

Headline	BIMB sees business financing picking up		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	21 Apr 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Business Times	Circulation	95,860
Page No	B5	Readership	236,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	237 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,865
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 11,595



BIMB sees business financing picking up

KUALA LUMPUR: Business financing is expected to pick up this year despite the challenging landscape in Islamic banking this year, helped by key industries such as oil and gas, and construction and manufacturing.

Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd (BIMB) managing director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat said the catalysts would be the higher capital expenditure by Petroliaam Nasional Bhd and the implementation of infrastructure projects like the mass rapid transit system.

The increasing demand from export-oriented manufacturers, especially the electrical and electronics sector, due to the improving external factors will also contribute to the growth in business financing, he said.

"Business financing via corporate and commercial sectors is expected to fill the gap in financing demand caused by over-leveraged households," he said.

He said while business financing has gained traction, consumer financing remains challenging as demand is expected to moderate due to the government's austerity policy and tighter margin caused by fierce competition.

Zukri said as the government anticipates to continue its austerity policy to reduce subsidies and rein in budget deficit, tighter credit policy by Bank Negara Malaysia through macro-prudential measures to address household debts will have an impact on retail financing growth.

"As a result, consumers will adopt a more cautious stance in their spending," he said.

He said the situation is made worse as fierce competition is causing further erosion to the margins as banks compete for both financing and funding.

"For Islamic banking and the banking sec-

tor in general, the competitive environment has made it even more imperative to drive consumer-centricity and innovation, especially now when consumers are more sophisticated," he said.

Zukri said overcrowding is forcing many Islamic banks to compete head-on against their conventional peers. Further consolidation through mergers and acquisitions may offer players economies of scale that they lack.

Islamic banking growth in Malaysia has been consistent for the past decade, averaging about 20 per cent annually since 2000, with syariah-compliant assets currently representing over 22 per cent of the country's total banking assets as at September last year.

Zukri said the current global and domestic economic conditions, however, would continue to set the tone for the Islamic banking landscape this year and thereafter.

He said while uncertainties surrounding the global economies were seen to be gradually improving, recovery was still best described as nascent.

"The banking industry undoubtedly will be affected by these factors. In addition, there are industry-specific challenges such as competition, international regulatory reforms and the introduction of macro-prudential measures," he added.

Zukri said with the household debt reaching 86 per cent of the gross domestic product last year, macro-prudential measures, such as requirements on responsible financing, were introduced, which included shortening of tenures for certain types of financing and tighter credit approval policy.

Bernama



"Consumers will adopt a more cautious stance in their spending."
Datuk Seri Zukri Samat
 Managing director
 Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd

Headline	Felda LBJ reminisce about Johnson's visit		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	21 Apr 2014	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	95,860
Page No	8	Readership	236,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	549 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 17,911
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 53,733



Felda LBJ reminisce about Johnson's visit

NILAI: Mention Felda LBJ and sad tales of a crumbling community brought down by greed from instant wealth would come to mind for the locals here.

The area was just an ordinary settlement until it was selected to be part of the Negri Sembilan technology corridor, a joint-venture project between the State Development Corporation and Tabung Haji, 16 years ago.

The 504 settlers grabbed the limelight back when the transformation saw their lands being acquired, making them "instant" millionaires. It was a dream come true that after years of hardship, these families suddenly had loads of cash to spend and their lives began to change.

Apart from indulging in luxury cars, many of the settlers opted for enormous houses with extravagant furnish-

ings, including swimming pools. Many men also took new wives.

With these changes came new challenges and problems, especially after the money ran out. Many abandoned their huge houses which are now rotting reminders of the once "instant" millionaires. Some settlers passed away while others chose to migrate with their children to cities.

Mohamad Said Sulaiman, 57, said the settlement, which was left vacant for many years, was picking up now due to surrounding development.

Many people, especially staff of the new academic institutions nearby, had begun to rent or purchase the houses left by Felda's first generation.

Checks by *New Straits Times* showed that the settlement seemed poised for recovery with interest buzzing from outsiders working in the surrounding area, including

near the Kuala Lumpur International airport, located 30 minutes away.

Said said many were unaware of the history of Felda LBJ and how the settlement got its name.

He said it was visited by the then US president Lyndon B. Johnson, who was said to have brought cheer to the residents.

"I remember my father telling us how ecstatic the settlers were when Johnson arrived and some people did not sleep throughout the night.

"Imagine a US president, with his entourage, coming to a small settlement. It was definitely a highlight of their lives," he said, adding that the settlement was subsequently named after him in honour of his visit.

"We were also told by our uncles that Johnson tried his hand at tapping a rubber tree during his visit."

→ Full report at www.nst.com.my

→ See also Pages 16 & B4

Headline	Felda LBJ reminisce about Johnson's visit		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	21 Apr 2014	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	95,860
Page No	8	Readership	236,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	549 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 17,911
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 53,733

UBAMA IN MALAYSIA APRIL 20-26, 2014

Warning to Peking: You're inviting danger

Cheers all the way

INSIDE: SIX pages of pictures

President Johnson and Lady Bird fly in to a tumultuous airport welcome by 20,000 Malaysians

Support pledge

Then prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and deputy prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein with president Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird Johnson, at a state banquet at Parliament on Oct 30, 1966.

President Johnson meeting schoolchildren at the Labu Land Scheme in Negri Sembilan.

President Johnson observing a two-minute silence after laying a wreath at the National Monument in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 30, 1966.

Page 1 of The Straits Times on Oct 31, 1966.