

Al-'Aqar's RM300m sukuk ijarah gets final ratings from RAM

THE Al-'Aqar Capital Sdn Bhd's RM300 million Sukuk Ijarah Programme has received its final ratings by RAM Rating Services Sdn Bhd.

In a statement in Kuala Lumpur, RAM Ratings said it has respectively assigned ratings of AAA to the programme's RM165 million Class A Islamic Medium-Term Notes (IMTN), AA2 to the RM30 million Class B IMTN, AAA(bg) to the Class C IMTN and P1 to the RM15 million Islamic Commercial

Papers.

Al-'Aqar Capital is a special purpose vehicle wholly owned by Al-'Aqar KPJ REIT, where the shares of the former are held by Amanah Raya Bhd on behalf of the latter.

Under the programme, Al-'Aqar Capital would acquire the beneficial interest in six hospitals namely Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital, Damansara Specialist Hospital, Johor Specialist Hospital, Ipoh Specialist Hospital,

Setangor Medical Centre and Puteri Specialist Hospital from the REIT Trustee.

After the purchase, Al-'Aqar Capital would enter into an Ijarah (lease) agreement with the REIT Trustee, with a specific lease period and payments that would be used to distribute returns to the Sukuk Ijarah investors.

The redemption of the Sukuk Ijarah is expected to be met via a purchase undertaking by the REIT Trustee to repurchase the six hos-

pitals upon the expected maturity or via disposal in the open market.

Al-'Aqar REIT would then use the sale proceeds to refinance its existing borrowings and acquire another five hospitals from KPJ Healthcare Bhd comprising Kedah Medical Centre, Perdana Specialist Hospital, KPJ Kajang Specialist Hospital, Sentosa Medical Centre and Kuantan Specialist Hospital. — Bernama

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