

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme Returns with Cycle 2!**

**Kuala Lumpur, December 1, 2022** – Building on the success of Cycle 1, the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme continues to rekindle excitement within the Merdeka 118 precinct and its surrounding communities with the return of Cycle 2 of the programme. PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad (PMVSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), is once again partnering with Think City to seek out collaborative projects that aim to empower local businesses and communities in the historical enclave of Kuala Lumpur.

PMVSB's Chief Executive Officer, Tengku Dato' Ab. Aziz Tengku Mahmud said, "The second cycle of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme is a testament to the success of the first cycle which has demonstrated positive and tangible progress. In addition to being able to build stronger bonds with the communities in the precinct, we are also encouraging entrepreneurship, enhancing liveability, as well as shining a light on our local culture and heritage. This is why we are more than happy to continue these efforts for the development of the precinct and the wider communities."

Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Managing Director of Think City, added, "We are glad to once again work with PMVSB in the second cycle of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme. The effort towards renewing an area is a shared responsibility and PMVSB has been exemplary in supporting surrounding businesses and communities to achieve this goal of regenerating the area together."

Through Cycle 2, the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme also seeks projects that support the enhancement and expansion of current projects under Cycle 1, which continues to see positive progress and interest from the communities.

Those interested in participating in Cycle 2 of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme can submit their applications online from December 1, 2022 to January 9, 2023, via a dedicated microsite. During this period, four open day sessions comprising three virtual sessions and one physical session will be held to brief applicants on the programme, brainstorm ideas and connect with community members. The sessions will take place as follows:

### **Virtual Sessions**

1. December 5, 2022, from 10.00am to 11.30am
2. December 7, 2022, from 8.00pm to 9.30pm
3. December 16, 2022, from 8.00pm to 9.30pm

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/3VG4Y4F8jMFKpd4b6>

### **Physical Session**

1. December 13, 2022, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Venue: Think City Kuala Lumpur High Street Studios, Level 1, No 36-40, Jalan Tun HS Lee, 50100 Kuala Lumpur

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/gbrcZdWA42Tk3tem6>

With an emphasis on sports, arts, education and business community, those interested in participating in Cycle 2 of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme are required to follow a set of criteria and guidelines. Similar to the first cycle, applicants must be involved with members of the community within the Merdeka 118 precinct, comprising Petaling Street, Bukit Bintang, Kampung Attap and Pudu Precincts.

All project proposals will undergo assessments and evaluation by a Review Panel comprising members of PMVSB and Think City, as well as an independent Technical Advisory Panel with experts in the areas of Sports, Arts, Community, Technology, Conservation & Heritage and Entrepreneurship Development. Additionally, to ensure

the long-term sustainability of projects, all proposals must include co-investment by the applicants.

Cycle 2 is a continuation of Cycle 1 of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme which was launched in June 2021. The first cycle was well received and saw close to 138 submissions from Malaysians nationwide. After a rigorous eight-week assessment process, six compelling projects were selected out of 38 shortlisted proposals.

To date, the grant recipients of Cycle 1 have achieved tangible progress. These include Smart Stingless Beekeeping, a project led by International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) which held its first honey harvesting ceremony in early August 2022 at Public Housing (PA) Seri Sarawak.

The programme also supported a community basketball court upgrade on Jalan Hang Jebat whereby in June 2022, the official re-opening of the court was held along with the 'First Summer' basketball tournament.

Another project was the Eat, Pray, Love project at Petaling Street by Kaki Jelajah Warisan which organised its first 'Spirit of Merdeka' talk and walk that featured Stadium Merdeka as part of the walking trail, sharing the cultural heritage of the precinct in March 2021.

Aimed at empowering young women through skills development, the 'Y' (YWCA KL) also kicked off culinary and baking classes via the grant, targeted at benefitting young women by enhancing their employment opportunities by the end of 2022.





Another grant recipient, Sinergi Aspirasi Global initiated an Economic Empowerment Programme aimed at improving the entrepreneurial skills of residents within the surrounding area, particularly the B40 community.

Lastly, the Kampung Attap Collective, through the grant, organised diverse creative programmes to enrich the arts and heritage scene within the Merdeka 118 precinct. This ranged from music shows, book conservation and repair workshops, and art exhibitions as well as community markets at various places around Kampung Attap such as Zhongshan Building, Pentago House and SAM Mansion, to name a few. The one-day Merdeka-themed festival named 'PESZTA' that attracted 3,000 visitors, was held on August 27, 2022, was also one of the programmes that acted as a grand finale for grant recipients to showcase and sell their homemade products.

For further details on the programme and to submit an application, please visit <https://www.merdeka118.com/communitygrants/> or email [merdeka@thinkcity.com.my](mailto:merdeka@thinkcity.com.my) or call +60 13 251 8930.

#### **About PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad**

PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad (PMVSB) was incorporated in June 2000 and is the owner and builder of the Merdeka 118 precinct a mixed-use development sharing its location with Malaysia's two heritage stadiums. PMVSB is the sole custodian of both Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara. Both stadiums have been listed as "National Heritage" sites in October 2005 under the National Heritage Act 2005. Thereafter PMVSB carried out meticulous conservation efforts, earning Stadium Merdeka the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Culture Heritage Conservation Programme (Asia Pacific) in 2008. [www.merdeka118.com](http://www.merdeka118.com)

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Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) is one of the largest fund management companies in Malaysia with assets under management (AUM) exceeding RM300 billion. PNB's portfolio covers strategic investments in Malaysia's leading corporates, global equities, private investments, and real estate. For more information, please visit [www.pnb.com.my](http://www.pnb.com.my).

#### **About Think City**

Think City is an impact organisation established in 2009 to create more sustainable and equitable places for the benefit of all. Our knowledge, skills and strategies focus on urban solutions, the environment, social communities, and the cultural economy. Think City is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad (the sovereign wealth fund of the Government of Malaysia). For more information, log on to [www.thinkcity.com.my](http://www.thinkcity.com.my).

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