

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



Despite the challenging health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, the spirit of SSM employees remained resilient, and they continue to deliver excellent performance. Our ongoing efforts to create a favourable business and corporate environment have produced positive results.

**In line with the Government's commitment to alleviate the corporate community's burdens during the national economic recovery phase in 2022, the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (MDTCA), in collaboration with SSM, introduced one (1) new initiative and continued five (5) previously established initiatives from 2021, with enhancements in mind.**

### ASSALAMUALAIKUM DAN SALAM SEJAHTERA.

**A**lhamdulillah, thanks be to Allah S.W.T, for with His abundant, grace and permission, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) successfully navigated the year 2022 with excellence, fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations with unwavering commitment.

Congratulations and well done to the SSM team that played a role in the publication of the SSM Annual Report 2022. This annual report serves as a crucial document for documenting all accomplishments and activities undertaken throughout the year, serving as a valuable reference for all stakeholders.

In 2022, I had the honour of being appointed as the new Chairman of SSM. In this role, I've had the privilege of steering the organisation and witnessing SSM's significant achievements and remarkable successes.

Under the first initiative, SSM has implemented a compound reduction incentive under the Companies Act 1965, which was in effect from 1 March to 31 December 2022. With this initiative, companies and company directors were eligible for a reduction of up to 90 percent of the original value of compound issued under the Companies Act 1965. This measure aimed to provide substantial relief to companies and their directors facing financial constraints during this period.

Under the second initiative, SSM has actively supported the Government's agenda to foster entrepreneurship among the people by continuing its *Skim Pendaftaran Perniagaan Prihatin* (SPPP), which offers free business registration to encourage more individuals to start their own businesses. This initiative is aimed at aiding the livelihoods of individuals in the B40 group and full-time students at higher learning institutions, by encouraging them to explore opportunities in the business sector.

SSM introduced the SPPP with the primary goal of aiding the B40 group, whose income was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and full-time students at higher learning institutions in registering their businesses without incurring any financial burden. This encompasses exemptions from paying the registration fees and the expenses related to the printing of business information. The SPPP initiative is also structured to support individuals within the target groups in establishing their businesses in a legal and legitimate manner. This approach not only benefits these individuals but also enhances the confidence of buyers, ensuring that they engage with trustworthy and authentic traders.

SSM has continued its commitment to the *Skim 1 OKU 1 Perniagaan* (S1O1P) by offering free business registration and business renewal registration to individuals with disabilities for one business. This initiative serves as an encouragement for individuals with disabilities to legally enter the business field by facilitating the registration of their businesses under the Registration of Businesses Act 1956.

Additionally, SSM has extended the SSM BizTrust registration period for free whereby businesses can register their BizTrust without charge until 31 December 2022. The SSM BizTrust registration initiative is focused on building consumer confidence, ensuring business entities comply with legal requirements, and promoting awareness among business community. The SSM BizTrust also has the objective of nurturing an ethical online business environment within the country.

**In line with our commitment to enhancing corporate laws, SSM is currently in the process of finalising the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2022, which focuses on Corporate Rescue Mechanism and Scheme of Compromise or Arrangement. The Companies (Amendment) Bill 2022 is aimed at strengthening and enhancing the current legal framework associated with corporate rehabilitation. Its purpose is to aid companies that are grappling with financial difficulties, thereby promoting their recovery and sustainability.**

SSM is also in the process of finalising the Limited Liability Partnerships (Amendment) Bill 2022, which is intended to introduce a Corporate Rescue Mechanism for Limited Liability Partnership entities facing financial difficulties. The goal is to enable these entities to continue their operations and contribute to the national economy.

Both the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2022 and the Limited Liability Partnerships (Amendment) Bill 2022 are currently in the approval stage by the Drafting Division of the Attorney General's Chambers and are scheduled to be tabled in Parliament during the nearest session following approval from the Attorney General's Chambers.

In 2022, SSM continued its efforts with *Program Usahawan Muda 2022* (PUM22) and *Program Bimbingan Usahawan 2022* (PBU22). These programmes aim to raise awareness among various groups, including entrepreneurs, youth, and students of higher learning institutions, about the importance of business registration and the benefits it offers. They also provide valuable insights into business financial management and digital marketing, all while encouraging participants to leverage the SPPP initiative offered by SSM. They play a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship and equipping participants with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive in the business landscape. These initiatives align with the National Entrepreneurship Policy 2030 (DKN 2030), which seeks to prepare Malaysia to become an entrepreneurial nation by the year 2030.

SSM's role as a corporate regulator extends beyond the national level, as it actively participates in international discussions and forums. SSM participated in the Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) 2022, which took place from 21 to 24 September 2022, in the Republic of Maldives. This event was organised by the Ministry of Economic Development and focused on topics related to corporate registration and governance on an international scale.

The theme for this year's forum was "Transforming Business Registries for the Post-Pandemic Era," and SSM had the honour of presenting a paper titled "Beneficial Ownership Reporting Framework for Legal Persons in Malaysia." This participation underscores SSM's commitment to sharing insights and collaborating with the international community to enhance corporate governance and regulatory practices. Furthermore, as a testament to SSM's active participation and contributions to the CRF, serving a two-year term. Malaysia was represented by YBhg. Datuk Nor Azimah Abdul Aziz,

Chief Executive Officer of SSM. Notably, this marked the fourth occasion that Malaysia had been elected as a member of the CRF Executive Committee, signifying its continued commitment and involvement in international corporate registry matters.

SSM's active participation in international engagements demonstrates its commitment to fostering collaboration and promoting best practices on a global scale. In this regard, SSM took part in the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Starting a Business, which was conducted virtually on 13 June 2022. This event was held in conjunction with the Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME). The meeting brought together representatives from SME agencies, business registration entities, and investment promotion agencies from ASEAN Member States, including Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Additionally, SSM participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Asia/ Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering, which took place from 24 to 28 July 2022 in Kuala Lumpur. This meeting gathered representatives from across the world to focus on combating serious financial crimes with regional and global implications. SSM's involvement in these international events underscores its dedication to addressing critical issues and fostering cooperation in the corporate and financial sectors.

Indeed, SSM's commitment extends far beyond administrative, operational, and enforcement matters. The organisation actively embraces a broader responsibility that includes social welfare, corporate social responsibility, and community support. This multi-faceted approach underscores SSM's dedication to serving not only as a regulatory body but also as a responsible and caring entity within the community it operates in. SSM has taken active steps to make a positive impact on the community, including its own employees, through various *wakalah zakat korporat* distribution and corporate social responsibility initiatives. These initiatives are designed to provide support to those in need and contribute to the economic well-being of individuals and families.

**SSM's corporate social responsibility programmes and *wakalah zakat korporat* distribution efforts aim to alleviate the burdens faced by the less fortunate and enhance their economic stability. Throughout 2022, SSM has implemented a range of welfare programmes, including *wakalah zakat korporat* distribution projects for asnaf entrepreneurs, providing assistance to those affected by flood disasters, contributing hospital medical equipment, and undertaking various other initiatives. These efforts reflect SSM's commitment to social welfare and its dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of those it serves.**

I share your hope that SSM, as the regulator of the corporate and business sector, will continue to uphold its outstanding performance in the future. SSM's resilience as a team in the face of ongoing disruptions and uncertainties, particularly in the wake of global economic challenges, is commendable.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all SSM stakeholders, Commission Members, for their unwavering support, valuable insights, and cooperation. My highest appreciation towards the Executive Management team and the dedicated staff of SSM for their continued hard work and commitment throughout 2022.

It is my wish that this spirit of teamwork and dedication will persist in the years to come, ensuring SSM's continued success in its vital role within the corporate and business landscape.

Thank you.

**YBHG. DATUK AZMAN MOHD YUSOF**

Chairman  
Companies Commission of Malaysia