

**PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EKUINAS' ILTIZAM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP) EXPANDS TO 75 – GROOMS HIGHLY MARKETABLE HUMAN CAPITAL FOR THE WORKPLACE

Key highlights:-

- ILTIZAM, Ekuiti Nasional Berhad's (Ekuinas) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, focuses on three main pillars; Entrepreneurship, Education and Community, and the ILTIZAM Professional Development Programme (PDP) under the Education pillar witnessed 48 young talents dynamic young talents successfully completing their one-year training at Ekuinas and its portfolio companies.
- The PDP enters its fifth year and based on its track record, has managed to garner over 3,000 applications for this year's intake as compared to 1,500 in 2015, out of which 75 have been selected and offered a place in the programme for 2016/2017.

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 June 2016: ILTIZAM, Ekuiti Nasional Berhad's (Ekuinas) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, recently held its Professional Development Programme (PDP) 2015/2016 Graduation and 2016/2017 On-Boarding Ceremony at the Tuanku Bainun Creative Centre for Children in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

ILTIZAM focuses on three main pillars; Entrepreneurship, Education and Community, with the PDP under the Education pillar focusing on developing Bumiputera graduates to become marketable and employable human capital upon graduating from the programme.

Ekuinas Chief Executive Officer, Syed Yasir Arafat Syed Abd Kadir said, "We are pleased that the PDP received such overwhelming response of over 3,000 applications this year. This has further encouraged us towards making this programme more effective and exciting. With the participation of our portfolio companies and new partners from amongst corporate companies, I believe PDP can become a good platform for preparing the young to become highly employable human capital for our country, Insya Allah."

This year, 48 trainees graduated from the PDP after undergoing an intense 12-month period filled with various activities including Business and Management skills, Personal Leadership Development, weekly English lessons, Communications and Presentation, Financial and Business Acumen, Teambuilding and Endurance, One-on-One Coaching and Mentoring. A highlight of the programme includes three Special Projects i.e. Ekuinas Bright Future Video, My Private Business Venture and the Mount Nuang Expedition.

Since its inception, the programme has grown 6-fold from nine trainees in 2012 to the 75 selected for the 2016/2017 batch. The PDP has a success rate of 90% for all the trainees upon completing the programme. They have either continued to be employed at Ekuinas' portfolio companies, or found employment in leading companies such as Petronas Dagangan, Malaysia Building Society Berhad, MATRADE, Polis DiRaja Malaysia, Naza World and many others. A few have also opted to further their studies.

Syed Yasir Arafat added that the PDP is continuously enhanced to ensure the programme helps develop well-rounded individuals who are resilient, street smart and business savvy. Its new components incorporate endurance training, which culminated in a climb up Mount Nuang at the end of May and creative teamwork to produce a promotional video for the programme. In addition, this year ILTIZAM has introduced a new aspect of the PDP which requires trainees to start a business through a small seed funding provided by Ekuinas. This is aimed at introducing trainees to entrepreneurial skills which may be an alternative route to their employment.

At the event, the graduates from the 2015/2016 batch showcased a variety of motivational performances such as dance, sketches and video presentations to capture their experience throughout the programme. The graduation and on-boarding ceremony also featured BICARA ILTIZAM, a motivational question and answer session with Malaysian actor and aspiring entrepreneur, Remy Ishak, who shared his personal journey in overcoming challenges in life – encouraging the trainees to always strive to be better and to never give up – in the true spirit of ILTIZAM.

In her speech, Datuk Noriyah Ahmad, Chairman, Ekuinas CSR Committee said that integrity is a key characteristic that must be upheld by every individual in order to be successful in their career and lives. She said in closing, "There is one thing I would like to impart to all the graduates here today.

Always remember that integrity is the all-important factor to success. It means doing the right thing all the time and that takes courage.”

PDP intake is once a year and application opens beginning January to April. The programme targets graduates from local universities and shortlisted candidates will go through an assessment centre which usually takes place in May. Priority is given to graduates from families with lower income.

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About Ekuinas CSR (ILTIZAM)

ILTIZAM was inspired by the will and determination to work towards realising one’s potential. As implied by the name, ILTIZAM communicates the spirit of this programme in delivering life-changing and inspiring transformation for those involved. The objective of this programme is to empower the Bumiputera community and help realise their full potential. ILTIZAM focuses on three main pillars which are Entrepreneurship, Education and Community.

For information on ILTIZAM, log on to www.ekuinas.com.my/iltizam.

About Ekuinas

Ekuinas (Ekuiti Nasional Berhad) is a government-linked private equity fund management company established on 1 September 2009. With the government endowment of RM5 billion, Ekuinas aims to create Malaysia’s next generation of leading companies whilst promoting equitable, effective and sustainable Bumiputera economic participation. To date, Ekuinas has undertaken investments in high potential Malaysian companies involved in the business of fast moving consumer goods, oil and gas, logistics, education, retail food and beverage, and healthcare.

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