed company or a corporation listed on the stock exchange; or

(iii) non-schedule fund seeking approval to become a schedule fund.

To facilitate the abovementioned purposes, a fund known as the AOB Fund was established under Section 31H of the SCMA. The AOB Fund is administered by the SC. The SC provides administrative and accounting support to the AOB Fund and the accounts are kept separately from the accounts of the SC in accordance with Section 31L(5) of the SCMA. The SC will continue to provide the necessary financial support to the AOB for the foreseeable future.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the AOB have been prepared in accordance with the *Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards* (MFRSs) and *International Financial Reporting Standards* (IFRS).

(i) Amendments to published standards that are effective

The AOB has applied the following amendments to published standards for the first time for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2021:

– Amendments to MFRS 16 *Covid-19 – Related Rent Concessions*

The adoption of these amendments to published standards did not have any material impact on the current period or any prior period and is not likely to affect future periods.

(ii) Amendments to published standards that have been issued but not yet effective

New amendments to published standards and annual improvements that are effective for financial year beginning after 1 January 2021 are set out below:

– Annual Improvements to MFRS 9 *Fees in the 10% test for derecognition of financial liabilities* (effective 1 January 2022) clarifies that only fees paid or received between the borrower and the lender, including the fees paid or received on each other's behalf, are included in the cash flow of the new loan when performing the 10% test.

  An entity shall apply the amendment to financial liabilities that are modified or exchanged on or after the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the entity first applies the amendment.

– Amendments to MFRS 116 *Proceeds before intended use* (effective 1 January 2022) prohibit an entity from deducting from the cost of a property, plant and equipment the proceeds received from selling items produced by the property, plant and equipment before it is ready for its intended use. The sales proceeds should instead be recognised in profit or loss.

  The amendments also clarify that testing whether an asset is functioning properly refers to assessing the technical and physical performance of the property, plant and equipment.

  The amendments shall be applied retrospectively

– Amendments to MFRS 137 *Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract* (effective 1 January 2022) clarify that direct costs of fulfilling a contract include both the incremental cost of fulfilling the contract as well as an allocation of other costs directly related to fulfilling contracts. The amendments also clarify that before recognising a separate provision for an onerous contract, impairment loss that has occurred on assets used in fulfilling the contract should be recognised.

– Amendments to MFRS 101 *Classification of liabilities as current or non-current* (effective 1 January 2023) clarify that a liability is classified as non-current if an entity has a substantive right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. If the right to defer settlement of a liability is subject to the entity complying with specified conditions (for example, debt covenants), the right exists at the end of the reporting period only if the entity complies with those conditions at that date. The amendments further clarify that the entity must comply with the conditions at the end of the reporting period even if the lender does not test compliance until a later date.

  The assessment of whether an entity has the right to defer settlement of a liability at the reporting date is not affected by expectations of the entity or events after the reporting date.

  The amendments shall be applied retrospectively.

– Amendments to MFRS 112 *Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction* (effective 1 January 2023) clarify that the initial exemption rule does not apply to transactions where both an asset and a liability are recognised at the same time such as leases and decommissioning obligations. Accordingly, entities are required to recognise both deferred tax assets and liabilities for all deductible and taxable temporary differences arising from such transactions.

These amendments to published standards and annual improvements will be adopted on the respective effective dates. The AOB has started a preliminary assessment on the effects of the above amendments to published standards and annual improvements and the impact is still being assessed.

(b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis other than those as disclosed in Note 3.

(c) Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Ringgit Malaysia (RM), which is the AOB's functional currency. All financial information is presented in RM, unless otherwise stated.

(d) Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with MFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

There are no significant areas of estimation uncertainty and critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to the periods presented in these financial statements, and have been applied consistently by the AOB, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Financial instruments

(i) Recognition and initial measurement

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the AOB becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset or a financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus or minus, for an item not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issuance.

An embedded derivative is recognised separately from host contract where the host contract is not a financial asset, and accounted for separately if, and only if, the derivative is not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host contract and the host contract is not measured at fair value through profit or loss. The host contract, in the event an embedded derivative is recognised separately, is accounted for in accordance with policy applicable to the nature of the host.

(ii) Financial instrument categories and subsequent measurement

Financial assets

Categories of financial assets are determined on initial recognition and are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the AOB changes its business model for managing financial assets in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change of the business model.

Amortised cost

Amortised cost category comprises financial assets that are held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows and its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely for payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. The financial assets are not designated as fair value through profit or loss. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Finance income and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Finance income is recognised by applying effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount except for credit impaired financial assets (see Note 3(c)) where the effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost.

Financial liabilities

Amortised cost

Financial liabilities not categorised as fair value through profit or loss are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Finance expense is recognised in the profit or loss. Any gains or losses on derecognition are also recognised in the profit or loss.

(iii) Derecognition

A financial asset or part of it is derecognised when, and only when, the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred, or control of the asset is not retained or substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred to another party. On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received (including any new asset obtained less any new liability assumed) is recognised in the profit or loss.

A financial liability or a part of it is derecognised when, and only when, the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. A financial liability is also derecognised when its terms are modified and the cash flows of the modified liability are substantially different, in which case, a new financial liability based on modified terms is recognised at fair value. On derecognition of a financial liability, the difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(iv) Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the AOB currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and it intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and liability simultaneously.

(b) Cash and bank balances

Cash and bank balances consist of balances and deposits with licensed banks which have an insignificant risk of changes in fair value with original maturities of three months or less, and are used by the AOB in the management of its short term commitments. For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and bank balances are presented net of restricted deposits, if any.

(c) Impairment

Financial assets

The AOB recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses on financial assets measured at amortised cost. Expected credit losses are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses.

The AOB measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit loss, except for cash and bank balances for which credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, which are measured at 12-month expected credit loss.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating expected credit loss, the AOB considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the AOB's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information, where available.

Lifetime expected credit losses are the expected credit losses that result from all possible default events over the expected life of the asset, while 12-month expected credit losses are the portion of expected credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date. The maximum period considered when estimating expected credit losses is the maximum contractual period over which the AOB is exposed to credit risk.

An impairment loss in respect of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised in profit or loss and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account.

At each reporting date, the AOB assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost are credit-impaired. A financial asset is credit impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off (either partially or full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when the AOB determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off. However, financial assets that are written off could still be subject to enforcement activities in order to comply with the AOB's procedures for recovery of amounts due.

(d) Leases

(i) Definition of a lease

A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys a right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the AOB assesses whether:

- the contract involves the use of an identified asset – this may be specified explicitly or implicitly, and should be physically distinct or represent substantially all of the capacity of a physically distinct asset. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right, then the asset is not identified;
- as a lessee, it has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- as a lessee, it has the right to direct the use of the asset. The AOB has this right when it has the decision-making rights that are most relevant to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used. In rare cases where the decision about how and for what purpose the asset is used is predetermined, the AOB has the right to direct the use of the asset if either the AOB has the right to operate the asset or the AOB designed the asset in a way that predetermines how and for what purpose it will be used.

(ii) Recognition and initial measurement

As a lessee

The AOB has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. The AOB recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(e) Other Income

(i) Registration fees

Registration fees are recognised at a point in time upon submission of registrations by registrants.

(ii) Finance income

Finance income is recognised as it accrues using effective interest method in profit or loss.

(iii) Penalty income

Penalty income is recognised at a point in time pursuant to Section 31Z of the SCMA where the AOB imposes monetary penalty on auditors for failure to comply with the AOB's registration conditions. The penalty amount is restricted and shall be utilised for planning and implementing capacity-building programmes in relation to the accounting and auditing profession.

(f) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefit obligations in respect of salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave and sick leave, contribution to social security contibutions (SOCSO), Employees Provident Fund (EPF) or private retirement scheme (PRS) are measured on an undiscounted basis and are expensed as the related service is provided.

A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid if the AOB has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

(g) Contingencies

Contingent assets

When an inflow of economic benefit of an asset is probable where it arises from past events and where existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity, the asset is not recognised in the statements of financial position but is being disclosed as a contingent asset. When the inflow of economic benefit is virtually certain, then the related asset is recognised.

Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events beyond the control of the entity or a present obligation that is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation. A contingent liability also arises in the extremely rare case where there is a liability that cannot be recognised because it cannot be measured reliably. However, contingent liabilities do not include financial guarantee contracts.

(h) Fair value measurement

Fair value of an asset or a liability is determined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

For non-financial asset, the fair value measurement takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

4. OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Other receivable	23,750	-
Prepayments	46,090	-
Finance income receivable	12,150	7,488
	81,990	7,488

5. OTHER INVESTMENTS

Other investments represent deposits placed with licensed banks with maturity terms of 3 months or more and interest income earned at a rate of 1.8% per annum (2020: 1.8% per annum).

The deposits arose from monies received from penalty income imposed by the AOB. The monies are restricted and shall be utilised for planning and implementing capacity-building programmes in relation to the accounting and auditing profession.

In 2020, the AOB approved a one-off training subsidy for the then existing registered firms of the AOB with less than 10 audit partners, of up to RM30,000 per firm for Approved Training Programmes conducted by the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA). RM334,200 (2020: RM460,950) were incurred for the training subsidy during the financial year.

6. CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Cash and bank balances	612,741	621,314

7. OTHER PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Prepaid registration fee	440,000	432,000
Other payables and accruals	23,426	388,300
	463,426	820,300

8. TOTAL RESERVES

	Note	2021 RM	2020 RM
Funds from the SC	8.1	34,516,438	30,516,438
Accumulated deficit	8.2	(32,093,656)	(28,836,981)
Total reserves		2,422,782	1,679,457

8.1 Funds from the SC

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Contribution:		
At the beginning of the year	30,516,438	27,516,438
Additions	4,000,000	3,000,000
At the end of the year	34,516,438	30,516,438

8.2 Accumulated deficit

	2021 RM	2020 RM
At the beginning of the year	(28,836,981)	(25,769,937)
Deficit for the year	(3,256,675)	(3,067,044)
At the end of the year	(32,093,656)	(28,836,981)

9. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	2021 RM	2020 RM
The administrative expenses consist of:		
Auditors' remuneration	22,100	20,000
Honorarium payment	855	70,846
Non-executive members' allowance	314,000	264,400
Other miscellaneous charges	558,598	520,736
Rental of office equipment	1,057	3,150
Staff costs	5,817,428	5,169,604
Training subsidy	334,200	460,950
	7,048,238	6,509,686

10. TAX EXPENSE

The SC was granted approval from the Minister of Finance to be exempted from taxation with effect from Year Assessment (YA) 2007 until YA 2021. As a unit of the SC, with effect from YA 2022, the AOB will be subjected to tax at a rate of 24% under the requirements of the *Income Tax Act 1967*.

11. RELATED PARTIES

Identity of related parties

For the purpose of the financial statements, parties are considered to be related to the AOB if the AOB has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control or jointly control the party or exercise significant influence over the party in making financial and operating decisions, or vice versa, or where the AOB and the party are subject to common control. Related parties may be individuals or other entities.

Related parties also include key management personnel defined as those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the AOB either directly or indirectly.

In 2020, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill (LHAG) was deemed to be a related party of the AOB by virtue of a Board Member of the SC was also a partner of LHAG.

Significant related-party transaction

The significant related-party transaction of the AOB is shown below:

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Legal fees charged by LHAG	-	(33,904)

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

12.1 Categories of financial instruments

The table below provides an analysis of financial instruments categorised as amortised cost (AC):

	Carrying amount RM	AC RM
2021		
Financial assets		
Other receivables	35,900	35,900
Other investments	2,191,477	2,191,477
Cash and bank balances	612,741	612,741
	2,840,118	2,840,118
Financial liabilities		
Other payables and accruals*	(23,426)	(23,426)

2020	Carrying amount RM	AC RM
Financial assets		
Other receivables	7,488	7,488
Other investments	1,870,955	1,870,955
Cash and bank balances	621,314	621,314
	2,499,757	2,499,757
Financial liabilities		
Other payables and accruals*	(388,300)	(388,300)

* Exclude non-financial instruments

12.2 Financial risk management

The AOB is primarily exposed to liquidity risk in the normal course of the AOB's operations. As the AOB is administered by the SC, the AOB is subject to the SC's financial risk management policies.

12.3 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the AOB will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The AOB's exposure to liquidity risk arises principally from its various payables.

The AOB, via the SC, monitors and maintains a level of cash and bank balances deemed adequate to finance the AOB's operations and receives financial support from the SC to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

Maturity analysis

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the AOB's financial liabilities as at the end of the reporting period based on undiscounted contractual payments.

	Carrying amount RM	Contractual cash flow RM	Under 1 year RM
2021			
Financial liabilities			
Other payables and accruals	23,426	23,426	23,426
2020			
Financial liabilities			
Other payables and accruals	388,300	388,300	388,300

12.4 Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates, will affect the AOB's financial position or cash flows.

12.4.1 Interest rate risk

The interest rate profile of the AOB's significant interest-bearing financial instruments, based on carrying amounts as at the end of the reporting period was:

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Fixed rate instruments		
Financial assets	2,191,477	1,870,955

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

Fair value sensitivity analysis for fixed rate instruments

The AOB does not account for any fixed rate financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, and the AOB does not designate derivatives as hedging instruments under a fair value hedge accounting model. Therefore, a change in interest rates at the end of the reporting period would not affect profit or loss.

12.5 Fair values

The carrying amounts of cash and bank balances, other receivables, other payables and accruals reasonably approximate their fair values due to the relatively short-term nature of these financial instruments.

Fair value hierarchy has not been presented as there are no financial instruments carried at fair value nor those not carried at fair value for which fair value is disclosed as at the end of the financial year.

13. FUND MANAGEMENT

The AOB's objective is to maintain adequate reserves to safeguard the AOB's ability to perform its duties and functions independently. The reserves are managed by the SC.

14. CONTINGENCIES

In 2019, the AOB imposed sanctions against an audit firm and its partners (the Parties) which include inter-alia a monetary penalty of RM631,000 for breaching the AOB's registration conditions under Section 31O(3) of the SCMA. The AOB's sanctions were affirmed by the SC.

The Parties applied to the High Court for judicial review on the AOB's and the SC's decisions. On 10 August 2020, the High Court quashed the sanctions imposed by the AOB and the SC against the audit firm and its partners. Pursuant to the High Court's decision, the Parties also sought for an assessment of damages of approximately RM35.0 million from the SC/AOB. The external counsel advised that the claims against the SC/AOB of RM35.0 million is without basis. Further, pursuant to Section 160 of the SCMA, the

SC/AOB were carrying out its functions in accordance with the SCMA and are protected from damages unless it can be proven that they have acted in bad faith.

On 13 August 2020, the SC/AOB filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal to set aside the High Court's decision.

On 10 December 2021, the Court of Appeal decided in favour of the SC/AOB where the High Court decision was set aside. Accordingly the AOB's enforcement actions against the audit firm and its partners remain in effect and their claim for assessment of damages were set aside.

On 20 December 2021, the Parties applied to the Court of Appeal for a stay of its decision, pending disposal of their application for leave to appeal to the Federal Court. Pending finalisation of the judicial proceedings, the monetary penalty of RM631,000 imposed by the SC/AOB against the audit firm and its partners has not been recognised as penalty income.

15. AUTHORISATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 were authorised by the SC for issuance and signed by the Chairman of the SC and Executive Officer of the AOB on 28 January 2022.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, **Vignaswaran A/L Kandiah**, the officer primarily responsible for the financial management of the Audit Oversight Board, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the financial statements set out on pages 36 to 52 are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the declaration to be true, and by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act, 1960*.

Subscribed and solemnly declared by the abovenamed **Vignaswaran A/L Kandiah**, NRIC No. 561128-10-6171, at Kuala Lumpur in the Federal Territory on 28 January 2022.

VIGNASWARAN A/L KANDIAH
OFFICER

Before me:

PESURUHJAYA SUMPAH
W 502
HAJI ABDUL AZIZNI
BIN ABU BAKAR
01.01.2021-12.02.2022
MALAYSIA

G1-1-2, Ground Floor, Menara 1 Dutamas,
Solaris Dutamas, No. 1, Jalan Dutamas, 1,
50480 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE AUDIT OVERSIGHT BOARD, SECURITIES COMMISSION MALAYSIA

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Audit Oversight Board (the AOB) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the AOB as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with *Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards* and *International Financial Reporting Standards.*

What we have audited

We have audited the financial statements of the AOB, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the financial year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, as set out on pages 36 to 52.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence and other ethical responsibilities

We are independent of the AOB in accordance with the *By-Laws (on Professional Ethics, Conduct and Practice)* of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (By-Laws) and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including *International Independence Standards*) (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the By-Laws and the IESBA Code.

Responsibilities of the Board Members of the Securities Commission Malaysia for the financial statements

The Board Members of the SC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements of the AOB that give a true and fair view in accordance with *Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards* and *International Financial Reporting Standards*. The Board Members of the SC are also responsible for such internal control as the Board Members of the SC determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements of the AOB that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements of the AOB, the Board Members of the SC are responsible for assessing the AOB's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Members of the SC either intend to liquidate the AOB or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements of the AOB as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

(a) Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements of the AOB, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

(b) Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the AOB's internal control.

(c) Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members of the SC.

(d) Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board Members of the SC's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the AOB's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements of the AOB or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the AOB to cease to continue as a going concern.

(e) Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements of the AOB, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements of the AOB represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board Members of the SC regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

OTHER MATTERS

This report is made solely to the Board Members of the SC, as a body and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS PLT
LLP0014401-LCA & AF 1146
Chartered Accountants

HERBERT CHUA GUAN HENG
03483/01/2024 J
Chartered Accountant

Kuala Lumpur
28 January 2022