

Board Appointments

As foreshadowed in last year's Annual Report, Board succession and planning has been at the forefront of our minds. So during the year, the Nomination and Remuneration Committee led the process which resulted in the appointment of Dato' Idris bin Kechot and Datuk Anuar bin Ahmad as Independent Non-Executive Directors. Both Dato' Idris and Datuk Anuar bring a wealth of corporate and industry experience and the Board believes that the Group can derive substantial benefit from their expertise as we move from one phase of growth and development to the next.

Further information is set out in the Profile and Corporate Governance sections of this Annual Report.

Prospects

We expect our bulking and food businesses to deliver organic growth through further investments and improvement in their customer offerings and market expansion. The manufacturing division's performance is expected to remain fairly subdued as we project that there could be further downward pressure on volumes. Our

plantation division expects this current financial year to remain challenging on the back of the prevailing low commodity prices arising from inter alia the negative sentiments on palm oil from EU and pressures on the US-China trade dispute. Additional development expenditure on the greenfield assets are also expected to impact the division's earnings.

Notwithstanding the challenges I have described, our businesses generate strong cash flows which, in combination with a strong balance sheet and financial discipline, should enable us to cope with any market disruptions and competition as we go forward.

As a Board, we had spent time in FYE2019 reviewing our strategy with the management team in light of market dynamics, and as new M&A and capital expenditure opportunities were presented. We remain acquisitive in nature and will seek and pursue opportunities in desired sectors and to expand our plantation landbank, but as always, such acquisitions will be considered provided they meet the Group's investment returns criteria and the Board has comfort in the Group's gearing and funding capacity.

Appreciation & Acknowledgement

I would like to close by thanking the Board for their guidance and support to me during the year. I would also like to thank our employees, suppliers, business

