



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RHB ISLAMIC, FIRST BANK IN M'SIA TO PROVIDE WHOLESAL GUARANTEE ISLAMIC TO BUMIPUTERA SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR: RHB Islamic Bank Berhad ("RHB Islamic" or "the bank") a wholly-owned subsidiary of RHB Bank Berhad, today inked a strategic partnership with Credit Guarantee Corporation ("CGC") to become the country's first bank to provide Wholesale Guarantee Islamic (WG-i) Bumi, a scheme for Bumiputera SMEs. The agreement provides additional avenue for the Bank to extend its financing packages to deserving Bumiputera SMEs.

Today's partnership signifies RHB Islamic as the first Islamic bank to provide WG-i and the first bank to provide WG-i Bumi scheme under the Programme Financing Module (PFM). "We understand the challenges faced by SMEs in expanding and growing their businesses, as such today's partnership with CGC is testament to RHB's commitment in creating synergy in the financial services sector to provide our customers with better options and facilities that are sustainable," said Dato' Adissadikin Ali, Managing Director of RHB Islamic Bank Berhad.

"As the demand of the business landscape evolves, we are cognisant that we need to continuously improve and innovate our products and services to cater to our customers' business needs," added Dato' Adissadikin.

CGC's President and CEO, Datuk Mohd Zamree Mohd Ishak said the WG-i Bumi with RHB marks another milestone in the financing of Bumiputera SMEs in the country.

"We are confident that more banks will collaborate with CGC for guarantee services to reduce risk on the books of financial institutions and freeing up capital to allow increased capacity for more SME financing," said Mohd Zamree.

The collaboration for the WG-i scheme is set to enhance the position of the existing selected portfolio in terms of its asset quality. The WG-i is an avenue for better management of capital charge for the SME portfolio in order to provide competitive financing packages in terms of pricing among others. With WG-i, SMEs can leverage on the guarantee provided by CGC on portfolio basis which in turn will create opportunities for better cash flow management for the SMEs as compared to the traditional product offerings available in the market.

Seventy-two (72) existing Islamic Bumiputera SME customers under the SME portfolio will benefit from this scheme conforming to the predetermined eligibility criteria set by both CGC and RHB Islamic.

Issued on behalf of RHB Islamic Bank Berhad by Group Corporate Communications. For more information, please contact Alicia Pinto at 012-349 6364/ alicia.christine.pinto@rhbgroup.com or Cynthia Blemin at 012-249 4071/ cynthia.blemin@rhbgroup.com.

About the RHB Banking Group

The RHB Banking Group, with RHB Bank Berhad as the holding company, is the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's core businesses are structured into seven main business pillars, namely Group Retail Banking, Group Business & Transaction Banking, Group Wholesale Banking, RHB Singapore, Group Shariah Business, Group International Business and Group Insurance. Group Wholesale Banking comprises Corporate Banking, Investment Banking, Group Treasury & Global Markets, Asset Management and Private Equity. All the seven business pillars are offered through the Group's main subsidiaries – RHB Investment Bank Berhad, RHB Islamic Bank Berhad and RHB Insurance Berhad, while its asset management and unit trust businesses are undertaken by RHB Asset Management Sdn. Bhd. and RHB Islamic International Asset Management Berhad. The Group's regional presence now spans ten countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong/China, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

For more information, please visit www.rhbgroup.com

ABOUT CGC

Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad (CGC) was established on 5 July 1972 and it is 78.65% owned by Bank Negara Malaysia and the remaining 21.35% owned by various commercial banks in Malaysia. The core business of CGC is to assist SMEs, especially those with inadequate or without collateral and track record, to obtain credit facilities from financial institutions by providing guarantee cover on such facilities. CGC has availed over 444,700 guarantees and financing to SMEs valued over RM63.7 billion since its establishment. CGC's support for SMEs is not only confined to the provision of loan guarantees and financing facilities, but also credit information and credit rating services through its subsidiary Credit Bureau Malaysia. Through the Bureau, CGC assist SMEs to build a credit history and track record to enhance their credibility and bankability to secure financing on their own merit and at reasonable cost. Other funds currently managed by CGC include the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS) and the Bumiputera Entrepreneur Project Fund (TPUB-i) with a total allocation of RM3.5 billion and RM300 million respectively. To date, CGC had managed a total of 45 guarantee and financing schemes including 16 government-backed schemes. Currently, seventeen (17) Commercial Banks, fifteen (15) Islamic Banks, and seven (7) Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) are participating in CGC's guarantee schemes in providing financing to customers through a wide network of more than 2,600 branches nationwide to avail financing.

SMEs who are interested to obtain more information may call CGC's Client Service Centre at 03-7880-0088 or email csc@cgc.com.my or visit www.cgc.com.my or www.facebook.com/cqcmly