## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

STOCK CODE : 0198

**COMPANY NAME** : GDB HOLDINGS BERHAD FINANCIAL YEAR : DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### **OUTLINE:**

SECTION A – DISCLOSURE ON MALAYSIAN CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Paragraph 15.25 of Bursa Malaysia Listing Requirements.

# SECTION B – DISCLOSURES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES PERSUANT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Appendix 4 (Corporate Governance Disclosures) of the Corporate Governance Guidelines issued by Bank Negara Malaysia. This section is only applicable for financial institutions or any other institutions that are listed on the Exchange that are required to comply with the above Guidelines.

## SECTION A - DISCLOSURE ON MALAYSIAN CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Paragraph 15.25 of Bursa Malaysia Listing Requirements.

## **Intended Outcome**

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

## Practice 1.1

The board should set the company's strategic aims, ensure that the necessary resources are in place for the company to meet its objectives and review management performance. The board should set the company's values and standards, and ensure that its obligations to its shareholders and other stakeholders are understood and met.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice		The collective responsibility of the Board of Directors ("Board") at GDB involves guiding, overseeing, and securing the long-term success of GDB and its subsidiaries ("Group"). This entails leading the Group towards sustainable value creation for stakeholders while adhering to high standards of governance. Board members are expected to demonstrate exemplary stewardship, professionalism, and commitment to the Group's core values, while fulfilling their fiduciary duties.
		To ensure the effective discharge of its function and responsibilities, the Board delegates some of the authorities and discretions to the Group Managing Director ("GMD"), Group Executive Director ("GED"), Executive Director and Key Senior Management of the operating units within the Group (collectively known as "the Management") as well as its properly constituted Board Committees, namely Audit Committee ("AC"), Nomination Committee ("NC"). Remuneration Committee ("RC") and Risk Management Committee ("RMC") which are within their respective Terms of Reference.
		In discharging duties and roles effectively, the Board is guided by the Board Charter, which sets out the principles and guidelines that are to be applied by the Board.
		The Group is led and managed by an effective and experienced Board comprising members with a wide range of experience and qualifications. The Board assumes, amongst others, the following responsibilities:-
		<ul> <li>Overseeing and evaluating the conduct, governance and sustainability of the businesses of the Group.</li> </ul>
		• Reviewing and adopting the overall strategic direction, business plans, and annual budgets of the Group, including major capital commitments.

shareholders involves providing them with all relevant information concerning the Company, accessible through the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .
shareholders involves providing them with all relevant information concerning the Company, accessible through the Company's
Ensuring effective investor relations and communications with
Building a strong corporate governance culture centered around efffective management of economic, environmental, social risks and opportunities.
Upholding a robust risk management practice and a reliable internal control system as part of good corporate governance, aimed at protecting the shareholder's investment and the Group's assets.
In order to inculcate good values and ethical standards, the Board has also established a Code of Ethics and Conduct which serves as an internal frame of reference for the Directors and employees of the Group in the conduct of their daily activities. The Code of Ethics and Conduct is incorporated in the Board Charter of the Company. The Board acknowledges the importance of the following:-
Overseeing the development and implementation of the shareholder communications policy for the Company.
<ul> <li>Reviewing the adequacy and integrity of the Group's internal control systems, risk management and management information systems.</li> </ul>
Identifying principal risks and ensuring the implementation of appropriate systems to manage and monitor significant financial and non-financial risks.
Reviewing and approving new ventures, major acquisitions and disposal of undertakings and properties.
<ul> <li>Establishing key performance indicators and ensuring that Senior Management has the necessary skills and experience for the orderly succession of Board and Senior Management.</li> </ul>

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

# Practice 1.2

A Chairman of the board who is responsible for instilling good corporate governance practices, leadership and effectiveness of the board is appointed.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Chairman of the Board, Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj. Zaini Bin Omar, holds an Independent Non-Executive position is responsible for leading the Board to ensure its effectiveness and integrity and the entrenchment of good corporate governance practices within the Group.  The roles and responsibilities of the Chairman of the Board have been clearly specified in the Board Charter. The responsibilities of the Chairman, amongst others, are as follows:-  i. To provide leadership to the Board. ii. To oversee the effective discharge of the Board's supervisory role. iii. To facilitate the effective contribution of all Directors. iv. To conduct and chair Board meetings and general meetings of the Company. v. To manage communications and effectiveness at the Board level and effective supervision over the Management. vi. To ensure that quality information to facilitate decision-making is delivered to the Board in a timely manner. vii. To ensure Board Meetings and general meetings are conducted/held in compliance with good conduct and best practices. viii. To promote constructive and respectful relations between Board members and between the Board and the Management. ix. To jointly represent the Company together with the GMD to external groups such as shareholders, creditors, consumer groups, local communities and federal, state, and local governments.
Explanation for departure	:	
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Measure	:	

Timeframe	:	

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

**Practice 1.3**The positions of Chairman and CEO are held by different individuals.

Application :	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	The positions of Chairman and GMD are exercised by different individuals and are clear and distinct which held by different individuals. Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj. Zaini Bin Omar is the Independent Non-Executive Chairman while Mr. Cheah Ham Cheia is the GMD. The Chairman and the GMD are not related to each other.  The position of the Chairman and GMD has a clearly accepted division of responsibility to ensure there is a balance of power and authority to promote accountability and that their respective roles and responsibilities have been which are clearly set out in the Board Charter and is made available on the corporate website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .  The role of the Chairman is to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the governance process of the Board while the position of GMD is to focus on the business, organisational effectiveness and day-to-day management of the Group and actively reports, clarifies and communicates matters to the Board.  The Company acknowledges the importance of having a proper balance of power, responsibility and accountability. This is to ensure no individual has unfettered decision-making powers.
Explanation for : departure	
Large companies are require to complete the columns b	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.
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Timeframe :	

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

## Practice 1.4

The Chairman of the board should not be a member of the Audit Committee, Nomination Committee or Remuneration Committee

Note: If the board Chairman is not a member of any of these specified committees, but the board allows the Chairman to participate in any or all of these committees' meetings, by way of invitation, then the status of this practice should be a 'Departure'.			
Application	: :	Departure	
Explanation on application of the practice	:		
Explanation for departure	:	The Chairman of the Board, Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj. Zaini Bin Omar is also a member of AC, NC and RC. All these Board Committees are supported by another two (2) Independent Non-Executive Directors, namely Datuk Sr. Chia Lui Meng and Mdm. Kow Poh Gek.	
		The Company is a moderate sized Board comprising only three (3) Independent Directors and the Chairman of the Board does not assume the position of the Chairman of the Committees.	
		Taking into account the fact that matters within the committees' purview are matters reserved for the unanimous decision of the Board, the NC is of the view that there is adequate check and balance despite having the Board Chairman as a member of the committees during the year in review. The Board Chairman did not dominate any of the discussions at the Board or committee level. Decisions made by these committees are tabled as recommendations to the Board and such matters are further discussed at the Board level before decisions are made.	
		The NC will continue to monitor and evaluate the need to increase the Board size.	
Large companies are to complete the colu	-	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.	
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

## Practice 1.5

The board is supported by a suitably qualified and competent Company Secretary to provide sound governance advice, ensure adherence to rules and procedures, and advocate adoption of corporate governance best practices.

Application	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	Cospec Management Services Sdn. Bhd. ("CMS").  The Board is supported by two (2) qualified and competent Company Secretaries nominated by CMS, who are qualified to act as Company Secretaries under Section 235(2) of the Companies Act 2016 ("Act") and also are registered holders of the Practising Certificate issued by the Companies Commission of Malaysia. The new Joint Secretary was appointed by the Board on 5 May 2023 for better management of the Company's secretarial and administrative duties.  The Company Secretaries play an important role in facilitating the overall compliance with the Act, Main Market Listing Requirements ("Listing Requirements") of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad ("Bursa Securities") and other relevant laws and regulations. The Company Secretaries also assist the Board and Board Committees to function effectively and in accordance with their Terms of References and best practices and ensure adherence to the existing Board policies and procedures. In order to discharge the roles effectively, the Company Secretaries have been continuously attending the necessary training programmes, conferences, seminars and/or forums so as to keep themselves abreast with the latest developments in the corporate governance realm and changes in regulatory requirements that are relevant to their profession and enable them to provide the necessary advisory role to the Board.  The Board has direct access to the professional advice and services of
	the Company Secretaries and their team when performing their duties and discharging their responsibilities.
	The Company Secretaries had on 23 August 2023 organised a briefing for the Board on the Amendments to the Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities relating to Sustainability Training for Directors, Conflict of Interest and other amendments to keep the Board abreast of the latest development on the governance matters and provisions under Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 ("FYE 2023").

	During the financial year under review, the Board and Board Committees' meetings were properly convened, and accurate and proper records of the proceedings and resolutions passed were taken and maintained in the statutory records of the Company.  Overall, the Board is satisfied with the service and support rendered by
	the Company Secretaries and their team to the Board in the discharge of functions.
Explanation for : departure	
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Timeframe :	

Every company is headed by a board, which assumes responsibility for the company's leadership and is collectively responsible for meeting the objectives and goals of the company.

## Practice 1.6

Directors receive meeting materials, which are complete and accurate within a reasonable period prior to the meeting. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the minutes are circulated in a timely manner.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice		To facilitate the Directors' time planning, an annual meeting calendar was prepared in advance of each new calendar year by the Company Secretaries. The calendar provides the Directors with scheduled dates for meetings of the Board and Board Committees as well as the Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). The closed periods for dealings in securities by Directors and principal officers based on the scheduled dates of meetings for making announcements of the Group's quarterly results were also provided therein.  Except in the case of an emergency, the notices of meetings and meeting papers are generally circulated to the Board members at least five (5) working days prior to the dates of meetings. This is to accord sufficient time for the Directors to peruse the Board papers and to seek any clarification or further details that they may need from the Management or to consult independent advisers (if necessary) and to make an informed decision at each Board meeting.  In the intervals between scheduled Board and Board Committees meetings, for exceptional matters requiring urgent Board decisions, Board and Board Committees decisions are obtained via additional adhoc meetings convened or written resolutions which are supported with board papers, providing information necessary for the Board and Board Committees' deliberation to ensure the Directors can make informed decisions. All written resolutions approved by the Board will be tabled for notation at the next Board Meeting.  The deliberations and conclusions of matters discussed in the Board or Board Committees meetings are duly recorded in the minutes of meetings. The draft minutes are circulated for the Board and Committee Chairman's review within a reasonable timeframe after the meetings. The draft minutes of the meeting accurately captured the deliberations and decisions of the Board and/or the Board Committees, including whether any Director abstains from voting or deliberating on a particular matter. All the records of proceedings and resolutions passed are kept at

	about the Group. In addition, the I independent external profession	tricted access to timely information Directors are also empowered to seek hal advice at the expense of the it necessary in the course of their
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There is demarcation of responsibilities between the board, board committees and management.

There is clarity in the authority of the board, its committees and individual directors.

## Practice 2.1

The board has a board charter which is periodically reviewed and published on the company's website. The board charter clearly identifies—

- the respective roles and responsibilities of the board, board committees, individual directors and management; and
- issues and decisions reserved for the board.

Application :	Applied	
Explanation on : application of the practice	The Board has formalised and adopted a Board Charter covering the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board, Board Committee, individual Directors and Management and the issues and decisions reserved for the Board's decision.	
	This Board Charter serves as a guiding literature to the Board in the fulfilment of its fiduciary and leadership functions.	
	The Board Charter would be reviewed as and when necessary to ensure it remains consistent with the Board's objectives and responsibilities and reflect the latest compliance requirements as a result of changes in the regulatory framework.	
	The Board Charter is available on the Company's website at www.gdbhb.com.my.	
Explanation for : departure		
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Measure :		
Timeframe :		

The board is committed to promoting good business conduct and maintaining a healthy corporate culture that engenders integrity, transparency and fairness.

The board, management, employees and other stakeholders are clear on what is considered acceptable behaviour and practice in the company.

## Practice 3.1

The board establishes a Code of Conduct and Ethics for the company, and together with management implements its policies and procedures, which include managing conflicts of interest, preventing the abuse of power, corruption, insider trading and money laundering.

The Code of Conduct and Ethics is published on the company's website.

Application :	Applied
- deleterance.	1.46
Explanation on : application of the practice	The Board acknowledges that working with a strong sense of integrity is essential to achieve the Group's business goal in an open, honest, ethical and principled manner.
	The Board has adopted a Code of Ethics and Conduct which is incorporated in the Board Charter of the Company and it is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .
	All Directors and employees of the Group must endeavour to observe the Code of Ethics and Conduct which provides guidance as to the ethical conduct to be complied with to uphold the principles of honesty and integrity as well as to ensure a high standard of ethical and professional conduct is upheld in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
	The Code of Ethics and Conduct sets out the principles for dealing with conflicts of interest, bribery and corruption, insider trading, confidentiality and protection of the Group's assets, fair dealing and equality in employment, health and safety and compliance with laws.
	The Board will review the Code of Ethics and Conduct from time to time to ensure that it continues to remain relevant and appropriate.
Explanation for : departure	
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The board is committed to promoting good business conduct and maintaining a healthy corporate culture that engenders integrity, transparency and fairness.

The board, management, employees and other stakeholders are clear on what is considered acceptable behaviour and practice in the company.

## Practice 3.2

The board establishes, reviews and together with management implements policies and procedures on whistleblowing.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice		The Board recognises the whistle blowing as an important mechanism in the prevention and detection of improper conduct, harassment or corruption in the conduct of the Group's businesses and operations. Hence, the Board is committed to promote good business conduct and maintain business integrity.	
		The Whistle Blowing Policy was reviewed and revised by the Board to include the relevant amendments in relation to anti-corruption measures. The said policy provides a defined avenue and accessible reporting channels for all Directors, employees, shareholders and any third parties associated with the Group to raise concerns or disclose any improper conduct within the Group.  The Whistle Blowing Policy is available on the Company's website at	
		www.gdbhb.com.my.	
		The Board will continue to review the Whistle Blowing Policy at least once every three (3) years to ensure its effectiveness and consistency with the governing legislation and regulatory requirement.	
Explanation for departure	:		
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Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

The company addresses sustainability risks and opportunities in an integrated and strategic manner to support its long-term strategy and success.

## Practice 4.1

The board together with management takes responsibility for the governance of sustainability in the company including setting the company's sustainability strategies, priorities and targets.

The board takes into account sustainability considerations when exercising its duties including among others the development and implementation of company strategies, business plans, major plans of action and risk management.

Strategic management of material sustainability matters should be driven by senior management.

Application :	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board recognises the significance of sustainable development to the Group's business operations, influencing its approach towards embracing sustainable practices to advance the Group's Economic, Environmental, and Social (EES) development agenda.  Both the Board and Management share responsibility for governing sustainability within the Company. The Board sets the sustainability strategy and oversees corporate sustainability policies and performance, while Management oversees implementation and ensures key targets are achieved.  To foster sustainability within the Group, the Management has undertaken the following initiatives:-  Strengthening financial performance to deliver sustainable returns to stakeholders.  Mitigating negative environmental impacts and conserving the surrounding environment.  Cultivating a robust, diverse, and capable workforce and ensuring a safe workplace.  Furthermore, the AC is empowered to assist the Board in overseeing sustainability implementation and reporting, focusing on Environmental, Social, and Governance pillars. This responsibility is integrated into the AC's Terms of Reference.
Explanation for : departure	

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Measure		
Timeframe		

The company addresses sustainability risks and opportunities in an integrated and strategic manner to support its long-term strategy and success.

## Practice 4.2

The board ensures that the company's sustainability strategies, priorities and targets as well as performance against these targets are communicated to its internal and external stakeholders.

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Application	•	Applied		
Explanation on	:	Engaging stakeholders is a vital collaborative process essential for the		
application of the		Company's success. Input and feedback obtained assist the Group in		
practice		devising improvement plans, innovating products and services, and anticipating future market demands.		
		The Company actively participates in sustainability strategies, priorities,		
		targets, and performance discussions with both internal and external stakeholders through diverse channels. This proactive approach allows for timely responses to address and anticipate their concerns.		
		Details pertaining to the stakeholders' engagement are available in the		
		Sustainability Statement in the Annual Report for the FYE 2023 ("Annual		
		Report 2023").		
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The company addresses sustainability risks and opportunities in an integrated and strategic manner to support its long-term strategy and success.

## Practice 4.3

The board takes appropriate action to ensure they stay abreast with and understand the sustainability issues relevant to the company and its business, including climate-related risks and opportunities.

Application	: Applied		
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board through the NC assessed the training programmes attended by each Director during the financial year to ensure they stay abreast with the latest developments in the industry as well as the sustainability issues relevant to the Group, including factors that are driving climate change, sustainable finance and achieving a sustainable business model.  The key training programmes attended by each Director in the FYE 2023		
	are set out in the Corporate Governance Overview Statement of Annual Report 2023.		
	The Company Secretaries regularly updates the Board on the changes in the Listing Requirements and/or other regulatory requirements upon receiving the circulars from Bursa Securities and/or other regulators, which are relevant to the Company and provides advice on corporate disclosures and compliance issues.		
Explanation for departure			
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Measure			
Timeframe			

The company addresses sustainability risks and opportunities in an integrated and strategic manner to support its long-term strategy and success.

## Practice 4.4

Performance evaluations of the board and senior management include a review of the performance of the board and senior management in addressing the company's material sustainability risks and opportunities.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The Board and the Management have performed their respective roles in addressing material sustainability risks and opportunities.  The performance evaluation of the Board in addressing the Group's strategic and business plans which promote sustainability materials matters was evaluated through the annual Board's effectiveness evaluation for the FYE 2023.  Whereas for the Management team, it is part of their key performance indicators which are reviewed annually.  The Board and the Management collectively address the Company's material matters and its inherent risks and opportunities, while at the same time addressing it through appropriate mitigating measures, to ensure the Company continues to generate healthy returns for its shareholders.	
Explanation for departure	:		
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Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

The company addresses sustainability risks and opportunities in an integrated and strategic manner to support its long-term strategy and success.

# Practice 4.5- Step Up

The board identifies a designated person within management, to provide dedicated focus to manage sustainability strategically, including the integration of sustainability considerations in the operations of the company.

Note: The explanation on adoption of this practice should include a brief description of the responsibilities of the designated person and actions or measures undertaken pursuant to the role in the financial year.			
Application		Not Adopted	
Explanation on adoption of the practice			

to complete the columns below.

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.1

The Nomination Committee should ensure that the composition of the board is refreshed periodically. The tenure of each director should be reviewed by the Nomination Committee and annual re-election of a director should be contingent on satisfactory evaluation of the director's performance and contribution to the board.

Application :	Applied		
Explanation on : application of the practice	a mix of skills, experience and core competencies, as well as the balance between Executive Directors and Independent Non-Executive Directors.  The effectiveness of the Board as a whole and the contribution of each		
	Director to the effectiveness of the Board and the contribution of the Board's various committees will be assessed on an annual basis.		
	The Board is fully aware that the tenure of an Independent Director shall not exceed a cumulative term of nine (9) years as recommended by the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance ("MCCG"). However, if the Board intends to retain a Director who has served as an Independent Director of the Company for a cumulative term of more than nine (9) years, the Board must justify its decision and seek the shareholders' approval through a two-tier voting process at a general meeting. During the FYE 2023, none of our Directors has served the Board as an Independent Director of the Company for a cumulative term of more than nine (9) years.		
	The annual re-election of retiring Directors has been contingent on a satisfactory evaluation of the retiring Directors' performance and contribution to the Board.		
	In addition, the Directors' Fit and Proper Policy serves as a guide to NC and the Board for the appointment and re-election of Directors of the Group. The Directors' Fit and Proper Policy is published on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .		
Explanation for : departure			
Large companies are requi	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged		

Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.2

At least half of the board comprises independent directors. For Large Companies, the board comprises a majority independent directors.

Application :	Applied		
Explanation on : application of the practice	The present composition of the Board complies with Paragraph 15.02 of the Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities and Practice 5.2 of the MCCG as half (50%) of the Board comprises Independent Directors. All the Independent Directors are satisfied with the independence test under the Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities.  The current Board consists of six (6) members, comprising one (1) GMD, one (1) GED, one (1) ED and three (3) Independent Non-Executive Directors, as set out in the table below:-		
	Name	Designation	
	Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj. Zaini Bin Omar	Independent Non-Executive Chairman	
	Cheah Ham Cheia	GMD	
	Alexander Lo Tzone Leong	GED	
	Cheah Jun Kai	ED	
	Datuk Sr. Chia Lui Meng	Independent Non-Executive Director	
	Kow Poh Gek	Independent Non-Executive Director	
	The presence of Independent Directors ensures that of consideration, judgment and discretion exercised by the Board decision making remain objective and independent whilst assuring interest of other parties such as minority shareholders are addressed and adequately protected as well as being accorded with consideration.		
Explanation for : departure			
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Measure :			

Timeframe	:	

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.3

The tenure of an independent director does not exceed a cumulative term limit of nine years. Upon completion of the nine years, an independent director may continue to serve on the board as a non-independent director.

If the board intends to retain an independent director beyond nine years, it should provide justification and seek annual shareholders' approval through a two-tier voting process.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	There are no independent non-executive directors serving beyond the cumulative term limit of nine (9) years on the Board of the Company.
Explanation for departure	:	
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to complete the column	-	
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Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

# Practice 5.4 - Step Up

The board has a policy which limits the tenure of its independent directors to nine years without further extension.

Note: To qualify for adoption of this Step Up practice, a listed issuer must have a formal policy which		
limits the tenure of an independent director to nine years without further extension i.e. shareholders'		
approval to retain the director as an independent director beyond nine years.		
Application	:	Not Adopted
Explanation on	:	
adoption of the		
practice		
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Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.5

Appointment of board and senior management are based on objective criteria, merit and with due regard for diversity in skills, experience, age, cultural background and gender.

Directors appointed should be able to devote the required time to serve the board effectively. The board should consider the existing board positions held by a director, including on boards of non-listed companies. Any appointment that may cast doubt on the integrity and governance of the company should be avoided.

Amuliantian	. Applied		
Application	: Applied		
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board believes in the significance of recruiting and retaining the most qualified talent, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or age, to optimise the Board's effectiveness.		
	In all appointments, various factors such as gender, age, cultural and educational background, ethnicity, professional experience, skills, and knowledge are taken into account to ensure a diverse Board and Senior Management team. This diversity contributes to enhanced governance and growth within the Group.		
	The NC is responsible to lead the process for the nomination of new Board appointments and making the necessary recommendations to the Board. In this respect, the role of the NC is detailed in its Terms of Reference, which is accessible on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .		
	In making its recommendations to the Board, the NC considers and assesses the suitability of a new appointment based on objective criteria, including:-		
	<ul> <li>Qualification;</li> <li>Required competencies, skills, expertise and experience;</li> <li>Specialist knowledge or technical skills;</li> <li>Professionalism and integrity; and         Time commitment to the Company based on the number of directorships held.     </li> </ul>		
	Likewise, the Directors are also required to notify the Chairman of the Board before accepting any new directorship and to indicate the time expected to be spent on the new appointment. The Directors must not hold more than five (5) directorships in listed companies to enable Directors to have sufficient time to focus and fulfil their roles and responsibilities effectively.		

	The Board also via the NC, reviews the correct mix of skills, business and professional experiences that should be added to the Board annually or as and when required.
	More women representation on the Board and Key Senior Management will be taken into consideration if vacancies arise and when suitable candidates are identified.
	The Board had adopted the Directors' Fit and Proper Policy to ensure a transparent and rigorous process for the appointment and re-election of Directors of the Group. This Policy is accessible on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .
Explanation for : departure	
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Measure :	
Timeframe :	

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.6

In identifying candidates for appointment of directors, the board does not solely rely on recommendations from existing board members, management or major shareholders. The board utilises independent sources to identify suitably qualified candidates.

If the selection of candidates was based on recommendations made by existing directors, management or major shareholders, the Nominating Committee should explain why these source(s) suffice and other sources were not used.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The primary responsibility of screening, evaluating and nominating new Board member(s) for an appointment is delegated to the NC.  The members of the Board are to be appointed in a formal and transparent practice as endorsed by the MCCG. The NC will scrutinise the candidates and recommend the same for the Board's approval. The NC uses a variety of sources for the identification of suitable candidates.  The NC is open to referrals from external sources available, such as industry acquaintances, contacts in related industries, consultants, etc to gain access to a wide pool of potential candidates besides tapping on the recommendations from existing Board members, Management or major shareholders. Shortlisted candidates would be required to furnish their curriculum vitae containing information on their academic/professional qualification, work experience, employment history and experience (if any) as directors of listed companies.  The NC will perform an annual review of the required mix of skills and experience and other qualities including core competencies that Directors should bring to the Board and assess the effectiveness of the Board as a whole, as well as, look into succession planning, boardroom and gender diversity to ensure the effectiveness of the Board.  The policies and procedures for the recruitment and appointment of Directors are guided by the Terms of Reference of the NC.
Explanation for departure	:	
Large companies are to complete the colu		red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.

Measure	:			
Timeframe	:			

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.7

The board should ensure shareholders have the information they require to make an informed decision on the appointment and reappointment of a director. This includes details of any interest, position or relationship that might influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, in a material respect their capacity to bring an independent judgement to bear on issues before the board and to act in the best interests of the listed company as a whole. The board should also provide a statement as to whether it supports the appointment or reappointment of the candidate and the reasons why.

Application	Applied		
Explanation on application of the practice	The performance of retiring Directors recommended for re-election at the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM has been assessed through the NC annual evaluation (including the independence of Independent Non-Executive Directors) and recommended to the Board for approval.		
	The profiles of the Directors who were due for retirement and offered themselves for re-election, which included the nature of interest with the Company, whichever applicable, were set out in the Annual Report 2023 of the Company.		
	Whilst for the retiring Directors at the forthcoming 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM, a statement by the Board and NC being satisfied with the performance and effectiveness of the retiring Directors who offered themselves for re-election at the forthcoming 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM was stated in the notes accompanying the Notice of 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM.		
Explanation for departure			
Large companies are requ to complete the columns	ired to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged below.		
Measure			
Timeframe			

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.8

The Nominating Committee is chaired by an Independent Director or the Senior Independent Director.

Application	:	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	:	Mdm. Kow Poh Gek is the Independent Non-Executive Director and she is the chairperson of the NC.  Under the leadership of Mdm. Kow Poh Gek, NC has undertaken the following activities during the FYE 2023:-  Reviewed the overall Board's and Board Committees' effectiveness; Reviewed the performance of the AC; Reviewed the performance of each Director; Reviewed the independence of the Independent Directors; and Reviewed and make a recommendation to the Board for the reelection of the Directors who are subject to retirement at the 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Explanation for	:	AGM.	
departure			
Large companies are to complete the colu	•	ed to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.	
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

# Practice 5.9

The board comprises at least 30% women directors.

Application	••	Departure	
Explanation on application of the practice	:		
Explanation for departure	:	The Board comprises six (6) Directors, out of whom one (1) is a woman representing only 16.7% female representation at the Board level.	
		The Board recognises that this diversity acts as a source for fresh perspectives which ultimately benefits the overall deliberations taking place in the boardroom. Although the Company has not reached the 30% women representation target at the Board level, the Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the Group taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.	
		The Board is of the view that it is important to recruit and retain the best available talent regardless of gender, ethnicity and age to maximize the effectiveness of the Board.	
		The Board will take into consideration of more female Directors within the Board as a long-term goal.	
		As stipulated in the MCCG, the Board is also encouraged to review gender diversity at the Senior Management level. To this end, the Company's Senior Management team is comprised of females in crucial positions such as the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Manager for Human Resources and Administration.	
Large companies are req to complete the columns		red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.	
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		

Board decisions are made objectively in the best interests of the company taking into account diverse perspectives and insights.

## Practice 5.10

The board discloses in its annual report the company's policy on gender diversity for the board and senior management.

Application :	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	The Company had established and adopted a Gender Diversity Policy which provides a framework for the Company to improve its gender diversity at the Board and in Senior Management levels. The Gender Diversity Policy is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .  The Company will continue to promote diversity in its widest possible sense and the Board and NC remain committed to ensuring that the
	Company's policies and practices support this approach with a view to harnessing the potential of its workforce and driving the success of the business.
Explanation for departure	
Large companies are requ to complete the columns i	ired to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged below.
Measure :	
Timeframe	

Stakeholders are able to form an opinion on the overall effectiveness of the board and individual directors.

#### Practice 6.1

The board should undertake a formal and objective annual evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the board, its committees and each individual director. The board should disclose how the assessment was carried out its outcome, actions taken and how it has or will influence board composition.

For Large Companies, the board engages an independent expert at least every three years, to facilitate objective and candid board evaluation.

Note: For a Large Company to qualify for adoption of this practice, it must undertake annual board evaluation and engage an independent expert at least every three years to facilitate the evaluation. Application **Applied Explanation on** The Company has in place a formal process for assessment of the application of the effectiveness of the Board and the Board Committees as a whole and practice the contribution by each Director, including the independence of the Independent Non-Executive Director to the effectiveness of the Board and Committees, making reference to the guides available and the good corporate governance compliance. The assessment of the Board and Board Committees are performed on a Board review whilst the assessment of the individual Directors is performed on a peer review basis. Each Director is provided with the assessment forms for their completion prior to the meeting. The results of all assessments and comments by the Directors are summarised and deliberated at the NC meeting and thereafter the NC's Chairman will report the results and deliberation to the Board. The annual assessment criteria of the Board and Board Committees and individual Directors were updated to stay aligned with the MCCG practices. The areas covered in the aforesaid annual assessment criteria are as follows: **Evaluation Assessment Criteria Board and Board** Role of the Chairman and Group Committees as a Managing Director whole Board balance, size and composition Board structure and procedures Relationship of the Board to Management Quality and supply of information to the Board/Board's Committees Access to information and advice

	<ul> <li>Accountability for financial reporting, internal control and sustainability risk and opportunities</li> <li>Relation with Auditors / Shareholders / Investors</li> <li>Use of Board Committees</li> <li>Directors' training</li> </ul>
AC	<ul> <li>Composition and quality</li> <li>Oversight of the financial reporting process, including internal controls</li> <li>Understanding the business, including risk and control environment</li> <li>Access to information and advice</li> <li>Oversight of audit functions</li> <li>Compliance with corporate governance</li> <li>External Auditors</li> <li>Staying abreast of issues</li> <li>Report and recommendations</li> </ul>
Executive Directors	<ul> <li>Financial</li> <li>Strategic and sustainability</li> <li>Conformance &amp; compliance</li> <li>Business acumen / increasing shareholders' wealth</li> <li>Succession planning</li> <li>Personal input to the role</li> </ul>
Non-Executive Directors	<ul> <li>Attendance at Board and Board Committees' meetings</li> <li>Adequate preparation for Board and/or Board Committees' meetings</li> <li>Regular contribution to Board/Board Committee meetings</li> <li>Personal input to the role</li> </ul>

In respect of the annual performance evaluation for the FYE 2023, it was concluded that:-

- (a) the Board and Board Committees discharged their duties and responsibilities effectively; and
- (b) each Director continued to perform effectively and demonstrated commitment to his/her role.

The Board is satisfied with the current evaluation process. The Board will continue to review the Board's evaluation process as and when necessary to ensure it remains a valuable feedback mechanism for improving the Board's effectiveness.

Explanation for : departure		
	•	Non-large companies are encouraged
to complete the columns b	elow.	
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

The level and composition of remuneration of directors and senior management take into account the company's desire to attract and retain the right talent in the board and senior management to drive the company's long-term objectives.

Remuneration policies and decisions are made through a transparent and independent process.

#### Practice 7.1

The board has remuneration policies and procedures to determine the remuneration of directors and senior management, which takes into account the demands, complexities and performance of the company as well as skills and experience required. The remuneration policies and practices should appropriately reflect the different roles and responsibilities of non-executive directors, executive directors and senior management. The policies and procedures are periodically reviewed and made available on the company's website.

Application :	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board had through the RC, established a formal and transparent Remuneration Policy to attract and retain Directors and Key Senior Management of the Company. The Remuneration Policy is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .  In determining the level and make-up of the Director's remuneration, the RC is guided by the Remuneration Policy to consider, among others, the following:  For Executive Role  The Individual level of expertise, knowledge and experience; The individual performance and achievements of the Company / Group; Comparable market rate within the industry; and Other benefits based on the Company/Group's human resource policy in the context of market practices from time to time
Explanation for :	<ul> <li>For Non-Executive Role</li> <li>On par with the rest of the market;</li> <li>Reflect the qualifications and contribution required;</li> <li>The extent of the duty and responsibilities;</li> <li>The number of Board meetings and Board Committees' meetings; and</li> <li>Reasonable fixed meeting allowance or other benefits incurred during the course of performing his/her duties as Director of the Company</li> <li>Each Director shall abstain from the deliberation and voting on matters pertaining to their own remuneration.</li> </ul>
departure	

Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.								
to complete the columns so								
Measure :								
Timeframe :								

The level and composition of remuneration of directors and senior management take into account the company's desire to attract and retain the right talent in the board and senior management to drive the company's long-term objectives.

Remuneration policies and decisions are made through a transparent and independent process.

#### Practice 7.2

The board has a Remuneration Committee to implement its policies and procedures on remuneration including reviewing and recommending matters relating to the remuneration of board and senior management.

The Committee has written Terms of Reference which deals with its authority and duties and these Terms are disclosed on the company's website.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The RC consists wholly of Independent Non-Executive Directors and is governed by its Terms of Reference, which is available on the Company's website, <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .
		In the FYE 2023, the RC carried out an annual review of the Directors' remuneration, whereupon recommendations were submitted to the Board for approval. Such annual review is to ensure that the remuneration package of the Directors remains sufficiently attractive to retain the Directors of such calibre to provide the necessary skills and experience and commensurate with their responsibilities to ensure the effective management and operations of the Group to achieve the Group's long-term objectives.
		The level of remuneration for Non-Executive Directors generally reflects the effort, time spent and level of responsibilities undertaken. They are paid a basic fee as ordinary remuneration, a sum based on their respective responsibilities in Board Committees, meeting allowance and reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties to ensure the remuneration and incentives for Independent Directors are not in conflict with their obligations to deliver objectivity and independent judgement on matters discussed at Board and Board Committees meetings.
		For Executive Directors, the components of their remuneration are structured so as to link reward to corporate and individual performance. The current remuneration package of Executive Directors includes a monthly salary and benefits-in-kind and emoluments such as company car, driver, travel allowance and other components.
		Each Director shall abstain from the deliberation and voting on matters pertaining to their own remuneration.

Explanation for : departure		
		Non-large companies are encouraged
to complete the columns b	elow.	
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

# Practice 8.1

There is detailed disclosure on named basis for the remuneration of individual directors. The remuneration breakdown of individual directors includes fees, salary, bonus, benefits in-kind and other emoluments.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	:	The details of the Directors' remuneration for the FYE 2023 for each individual Director with a breakdown into fees, salaries and bonus, benefits-in-kind and other emoluments are set out in the table below.

				Company ('000)				Group ('000)								
No	Name	Directorate	Fee	Allowance	Salary	Bonus	Benefits-in- kind	Other emoluments	Total	Fee	Allowance	Salary	Bonus	Benefits-in- kind	Other emoluments	Total
1	Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj. Zain Bin Omar	Independent Director	96	3	-	-	-	-	99	96	3	-	-	-	-	99
2	Cheah Ham Cheia	Executive Director	-	-	588	-	-	24	612	-	-	588	61	-	110	759
3	Alexander Lo Tzone Leong	Executive Director	-	-	540	-	-	66	606	-	-	540	79	11	123	753
4	Cheah Jun Kai	Executive Director	-	1	198	-	-	25	223	-	-	198	29	-	70	297
5	Datuk Sr. Chia Lui Meng	Independent Director	84	4	-	-	-	-	88	84	4	-	-	-	-	88
6	Kow Poh Gek	Independent Director	90	4	1	-	-	-	94	90	4	-	-	-	-	94
7	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
8	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
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11	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
12	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
13	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
14	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				
15	Input info here	Choose an item.	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here	Input info here				

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

# Practice 8.2

The board discloses on a named basis the top five senior management's remuneration component including salary, bonus, benefits in-kind and other emoluments in bands of RM50,000.

Application	Departure	
Explanation on application of the practice		
Explanation for : departure	of Senior Management as well as se	sitivity of the remuneration package ecurity concerns, the Board opts not nt's remuneration components on a ,000.
	remuneration components would Company given the competitive hu disclosure may give rise to recruitm Board is of the opinion that the	sclosure of the Senior Management's not be in the best interest of the man resources environment as such nent and talent retention issues. The disclosure of Senior Management's unnamed basis in the bands of
	Remuneration Band	Number of Senior Management
	RM100,001 to RM150,000	1
	RM200,001 to RM250,000	1
	RM300,001 to RM350,000	1
	RM350,001 to RM400,000	2
Large companies are requ to complete the columns i	red to complete the columns below. Nelow.	lon-large companies are encouraged
Measure		
Timeframe :		

			Company						
No Name	Position	Salary	Allowance	Bonus	Benefits	Other emoluments	Total		
1	Input info here	Input info here	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
2	Input info here	Input info here	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
3	Input info here	Input info here	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
4	Input info here	Input info here	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
5	Input info here	Input info here	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

Stakeholders are able to assess whether the remuneration of directors and senior management is commensurate with their individual performance, taking into consideration the company's performance.

# Practice 8.3 - Step Up

Companies are encouraged to fully disclose the detailed remuneration of each member of senior management on a named basis.

Application	:	Not Adopted
Explanation on adoption of the practice	:	

			Company ('000)							
No	Name	Position	Salary	Allowance	Bonus	Benefits	Other emoluments	Total		
1	Input info here	Input info here								
2	Input info here	Input info here								
3	Input info here	Input info here								
4	Input info here	Input info here								
5	Input info here	Input info here								

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

# Practice 9.1

The Chairman of the Audit Committee is not the Chairman of the board.

<b>a</b> 1		T & 10 1
Application	:	Applied
Explanation on	:	The AC is chaired by Mdm. Kow Poh Gek, who is an Independent Non-
application of the		Executive Director, whereas the Board is chaired by Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Hj.
· ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
practice		Zaini Bin Omar. This separation of positions is to ensure that the Board's
		review of the AC's findings and recommendations is not impaired.
		·
Fundamentian for		
Explanation for	:	
departure		
Large companies are re	auir	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged
	•	
to complete the column	is b	elow.
Measure	:	
Timeframe	•	
	-	

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

#### Practice 9.2

The Audit Committee has a policy that requires a former partner of the external audit firm of the listed company to observe a cooling-off period of at least three years before being appointed as a member of the Audit Committee.

application of the practice  external auditors and that no possible conflict of interest whatsoever should arise. Currently, AC comprises three (3) members and none of the members were former key audit partners of the external auditor appointed by the Company. The Company will observe a cooling-operiod of at least three (3) years in the event any potential candidate to be appointed as a member of the AC was a key audit partner of the external auditors of the Group.  The requirement for a former key audit partner of the external auditors of the cooling off period of at least three (3) years before	Application	Applied	
application of the practice  external auditors and that no possible conflict of interest whatsoever should arise. Currently, AC comprises three (3) members and none of the members were former key audit partners of the external auditor appointed by the Company. The Company will observe a cooling-operiod of at least three (3) years in the event any potential candidate to be appointed as a member of the AC was a key audit partner of the external auditors of the Group.  The requirement for a former key audit partner of the external auditors of the cooling off period of at least three (3) years before			
firm to observe a cooling off period of at least three (3) years befor	application of the	The Company recognised the need to uphold the independence of its external auditors and that no possible conflict of interest whatsoever should arise. Currently, AC comprises three (3) members and none of the members were former key audit partners of the external auditors appointed by the Company. The Company will observe a cooling-off period of at least three (3) years in the event any potential candidate to be appointed as a member of the AC was a key audit partner of the external auditors of the Group.	
being appointed as a member of the AC has been incorporated as pa of the Terms of Reference of the AC.		The requirement for a former key audit partner of the external audit firm to observe a cooling off period of at least three (3) years before being appointed as a member of the AC has been incorporated as part of the Terms of Reference of the AC.	
For the FYE 2023, none of the AC members were former key aud partners.		For the FYE 2023, none of the AC members were former key audit partners.	
The Terms of Reference of the AC is available on the Company's websit at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .		The Terms of Reference of the AC is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .	
Explanation for : departure	-		
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encourage to complete the columns below.			
Measure :	Measure		
Timeframe :	Timeframe		

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

# Practice 9.3

The Audit Committee has policies and procedures to assess the suitability, objectivity and independence of the external auditor to safeguard the quality and reliability of audited financial statements.

Application :	Applied		
Explanation on : application of the practice	The Board had established an External Auditors Assessment Policy which sets out the guidelines and procedures to be followed by the AC in reviewing, assessing and monitoring the suitability, independence and performance of the External Auditors covering amongst others, the following:-		
	<ul> <li>(a) Calibre of the audit firm;</li> <li>(b) Quality of the audit engagement team;</li> <li>(c) Quality of communication and interaction with the audit team;</li> <li>(d) Audit scope and quality processes;</li> <li>(e) Audit governance and independence; and</li> <li>(f) Audit fee.</li> </ul>		
	The External Auditors are precluded from providing any services that may impair their independence or conflict with their role as External Auditors.		
	The AC obtained assurance from the External Auditors confirming that they are, and have been, independent throughout the conduct of the audit engagement in accordance with the terms of all relevant professional and regulatory requirements.		
	The Board, upon the recommendation of the AC, had recommended the re-appointment of the External Auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2024 for shareholders' approval at the forthcoming 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM.		
Explanation for : departure			
Large companies are requi to complete the columns b	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.		

Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

# Practice 9.4 - Step Up

The Audit Committee should comprise solely of Independent Directors.

Application :	Adopted
Explanation on : adoption of the practice	All the members of the AC are Independent Non-Executive Directors and as such, there is a strong and independent element to provide effective oversight for it to function effectively and exercise objective judgement independently.

There is an effective and independent Audit Committee.

The board is able to objectively review the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations. The company's financial statement is a reliable source of information.

#### Practice 9.5

Collectively, the Audit Committee should possess a wide range of necessary skills to discharge its duties. All members should be financially literate, competent and are able to understand matters under the purview of the Audit Committee including the financial reporting process.

All members of the Audit Committee should undertake continuous professional development to keep themselves abreast of relevant developments in accounting and auditing standards, practices and rules.

Application	: Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	: The AC members possess the necessary skills and knowledge to discharge their duties in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the AC. The AC Chairperson and all of its members are financially literate and they are able to understand matters under the purview of the AC including the financial reporting process.	
	They are expected to devote sufficient time to update their knowledge and enhance their skills through appropriate continuing education programmes, so as to enable them to sustain their active participation during deliberations.	
	In addition, during the AC meetings, the AC members were also briefed by the External Auditors on the development or changes in the applicable Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards, International Financing Reporting Standards and the relevant accounting requirements under the Companies Act 2016.	
	During the FYE 2023, all AC members have undertaken ongoing training and development to keep abreast of the relevant developments in accounting and auditing standards, practices and rules. Details of their training are set out in the Corporate Governance Overview Statement of the Annual Report 2023.	
Explanation for departure		
Large companies are red to complete the column	quired to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged s below.	

Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company's objectives is mitigated and managed.

**Practice 10.1**The board should establish an effective risk management and internal control framework.

Application :	Applied	
Explanation on : application of the practice	The Board acknowledges its responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control to safeguard shareholders' investments and the Company's assets. The system of internal control covers not only financial controls but operational and compliance controls and risk management.  The Board has delegated the responsibility of reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management and internal control systems to the AC.  Details of the Group's risk management and internal control framework are set out in the Statement on Risk Management and Internal Control of the Annual Report 2023.	
Explanation for : departure		
	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged	
to complete the columns b	eiow.	
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company's objectives is mitigated and managed.

#### Practice 10.2

The board should disclose the features of its risk management and internal control framework, and the adequacy and effectiveness of this framework.

Application :	Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board has an ongoing process of identifying, assessing and evaluating and managing significant risks to achieve the objectives and strategies of the Group. The Board and management practice proactive significant risk identification, evaluation and management in the processes and activities of the Group, particularly any major proposed transactions, changes in nature of activities and/or operating environment or venturing into a new operating environment which may entail different risks and put in place the appropriate risk response strategies and controls until those risks are managed to and maintained at a level acceptable to the Board.  In addition, the process of identifying, assessing, evaluating and managing significant risks is embedded in the various work processes and procedures of the respective operational functions and management team. Any significant risk issues and action plans were reviewed and discussed at management meetings and quarterly Audit Committee meetings.  Details of the Group's risk management and internal control framework are set out in the Statement on Risk Management and Internal Control of the Annual Report 2023.	
Explanation for : departure		
Large companies are requi to complete the columns b	red to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged elow.	
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Companies make informed decisions about the level of risk they want to take and implement necessary controls to pursue their objectives.

The board is provided with reasonable assurance that adverse impact arising from a foreseeable future event or situation on the company's objectives is mitigated and managed.

# Practice 10.3 - Step Up

The board establishes a Risk Management Committee, which comprises a majority of independent directors, to oversee the company's risk management framework and policies.

Application :	Adopted
Explanation on : adoption of the practice	The RMC comprises a majority of Independent Non-Executive Directors and its scope and function are set out in the Terms of Reference which is made available on the Company's website at <a href="www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> .

Companies have an effective governance, risk management and internal control framework and stakeholders are able to assess the effectiveness of such a framework.

# Practice 11.1

The Audit Committee should ensure that the internal audit function is effective and able to function independently.

A1111	A P I	
Application	: Applied	
Explanation on application of the practice	The Board had established the Internal Auditors Assessment Policy ("Assessment Policy") together with an annual performance evaluation form. The IA Assessment Policy is to outline the guidelines as procedures for the AC to review, assess and monitor the performance suitability and independence of the Internal Auditors.	
	The Internal Auditors are precluded from providing any services that may impair their independence or conflict with their role as Internal Auditors.	
	The AC obtained assurance from the Internal Auditors confirming that they are, and have been, independent throughout the conduct of the audit engagement in accordance with the terms of all relevant professional and regulatory requirements.  The AC carried out an annual performance assessment of the Internal Auditors and requested the Executive Directors and the Group Financial Controller to join the assessment. The annual evaluation form provides a checklist for the AC to carry out a formal review of the independence, effectiveness and efficiency of the Internal Auditors of the Company, among others, the following were some of the criteria reviewed by the AC:-	
	<ul> <li>Adequacy of resources and experience of the internal audit firm;</li> <li>Quality processes of the internal audit firm;</li> <li>Competency of the engagement team;</li> </ul>	
	Governance and independence;	
	Internal audit fee, scope and planning; and	
	Internal audit reports and communications.	
	The internal audit functions and activities carried out during the FYE 2023 are as disclosed in the AC Report in the AR 2023.	
Explanation for departure	:	

Large companies are req to complete the columns	•	Non-large companies are encouraged
Measure		
Timeframe		

Companies have an effective governance, risk management and internal control framework and stakeholders are able to assess the effectiveness of such a framework.

#### Practice 11.2

The board should disclose-

- whether internal audit personnel are free from any relationships or conflicts of interest, which could impair their objectivity and independence;
- the number of resources in the internal audit department;
- name and qualification of the person responsible for internal audit; and
- whether the internal audit function is carried out in accordance with a recognised framework.

Application	:	Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	÷	The Internal Audit function is outsourced to Sterling Business Alignment Consulting Sdn. Bhd. ("Sterling") which is independent of the operations and activities of the Group. The engagement team from Sterling is free from any relationship or conflict of interest, which could impair their objectivity and independence.
		The number of audit staff deployed by Sterling for each internal audit review ranges from three (3) to four (4) Internal Auditors per visit. Sterling is a corporate member of the Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia (IIAM). Different lead Internal Auditors are assigned to conduct each internal audit review, depending on the scope of the review.
		The Internal Auditors use the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control – Integrated Framework as a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the internal control system.
		The internal audit function is carried out in accordance with the International Professional Practices Framework set by the Institute of Internal Auditors to ensure that internal audit staff are professionally guided and trained to develop the appropriate competencies to perform their duties during the internal audit review.
		The AC was satisfied with the competency, experience and resources of the internal audit function for discharging their roles and responsibilities.
		Further details of the internal audit activities are disclosed in the AC Report and Statement on Risk Management and Internal Control of the Annual Report 2023.
Explanation for departure	:	

Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged			
to complete the columns be	elow.		
Measure :			
Timeframe :			

There is continuous communication between the company and stakeholders to facilitate mutual understanding of each other's objectives and expectations.

Stakeholders are able to make informed decisions with respect to the business of the company, its policies on governance, the environment and social responsibility.

# Practice 12.1

The board ensures there is effective, transparent and regular communication with its stakeholders.

Application	: Applied
Explanation on application of the practice	: The Group acknowledges the importance of timely and equal dissemination of material information to shareholders and investors. The Board will ensure that it adheres to the disclosure requirements of Bursa Securities. Through disclosures of appropriate and relevant information, using various channels of communication on a timely basis, the Group provides shareholders and investors with information to fulfil transparency and accountability objectives.
	Presently, the Board communicates with stakeholders by way of:-
	<ul> <li>(a) the Annual Reports and circulars to shareholders, which contains the financial and operational review of the Group's business, corporate information, and financial statements;</li> <li>(b) various announcements made to the Bursa Securities, which include announcements on quarterly results;</li> <li>(c) the Company website at <a href="www.gdbhb.com.my">www.gdbhb.com.my</a> which provides corporate information about the Company and is accessible to the public. The Investor Relations function enhances the communication with its stakeholders and provides a channel for the stakeholders and general public to direct their enquiries and concerns to the Company; and</li> <li>(d) Shareholders' interaction during the general meetings.</li> </ul>
	Where possible, the Group also provides additional disclosure of information on a voluntary basis. The Group believes that consistently maintaining a high level of disclosure and communication is vital to shareholders and investors in making informed investment decisions.
Explanation for departure	:
Large companies are required to complete the columns	uired to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged below.

Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

There is continuous communication between the company and stakeholders to facilitate mutual understanding of each other's objectives and expectations.

Stakeholders are able to make informed decisions with respect to the business of the company, its policies on governance, the environment and social responsibility.

# Practice 12.2

Large companies are encouraged to adopt integrated reporting based on a globally recognised framework.

Application :	Not applicable – Not a Large Company	
Explanation on : application of the practice		
Explanation for : departure		
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged		
to complete the columns below.		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

# Practice 13.1

Notice for an Annual General Meeting should be given to the shareholders at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

Application :	Applied	
Explanation on : application of the practice	The Notice of the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM of the Company held on 8 June 2023 was sent to the shareholders on 28 April 2023, which is more than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM.  The Notice of the 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM of the Company will be issued to the shareholders at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM to give sufficient time to shareholders to consider the resolutions and make an informed decision in exercising their voting right at the 11 <sup>th</sup> AGM.	
Explanation for : departure		
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

# Practice 13.2

All directors attend General Meetings. The Chair of the Audit, Nominating, Risk Management and other committees provide meaningful response to questions addressed to them.

Application :	Applied	
Explanation on : application of the practice	All the Directors of the Company were present at the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM of the Company held on 8 June 2023.	
	During the proceedings of the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM, the Chairman invited shareholders to raise questions pertaining to the Company's audited financial statements and other agendas tabled for approval at the meeting. All questions raised by the shareholders were answered and addressed accordingly.	
	All the Directors of the Company will always endeavour to attend all general meetings and the Chairman of the Board Committees will provide a meaningful response to questions addressed to them.	
Explanation for : departure		
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

# Practice 13.3

Listed companies should leverage technology to facilitate-

- · voting including voting in absentia; and
- remote shareholders' participation at general meetings.

Listed companies should also take the necessary steps to ensure good cyber hygiene practices are in place including data privacy and security to prevent cyber threats.

Application :	Departure	
Explanation on : application of the practice		
Explanation for : departure	The 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM was held physically at Ballroom V, Main Wing, Tropicana Golf & Country Resort, Jalan Kelab Tropicana, Off Jalan Tropicana Utama, 47410 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. Where possible, the Company will make an effort to conduct its general meetings at a venue that is easily accessible for the convenience of the shareholders.	
	Alternatively, the shareholders who are not able to attend the physical general meetings, are encouraged to appoint the Chairman or any person(s), as their proxy(ies) to attend, participate, speak and vote at the meetings on their behalf.	
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.		
Measure :		
Timeframe :		

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

#### Practice 13.4

The Chairman of the board should ensure that general meetings support meaningful engagement between the board, senior management and shareholders. The engagement should be interactive and include robust discussion on among others the company's financial and non-financial performance as well as the company's long-term strategies. Shareholders should also be provided with sufficient opportunity to pose questions during the general meeting and all the questions should receive a meaningful response.

Note: The explanation of adoption of this practice should include a discussion on measures			
undertaken to ensure the general meeting is interactive, shareholders are provided with sufficient			
opportunity to pose quest	ions and the questions are responded to.		
Application :	Applied		
Explanation on :	The Chairman ensures that the general meetings cater to an important		
application of the	opportunity for effective communication with, and constructive		
practice	feedback from the shareholders.		
	The Company facilitates and encourages shareholder participation at its		
	10 <sup>th</sup> AGM. These meetings provide an update for shareholders on its		
	performance and offer an opportunity for shareholders to ask questions		
	and vote. The Board Chairman and/or the Executive Directors read out		
	and answered the relevant questions received.		
	The Directors, Senior Management and External Auditors also attended		
	the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM to respond to questions posted by shareholders.		
Explanation for :			
departure			
departure			
Large companies are reau	Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged		
to complete the columns below.			
Measure :			
Timeframe :			

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

#### Practice 13.5

The board must ensure that the conduct of a virtual general meeting (fully virtual or hybrid) support meaningful engagement between the board, senior management and shareholders. This includes having in place the required infrastructure and tools to support among others, a smooth broadcast of the general meeting and interactive participation by shareholders. Questions posed by shareholders should be made visible to all meeting participants during the meeting itself.

Note: The explanation of adoption of this practice should include a discussion on measures undertaken to ensure the general meeting is interactive, shareholders are provided with sufficient			
		ons and the questions are responded to. Further, a listed issuer should also	
		•	
provide brief reasons on the choice of the meeting platform.			
Application	:	Not applicable – only physical general meetings were conducted in the	
		financial year	
Explanation on	:		
application of the			
practice			
•			
Explanation for	:		
departure			
•			
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged			
to complete the columns below.			
Measure	:		
Timeframe	:		
	-		

Shareholders are able to participate, engage the board and senior management effectively and make informed voting decisions at General Meetings.

# Practice 13.6

Minutes of the general meeting should be circulated to shareholders no later than 30 business days after the general meeting.

Note: The publication of Key Matters Discussed is not a substitute for the circulation of minutes of general meeting.		
Application	:	Departure
Explanation on application of the practice	:	
Explanation for departure	:	The minutes of the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM were not circulated to the shareholders. However, the Summary of Key Matters discussed at the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM was published on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.gdbhb.com.my/investor-relations/financial-information-reports/key-matters-discussed-at-the-agms/">https://www.gdbhb.com.my/investor-relations/financial-information-reports/key-matters-discussed-at-the-agms/</a> .
Large companies are required to complete the columns below. Non-large companies are encouraged to complete the columns below.		
Measure	:	
Timeframe	:	

# SECTION B – DISCLOSURES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES PERSUANT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA

Disclosures in this section are pursuant to Appendix 4 (Corporate Governance Disclosures) of the Corporate Governance Guidelines issued by Bank Negara Malaysia. This section is only applicable for financial institutions or any other institutions that are listed on the Exchange that are required to comply with the above Guidelines.

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