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CLOB-BINTANG MELEWAR

BINTANG MELEWAR TO ASSIST SIAS ON CLOB

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- Bintang Melewar has agreed to assist the Securities Investors Association of Singapore (SIAS) to implement its proposal on the migration of the shares of Malaysian companies on the Central Limit Order Book (CLOB) to the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) on a staggered basis.

Tunku Abdullah of Melewar Group Bhd said that the company had submitted another letter to KLSE, stating that it is all out to assist SIAS.

Among others, the letter informed that Bintang Melewar has agreed with the SIAS on the staggered release (of the shares to individual accounts) and will coordinate all the efforts to ensure the migration of the shares, he said.

"We hope that a decision will come out of it as soon as possible... I have kept the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin informed of what we are doing," Tunku Abdullah said at a joint press briefing given by SIAS and Bintang Melewar, here today.

He said further talks would be held to fine tune the proposals.

He said the KLSE was expected to decide soon on the proposal.

Meanwhile Melewar Group Bhd group managing director, Tunku Iskandar explained that Bintang Melewar was assisting SIAS with its proposal and the proposal by Bintang Melewar itself was a separate issue.

He said although they were cooperating, Bintang Melewar has not dropped its proposal for custodial services, managed portfolio and investment linked insurance policies.

However, there will come a time when Bintang Melewar will have to fine tune its proposal because it has to make sure that whatever it offers will be acceptable to the majority of the investors or investors who find that SIAS' proposal does not meet their needs, he added.

Tunku Iskandar said Bintang Melewar would be compensated fairly for its efforts to assist SIAS but it has yet to discuss the amount.

Meanwhile SIAS president David Gerald Jeyasegaran said it was not taking an official stance on Bintang Melewar's proposal as it wanted further discussion.

Bintang Melewar will have a role to play if we find their terms suitable for implementing the staggered release, he said.

"Bintang Melewar officials tell us that they are interested to facilitate our offer and are prepared to act as the Malaysian party to assist SIAS in all matters pertaining to the offer, especially those relating to regulatory bodies and authorities here," he said.

"While it is a commercial organisation, Bintang Melewar has identified the difficulties surrounding this issue, and that the Clob investors should not suffer long and that the Malaysian authorities should also address the problems," David said.

He added that SIAS wants to settle the issue amicably on a win-win basis.

On possibility of taking up offers from other parties, he said it would remain open.

On taking the issue to World Trade Organisation, David said it would be taken to the WTO only if all else fails.

He said SIAS was also not considering any legal action this stage. --

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