

MEDIA RELEASE

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BANK ISLAM PARTNERS WITH QWORK TO DRIVE FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWER THE GIG ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday, [15 October 2023]: Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (Bank Islam or the Bank) continues its mission of fostering financial inclusion and empowering underserved communities by announcing its strategic partnership with Qwork. This revolutionary community-driven platform connects businesses with a diverse pool of skilled freelancers.

With this partnership, Bank Islam aims to tap into Qwork's extensive pool of gig workers via its intuitive platform to provide flexible financial solutions tailored to the needs of freelancers. By leveraging Qwork's diverse talent network, Bank Islam aims to address the growing workforce segment's economic challenges and offer them access to Shariah-compliant banking products and services.

Bank Islam can promote Qwork's advertised jobs within its Be U By Bank Islam app, which is 100% digital. Aside from accessing banking services, customers can use the 'Gig Marketplace' feature within the app to find income opportunities provided by Qwork. The effort aligns with Be U's endeavors in responding to the needs of young adults who seek to earn spare cash through short-term jobs.

Bank Islam Group Chief Digital Officer, Noor Farilla Abdullah expressed her enthusiasm about the partnership. She stated, **"We are delighted to collaborate with Qwork in our ongoing efforts to bolster the overall Be U app. Incorporating this use case into the app will empower users to handle their finances and earn their living. With everything on a single platform, users can easily track and manage their finances and access tailored solutions that cater to freelancers. This partnership aligns perfectly with our commitment**

to serving the needs of the underserved communities and promoting equitable financial practices."

Earlier in September 2023, Be U by Bank Islam launched its debit card that is 100% issued, delivered, and managed through the app. Apart from providing convenient payment services, the Be U by Bank Islam app continues to release customer-centric solutions designed for the younger generation and freelancers. Bank Islam plans to introduce flexible financing options, digital payment solutions, and financial planning services in the Be U app.

By understanding the unique needs and challenges of the freelance community, the Bank aims to provide them with the support and tools necessary to thrive in today's dynamic economy.

Qwork's CEO, Muna Munirah, highlighted the importance of the partnership, stating, **"We are thrilled to partner with Bank Islam to empower freelancers and provide them with access to Islamic banking products and services. This collaboration aims to democratise benefits with the likes of working for an MNC for the gig workers, a.k.a freelancers on Qwork."**

Bank Islam and Qwork are confident that this partnership will significantly impact the freelance community, fostering financial stability and unlocking new growth opportunities. By combining their expertise and resources, both organisations are committed to creating an ecosystem that supports the financial aspirations of freelancers, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of the Malaysian economy.

About Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (Registration No [198301002944(98127-X)])

Bank Islam is Malaysia's first publicly listed Islamic Bank on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia. Established in July 1983 as Malaysia's first Islamic Bank, Bank Islam has 135 branches and over 900 self-service terminals nationwide. As a full-fledged and pure-play Islamic bank, Bank Islam provides banking and financial solutions that strictly adhere to the Shariah rules and principles and are committed to the ideals of sustainable prosperity and ESG values. The core subsidiaries of the Bank Islam Group are pioneers in various Islamic financial services, including investment and stockbroking, namely BIMB Investment Management Berhad

and BIMB Securities Sdn Bhd. For more information on the Group's products and services, visit www.bankislam.com.

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