

# BPAM: RM92b bonds and sukuk issued

**Bond issuers, players can see where they stand**

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** A total of RM91.65 billion worth of bonds and sukuk went to market in the first quarter of 2009, trailing 5.81% from the RM97.30 billion issued in the first three months of last year, according to Bond Pricing Agency Malaysia Sdn Bhd's newly launched fixed income league tables.

"The league tables are yet another product that is in demand as there has not been a comprehensive league table on the bond market. Bond issuers and players alike can now see where they stand in terms of performance and popularity," BPAM chief executive officer Meor Amri Meor Ayob said.

He said BPAM's league tables, which currently ranks its tables according to the categories of top issuers, top traded



**Meor Amri.** Photo by Mohd Izwan Mohd Nazam

issuers and top trustees, were the first to include bond market information in its entirety.

Other league tables are typically published by rating agencies who only rank issuers which the agencies rate.

Meor Amri was speaking to reporters here yesterday after a media briefing on BPAM's league tables, which

will be published after the end of every quarter.

According to BPAM's league table for top issuers, including conventional and Islamic bond issuances, 89%, or RM81.53 billion, worth of papers issued during the quarter under review were brought to market by the top 10 issuers of the league table.

Bank Negara Malaysia, the government of Malaysia and Cagamas Bhd topped the table of issuers, while PLUS SPV Bhd was the top corporate issuer of bonds in 1Q09, issuing Islamic bonds, or sukuk, amounting to RM745 million.

PLUS SPV was followed by development financial institution Sabah Development Bank Bhd, which was also the top corporate conventional bond issuer in the three months to March 31, 2009, having issued RM632 billion worth of bonds.

BPAM's league table on top traded issuers, which ranked the most traded bonds and sukuk in the secondary

market, showed RM196.56 billion papers were traded in 1Q09, compared with RM236.6 billion changing hands a year earlier.

Meor Amri said the thin trading in the secondary market showed investors were still risk averse given the slow economy, adding however, the razor-thin trading should not be a concern.

"There is a lot of trading done now anyway, despite the low trading, so we should ask whether it is really necessary to ramp up trading. If people can live with the amount of trading now, even though it is thin, then it should not be an issue," he said.

Meanwhile, the top traded issuers league table showed the most trades were made on BNM, government and quasi government bonds.

Excluding these, the top traded bonds were Rantau Abang Capital Bhd's with RM741 million papers traded. Although classified as a corporate issuer, the company is a sub-

subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd, a quasi government issuer, made the biggest jump in amount of papers traded in 1Q09, ranking eighth on the top traded issuer league table with RM490 million worth of papers traded, compared with its 119th rank last year with RM24 million traded.

BPAM's top trustees by amount league table, including conventional and Islamic bonds, showed RM19.5 billion worth of papers were taken up by trustees in the three months to March 31, 2009, with PB Trustee Services Bhd holding the most amount of bonds and sukuk, taking up RM6.4 billion worth of papers, compared with RM5.55 billion last year.

PB Trustee Services was trailed by Malaysian Trustees Bhd and Mayban Trustees Bhd, which held RM2.99 billion and RM2.22 billion worth of papers in 1Q09, respectively, versus RM5.68 billion and RM2.69 billion a year earlier.