



## News Room

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### RHB Confident Of Further Growth

**Kuala Lumpur, 18 June 2009:** RHB Capital Berhad (RHB Capital) is poised to continue to deliver enhanced shareholders value as the RHB Banking Group further realises the benefits of its Group-wide Transformation initiative that began in late 2007, as well as its various corporate exercises undertaken to date.

During RHB Capital's 14th Annual General Meeting today, Dato' Mohamed Khadar Merican, Chairman of RHB Capital Berhad, said, "The Group will remain focused on building its core businesses and will continue to look for opportunities to expand its market share during this more challenging period with improvements in sales, service and support infrastructure to better serve our customers.

"Ultimately, we want to put ourselves in a position where we can effectively meet the needs of our customers so that we can further thrive in this highly competitive sector.

"The global slowdown is expected to have a knock-on effect to the Malaysian economy. Nevertheless, the Malaysian banking sector is expected to remain resilient contributed by strong capitalisation, good asset quality management and robust risk management practices," he added.

RHB Capital's pre-tax profit of RM1,422.4 million for the financial year ended 31 December 2008 is an increase of 25% as compared to the RM1,136.9 registered last year.

The improved performance was attributed by higher net income by RM56.6 million lower allowances for losses on loans, financing and other losses by RM74.5 million and lower impairment loss by RM51.9 million.

The higher net income was driven by an increase in gross loans and advances by 11.2% or RM6.3 billion to RM63.2 billion as well as benefits from capital management exercise.

Net profit for the Group increased by 47% from RM712.9 to RM1,048.7, bolstered by the Group's acquisition of the minority interests in RHB Bank Berhad.

The Group intends to continue its aim towards becoming a leading financial institution in ASEAN. The surge of change within the Group and its efforts to further streamline its core businesses has already been reflected in the new corporate image it introduced in May 2008 to project RHB as a single unified banking group.

"We are now operating on a universal banking platform, focusing on customer centricity to better serve our customers and reaping benefits from our scale. Both these factors form a critical part of developing a competitive business to succeed in the financial sector. Common functions within the Group have been streamlined and centralized to bring about greater efficiencies and productivity. The Transformation Program has placed us on a competitive platform to achieve our goals amidst intensifying competition," said Dato' Mohamed Khadar.

"The improved performance in 2008, with a net profit growth of over 47%, shows the results of the revitalized organization. We are also pleased to be able to share the improvements with our shareholders, with the declaration of a final dividend of 10.6% less tax, which meets our stated dividend policy," he concluded

Issued on behalf of RHB Investment Management by Group Corporate Communications Division, RHB Capital Berhad. For more information, please call Eza Dzul Karnain at 012-3420060 or Sandra Foo at 012-3188412.

#### About the RHB Banking Group

The RHB Banking Group is the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's core businesses are streamlined into four Strategic Business Units (SBUs): Retail Banking, Corporate & Investment Banking, Islamic Banking and International Banking. These businesses are offered through its main subsidiaries – RHB Bank Berhad, RHB Investment Bank Berhad, RHB Insurance Berhad and RHB Islamic Bank Berhad, while its asset management and unit trust businesses are held under RHB Investment Management Berhad. RHB's International Banking Division include the commercial banking operations in Singapore, Thailand and Brunei. The Group also has a non-ringgit based offshore funding operations in Labuan as well as a representative office in Vietnam. It is the RHB Banking Group's aspiration to deliver superior customer experience and shareholder value; and be recognised as one of the top financial services groups in ASEAN.

It's time we simplify banking.