

**SHARIAH GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURE
BY ISLAMIC BANKS IN MALAYSIA**

By

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ABSTRACT

Shariah governance is the utmost important division of Islamic banks to differentiate with its conventional counterpart. Although Islamic banks had been in the Malaysian banking industry for more than three decades, it is still at the stage towards comprehensive and proper framework. Besides, Islamic banks have the responsibility to ensure Shariah compliance in its overall operation. Non-compliance element will damage the confidence of the stakeholders and the perception on the purity of Islamic banking system. Thus, this study intends to scrutinize the scope of latest regulations on Shariah governance in Islamic banks, then comparing it with the international standard and to analyze its practice in compliance with the stipulated guidelines. These purposes are achieved by using qualitative method of research by applying doctrinal and legal research where the latest annual report and few regulations are referred. Besides, the descriptive and comparative study was also adopted for deep understanding. All data was taken from the Islamic banks listed under BNM and analysed it using content analysis. The practice of Shariah governance was examined by using Shariah governance disclosure ratio on the items in the SC report based on referred regulations. This study found that Malaysian regulations on Shariah governance of Islamic banking are more comprehensive rather than the international standard. However, only few Islamic banks comply with the guidelines, whilst the transition period for the compliance is almost end. Thus, it is recommended for the authorities to ensure Shariah governance disclosure been fully complied by the related Islamic banks. As the result, a proper and comprehensive Shariah governance in Islamic banks in Malaysia could be achieved.

Keywords: Malaysia, Islamic banking, Shariah governance

ABSTRAK

Tadbir urus Shariah adalah komponen yang paling utama dalam sesebuah bank Islam untuk membezakannya dengan bank konvensional. Walaupun bank Islam telah beroperasi dalam industri perbankan di Malaysia lebih dari tiga dekad, ianya masih menuju ke arah kerangka yang komprehensif. Tambahan pula, bank Islam mempunyai tanggungjawab untuk memastikan pematuhan Shariah dalam setiap operasi yang terlibat. Elemen ketidak patuhan Shariah akan mengurangkan keyakinan pihak-pihak berkepentingan dan juga persepsi terhadap kesucian sistem perbankan Islam. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini berhasrat untuk meneliti skop undang-undang berkaitan dengan pematuhan Shariah dalam bank Islam, kemudian membandingkannya dengan standard antarabangsa dan meneliti praktis bank Islam dalam pematuhan kepada undang-undang. Ianya akan dicapai dengan menggunakan penyelidikan kualitatif dengan menggunakan penyelidikan doktrinal dan undang-undang, berdasarkan laporan tahunan terbaru dan beberapa undang-undang berkaitan. Selain itu, penyelidikan deskriptif dan perbandingan juga digunakan untuk pemahaman yang lebih mendalam. Kesemua data diambil daripada bank-bank Islam yang tersenarai di bawah BNM dan analisa menggunakan analisis kandungan. Praktis pematuhan Shariah dinilai menggunakan nisbah pendedahan tadbir-urus Shariah berdasarkan perkara-perkara di dalam laporan Jawatankuasa Shariah. Hasil kajian telah menunjukkan bahawa undang-undang Malaysia lebih komprehensif dan terperinci berbanding standard antarabangsa. Walau bagaimanapun, hanya beberapa bank Islam yang mematuhi garis panduan yang telah ditetapkan walaupun tempoh peralihan untuk pematuhan semakin tamat. Oleh itu, adalah disyorkan kepada pihak berwajib untuk memastikan pendedahan kepada pematuhan Shariah oleh bank Islam dipatuhi sepenuhnya. Hasilnya, pematuhan Shariah yang komprehensif dalam bank Islam dapat dicapai.

Katakunci: Malaysia, Bank Islam, Tadbir-urus Shariah

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AAOIFI	Accounting and Auditing of Islamic Financial Institutions
BNM	Bank Negara Malaysia
CBA 2009	Central Bank Act of Malaysia 2009
CPIFR	Core Principles for Islamic Finance Regulation
DFIA 2002	Development Financial Institutions Act 2002
FSA 2013	Financial Services Act 2013
FSAP	Financial Sector Assessment Program Malaysia
FSMP	Financial Sector Master Plan
GP1-i 2013	Guidelines on Corporate Governance for Licensed Islamic Banks 2013
GP8-i 2012	Guidelines on Financial Reporting for Islamic Banking Institutions 2012
IFIs	Islamic Financial Institutions
IFSA 2013	Islamic Financial Services Act 2013
IFSB	Islamic Financial Services Board
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
pbuh	Peace Be Upon Him
SC	Shariah Committee
SCA 1993	Securities Commission Act 1993
SGF 2011	Shariah Governance Framework 2011
SSB	Shariah Supervisory Board

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Ironically, the exclusivity of the divine values of Islamic finance based on the Quran and Hadith being the basis of the system has significantly risen the emergence of Islamic banking and finance. Consequently, the business and economics development of Islamic finance has become the new trend in the finance and banking industry (Wardhani & Arshad, 2012). Basically, the Shariah principles are the substance of Islamic banking operations. By that fact, the comprehensive system in compliance with Shariah principles distinguishes Islamic banking from the conventional banking (Shaharuddin, 2011). Agreeably, Shariah compliance is the original foundation in having a banking system that fulfills the religious requirements for Muslims, from Islamic point of view (Elias, 2014). In order to avoid Shariah non-compliance risk, a sound and robust Shariah governance framework is crucial with the excellent enforcement of laws.

According to Hasan (2010), for the purpose of Shariah compliance, the theoretical substance of Shariah governance needs an additional layer of governance in Islamic banks. The internal Shariah governance of Islamic banking institutions should be supported by their external counterparts to ensure that all involved parties do their duties as stipulated in Islamic law requirements. At this point, the regulations and its

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