

PRESS RELEASE
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EKUINAS COLLABORATES WITH PRISON DEPARTMENT FOR BACK-TO-SOCIETY PROGRAMME TO HELP INMATES REINTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY

Kuala Lumpur, 22 December 2020: Ekuiti Nasional Berhad (Ekuinas) announced their support for **Project PPE** (the Project) through its Back-to-Society Programme under **ILTIZAM**, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) unit under Ekuinas. As an initiative under **ILTIZAM**'s Community, it is a project to deliver Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to assist medical front-liners and hospitals in the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Project is a collaborative effort with Jabatan Penjara Malaysia (otherwise also known as the Malaysian Prison Department), facilitated by Saora Industries, to train inmates from Penjara Jasin, Penjara Sungai Udang as well as juveniles from the Henry Gurney School to produce 1,000 sets of PPE, including disposable hoods, head caps, isolation coats and foot covers.

Hizwani Hassan, Director of Stakeholders' Interest of Ekuinas said, "Back-to-Society Programme (the Programme) is our effort to help individuals who are at the near completion of their prison sentences to reintegrate into society, to upskill and improve their technical and interpersonal skills. It is also a response to the Government's call to have more companies support the Prison Department and its rehabilitation programmes. As this pandemic persists, embarking on this Project is timely as we hope to provide some assistance in reducing the burden of public expenses as well as provide our front-liners with the resources they need in the fight against the pandemic."

The aim of the Programme is to empower inmates and juveniles through a rehabilitation and social reintegration training programme, with the intention to improve and build their self-confidence as they gradually adjust to returning to society. Initially piloted with a vegetable-planting project in 2019 which gave 100 inmates from Penjara Jasin the opportunity to learn about farming and teamwork, the success of that project inspired **ILTIZAM** to continue with its support for a second year – through Project PPE. Through the Programme, individuals will be provided with quality skill-based training, specifically around farming, sewing and tailoring; in

the instance of Project PPE, the inmates and juveniles will also have the opportunity to contribute towards the country during these unprecedented times.

Director of the State Prison of Melaka, Deputy Prison Commissioner (TKP) Tuan Ku Nawawi bin Ku Hamid said, "We are pleased to have companies such as Ekuinas coming on board to support us with this initiative, which will equip inmates and juveniles with lifelong technical and vocational skills as they transition back to society. Additional projects such as Project PPE will also enable these individuals by allowing them to earn extra allowance. We look forward to continue collaborating with Ekuinas to provide the necessary assistance to inmates and juveniles, and we hope more organisations will step forward to lend a hand as well as wider societal support towards this often-overlooked segment of community."

Ganesh Muren, Chief Executive Officer of Saora Industries commented, "When we started the Project, it was tough getting partners on board to assist this mostly neglected community of inmates and juveniles. We are very fortunate and grateful that Ekuinas was keen to support the Project, which we hope will create a sustainable impact to these individuals. It is important that we pay interest to their voices and find ways to instil a new beginning for these individuals. Together with our partners, we hope to continue bringing positive change to marginalised communities through similar programmes or projects".

"We are honoured to play a part in ensuring the success of this Back-to-Society Programme. At the core, it is about the overall need and the development of the community – in this case the inmates and juveniles who are seeking a second chance in life. We hope to continue bringing positive impact to marginalised communities through similar programmes or projects."

Launched in 2016, ILTIZAM by Ekuinas is a CSR initiative with the aim to empower and nurture the growth of underserved communities in Malaysia. Through ILTIZAM's three pillars namely Entrepreneurship, Education, and Community, Ekuinas provides assistance to different segments of the society, including Bumiputera entrepreneurs, students, businesses, and selected communities. In 2019, ILTIZAM disbursed a total of RM8.0 million across the three pillars, impacting 12,000 beneficiaries across the country.

Earlier this year, Ekuinas also established a RM10.0 million fund named Dana Ihsan COVID-19 ILTIZAM to alleviate the pressing needs of the healthcare community and to provide some relief to the affected groups in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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About Ekuiti Nasional Berhad

EkuiNAS (Ekuiti Nasional Berhad) is a government-linked private equity fund management company established on 1 September 2009 and aims to create Malaysia's next generation of leading companies whilst promoting equitable and sustainable Bumiputera wealth creation and economic participation. To date, EkuiNAS has undertaken investments in over 40 companies in high potential Malaysian companies involved in EkuiNAS' core target sectors namely education, fast moving consumer goods, oil and gas, retail, healthcare, and services. EkuiNAS was shortlisted as one of the Top 3 Southeast Asian Firms of the Year by the Private Equity International (PEI) Awards for the year 2018 and 2019.

About 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 Bumiputera community and help realise their full potential across three main pillars which are Entrepreneurship, Education and Community.

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