

EKUINAS ADVANCES THE CREATIVE ECONOMY THROUGH ILTIZAM SENI ART RESIDENCY CYCLE 3

*Emerging Bumiputera Artists Elevated,
22 Artworks Showcased at 'Alir' Exhibition*

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April 2026: The social impact platform of Ekuiti Nasional Berhad (Ekuinas), ILTIZAM, marked the culmination of the ILTIZAM Seni Art Residency Programme (ILTIZAM Seni) Cycle 3 by unveiling 22 inspirational artworks by four (4) emerging Bumiputera artists at SARENG Gallery. Themed 'Alir', the collection showcases creative expressions across unique medium and styles of the resident artists (RAs) following the structured five-month ILTIZAM Seni journey, aimed at deepening creative exploration, expression and business acumen. Officiated by Dato' Abdul Mutalib Alias, Ekuinas Board Member and Chairman of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, the event was well-attended by collectors, art enthusiasts and members of the creative industry, underscoring that the development of aspiring Bumiputera artists remains vital not only to Malaysia's cultural landscape, but also to the growth of a sustainable and competitive creative economy.

Aliff Omar Mohamad Omar, Chief Executive Officer of Ekuinas, said that ILTIZAM Seni is transforming the lives of passionate young creators by equipping them for a sustainable future. "At Ekuinas, we see talent as a form of capital – one that when nurtured, creates far-reaching impact. Through ILTIZAM Seni, we are not only advancing artistic excellence, but also instilling the resilience, discipline and entrepreneurial mindset needed to thrive in today's evolving art ecosystem. The residency programme enables our young Bumiputera artists to map and build sustainable careers and participate meaningfully in Malaysia's growing creative economy. Our investment in the arts goes beyond skills development, it is a deliberate effort to strengthen a dynamic ecosystem that drives both cultural and economic value."

In its third cycle which began in October 2025, ILTIZAM Seni adopts a more focused approach as it evolves to cater to an increasingly demanding environment. Selecting four RAs allowed for

more in-depth mentorship and closer engagement, with an enhanced emphasis on challenging norms and building resilience, patience and business savviness alongside creative prowess. Conducted in Karak, Pahang, the residency programme also provides a conducive backdrop to support the holistic transition from fine arts graduates to professional creators.

Aliff Omar added, “We are committed to transforming lives in ways that are both inclusive and sustainable. The creative journey is as much about resilience and adaptability as it is about talent. By integrating mentorship with business and financial literacy, *ILTIZAM Seni* equips these artists with the tools to navigate a competitive landscape and translate their creativity into long-term value.”

ILTIZAM Seni, since its introduction in 2023, has championed the progress of 21 emerging Bumiputera artists to date. The previous years’ exhibitions have generated over RM180,000 in total sales for the young talents who continue to pursue a life of creative prowess.

The collaboration with *SARENG Gallery* offers further insights into curatorial processes and exhibition development, with the young artists being able to reap financial benefits through the sale of their work. “We invite collectors, industry players and the public to engage with these works, not only to discover new expressions, but to play a role in sustaining the next generation of Malaysian artists,” Aliff Omar added.

Key components of the art residency programme include one-on-one creative mentorship sessions that provide progressive guidance and reviews from visiting artists and the resident mentor, together with dedicated workshops on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and branding among others. RAs receive accommodation, studio space, supplies, and a monthly allowance. Additionally, the participants made a field visit to Pattani, Thailand, for a fresh cultural perspective, making it a first in this year’s programme.

Cycle 3 artists Aliff Danial (Selangor), Ammar Idris (Kedah), Mairul Malek (Sarawak), and Khairanee Iro (Penang) received certificates from the guest of honour, Dato' Abdul Mutalib Alias. Each artist’s body of work depicts a distinct approach shaped by individual experiences and practices, spanning a range of mediums and material explorations. Together, the

exhibition offers a compelling reflection of contemporary Bumiputera art, exploring themes from emotional landscapes and material experimentation to considerations of land, memory and everyday life.

The exhibition 'Alir' at SARENG Gallery, Level 8, Menara Chan, Kuala Lumpur is currently open to the public until 16 May 2026. Admission is free, with the exhibition open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, except Sundays. All exhibited works are available for purchase.

ILTIZAM Seni is a flagship initiative under ILTIZAM, Ekuinas' social impact platform focused on creating sustainable opportunities across entrepreneurship, education and community development.

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About Ekuiti Nasional Berhad

Ekuiti Nasional Berhad (Ekuinas) is a government-linked private equity company that aims to create Malaysia's next generation of leading companies whilst promoting equitable and sustainable Bumiputera wealth creation and economic participation. The Company's primary objective is to deliver financial value on its investments to ensure its social objective is achieved in a sustainable manner. To date, Ekuinas has undertaken 72 investments, out of which 49 are direct investments and 23 made through Outsourced Fund Managers. Key target sectors include education, fast moving consumer goods, oil and gas, retail, healthcare, and manufacturing. Ekuinas was shortlisted as one of the Top 3 Southeast Asian Firms of the Year by the Private Equity International (PEI) Awards for the year 2018 and 2019.

Issued on behalf of Ekuiti Nasional Berhad

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