

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Axiata Shareholders Show Continued Support at AGM

**Kuala Lumpur, 23 May 2018** – At Axiata Group Berhad's ("Axiata") 26th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") today, shareholders demonstrated continued support of the Group's long term business strategies towards achieving its *New Generation Digital Champion* ambition. All fourteen resolutions tabled were also unequivocally approved.

Axiata Chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Wira Azman Hj. Mokhtar said, "The Board and I are pleased with the outcome of the AGM. Over the last 10 years, we have been very fortunate to have the full support of our shareholders which allowed us to achieve our vision of becoming a Regional Champion with Axiata ranking amongst one of the largest telecommunications groups in Asia. Looking forward, we are excited by the opportunities to grow our operations as we take on the challenges to compete successfully in the digital global economy."

Echoing this, Tan Sri Jamaludin Ibrahim, President & Group Chief Executive Officer of Axiata added, "We are pleased to receive the commendation from our shareholders and their continued encouragement of our vision and business strategies. While we made 2017 one of our best performing years, we recognise there is a lot more we can do. The Group remains focused on building on its core strengths as we progress towards reshaping ourselves as a New Generation Digital company."

"We are confident that our Axiata 3.0 roadmap and our Triple Core Strategy will transform the Group from a traditional mobile operator into a Digital Telco. We will also harness the exponential growth within the four verticals of our digital businesses and catalyse the expansion of our regional tower company to become a global entity to deliver an overall investor proposition of moderate growth and moderate dividend."

At the AGM, the following were amongst the resolutions tabled and subsequently approved by shareholders:-

#### **Re-election, Reappointment and Retirement of Directors**

Tan Sri Datuk Wira Azman Hj Mokhtar, Chairman of the Board and David Lau Nai Pek, Independent Non-Executive Director (INED), both retiring by rotation, were re-elected as Directors. Shareholders also welcomed to the Board of Axiata two new directors, Dr David Robert Dean, INED and representative of Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Tengku Dato' Sri Azmil Zahruddin Raja Abdul Aziz, Non-Independent Non-Executive Director. Both Directors were appointed after the last AGM, also retired at this AGM and were re-elected accordingly.

Datuk Azzat Kamaludin, Senior Independent Non-Executive Director, who retires by rotation at this AGM, did not submit himself for re-election. The Chairman and Board of Axiata thanked and expressed their gratitude to Datuk Azzat Kamaludin for his invaluable contribution to the Group over the last 10 years. Datuk Azzat Kamaludin will continue to serve as Chairman of Axiata subsidiaries - Dialog Axiata PLC and edotco Group Sdn. Bhd.

### **Re-appointment of Auditors**

Shareholders also approved the re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers PLT as the Auditors of the Company for the financial year ending 2018.

#### Dividends

Shareholders approved the final tax exempt dividend under single tier system of 3.5 sen per ordinary share for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

Given the Group's strong performance, the Board of Directors declared a higher full year total dividend of 8.5 sen per ordinary share, including the interim dividend of 5 sen per ordinary share paid in 2017. Total dividend for FY17 translates to a 64% dividend payout ratio (DPR) compared to 50% in FY16.

# Adoption of New Constitution

Shareholders also approved the Proposed Adoption of the New Constitution of the Company which will streamline Axiata's constitution with the new provisions of the Companies Act 2016, amendments made to the Main Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad and enhance administrative efficiency.

#### About Axiata

Axiata is one of the leading telecommunications groups in Asia with approximately 350 million customers in 11 countries in ASEAN and South Asia. In pursuit of its vision to be a *New Generation Digital Champion by 2021*, the Group has transformed itself from a holding entity with a portfolio of pure-play mobile assets into a Triple Core Strategy driven business with the focus on Digital Telco, Digital Businesses and Infrastructure.

Axiata has controlling stakes in market-leading mobile operators in the region including 'Celcom' in Malaysia, 'XL' in Indonesia, 'Dialog' in Sri Lanka, 'Robi' in Bangladesh, 'Smart' in Cambodia and 'Ncell' in Nepal. Further to this, the Group also holds strategic interests in 'Idea' in India and 'M1' in Singapore. Axiata is in the cusp of transforming its mobile operations into Digital Telcos through digitisation and convergence.

'edotco', the Group's infrastructure company, operates in six countries to deliver telecommunications infrastructure services, amassing of approximately 27,500 towers. It aims to be one of the top global independent tower companies and is committed to responsible and sustainable business operations.

Axiata Digital and Axiata Business Services (operating under the brand 'Xpand)' are the digital businesses arms of the Group. Together, these businesses are focused on capturing the rapid growth in digital financial services, digital advertising, enterprise/IoT and platform services.

As a committed and long-term investor, Axiata provides employment to 25,000 people within its operations. In line with its sustainability goals, the Group actively supports and drives young talent development; disaster response and recovery; as well as green initiatives. Axiata's broader goal of Advancing Asia aspires to piece together the best in the region in terms of innovation, connectivity and talent.

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