NEW STRAITS TIMES

AmBank and Baker Tilly step up IPO readiness drive as listing standards tighten

By Dhaanieyaa Lekham July 1, 2026 @ 11:32am

KUALA LUMPUR: AMMB Holdings Bhd (AmBank Group), AmInvestment Bank and Baker Tilly Malaysia are stepping up efforts to prepare more Malaysian companies for stock market listings as tighter listing requirements raise the bar for initial public offerings (IPOs).

The three organisations recently co-hosted an "Exclusive IPO Insights & Networking Evening", bringing together more than 40 companies to discuss opportunities in Malaysia's capital markets and the importance of early IPO preparation.

The event also marked the 10th anniversary of Baker Tilly Malaysia's "Roadmap to IPO" initiative, a programme designed to provide practical guidance and insights to Malaysian companies considering a public listing.

The milestone comes amid recent enhancements to Bursa Malaysia's Main Market listing requirements, which include higher profit thresholds and greater emphasis on financial quality and readiness.

AmBank said its "Road to Capital Markets" programme, launched in 2019, complements these efforts by helping growth-orientated companies prepare for eventual listings through advisory support, market insights and access to industry networks.

Over the past financial year, the banking group facilitated more than RM6 billion in financing for businesses at various stages of their growth and listing journeys.

AmBank Group head of commercial banking 2, business banking, Patrick Chin said many companies aspire to tap the capital markets but often require guidance on how to begin the process.

"Through strategic collaborations such as this with Baker Tilly Malaysia and AmInvestment Bank, we are helping bridge that gap by providing companies with practical insights, expert guidance and access to the right ecosystem of support," he added.

Baker Tilly Malaysia managing partner for audit and assurance Datuk Lock Peng Kuan said expectations surrounding IPOs have changed significantly over the past decade, with greater focus now placed on governance, transparency and overall corporate readiness.

"Our role as reporting accountants extends beyond technical financial reporting.

"Through our work, we contribute to strengthening the financial reporting, governance and financial discipline expected of companies seeking a listing, while supporting the quality and transparency that underpin confidence in the public market," he said.