Azman’s MD tenure extended at Khazanah

For three more years from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2019

KUALA LUMPUR: Khazanah Nasional Bhd managing director (MD) Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar has had his contract extended for three more years, from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2019.

In a statement yesterday, Khaza-
nah, chaired by Prime Minister
Datuk Seri Najib Razak, said its
board of directors had approved
to extend the employment con-
tract of Azman at a meeting on
Saturday.

Azman, 54, has been with the
investment holding arm of the
Malaysian government since June
1, 2006.

During his leadership ten-
ure, the company reported a 10-
year cumulative pre-tax profit of
RM22.33 billion at the end of 2014.

The net asset value of Kha-
zanah’s investment also increased
9.2% to RM110.8 billion at the end
of 2014 from RM101.5 billion a
year earlier, bolstered by a RM3.9
billion gain from Alibaba Group
Holding Ltd’s share sale.

Under Azman’s tenure, Kha-
zanah divested its 32.2% stake in
national postal company, Pos
Malaysia Bhd, to DRB-Hicom
Bhd, owned by tycoon Tan Sri
Syed Mokhtar al-Bukhary, for
RM622.70 million or RM3.66 per
share in 2011.

Khazanah also sold its 42.7% stake in national carmaker Pro-
ton Holdings Bhd to conglomer-
ate DRB-Hicom for RM1.29 bil-
nion or RM5.50 per Proton share
the following year, as part of the
government’s strategy to boost
liquidity in the local stock market and monetise assets.

It was also during Azman’s
tenure that Khazanah in August
2011 sought to undertake a con-
troversial share-swap deal be-
tween Malaysian Airline System
Bhd (MAS), in which Khazanah
was its largest shareholder with
a 69.37% stake, and low-cost car-
rrier AirAsia Bhd. However, this
was later scrapped amid political
pressure and protests from the
workers’ union at MAS.

Last year, Khazanah bought the rest of MAS in a bid to save
the ailing national carrier. In De-
cember 2014, it delisted MAS and
revealed another turnaround plan
involving RM6 billion in funding,
6,000 job cuts and less routes. It
also transferred all operations,
including assets and liabilities,
to a new company called Malay-
sia Airlines Bhd (MAB), with an
aim that the airline regains pro-
fitability by the end of 2017 and
relists by 2020.

Azman is also the chairman of
Iskandar Investment Bhd and
Axita Group Bhd and holds var-
ious board memberships includ-
ing Yaysan Khazanah and Jdwia
Investment of Saudi Arabia. He
serves on various public service
bodies including the Performance
Management and Delivery Unit,
executive committee of Malaysia
International Islamic Financial
Centre and Governance Council
of Agensi Inovasi Malaysia.

Formerly, he was the MD and
co-founder of BinaArifin Sdn Bhd,
and director and head of country
research at Salomon Smith Bar-
ney Malaysia and Union Bank of
Switzerland in Malaysia. Azman
also previously served in various
capacities with Tenaga Nasional
Bhd (TNB).

Today, some of the key listed
companies in Khazanah’s invest-
ment portfolio include Telekom
Malaysia Bhd, TNB, CIMB Group
Holdings Bhd, Axita Group Bhd,
IHH Healthcare Bhd, Malaysia
Airports Holdings Bhd and UBM
Sunrise Bhd.