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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### PRIVATE SCHOOL, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EXCEL IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION

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**SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR, 3 September 2016** – Ministry of Education (“MOE”) of Malaysia together with **Sasbadi Holdings Berhad (“Sasbadi Holdings”)** successfully held the inaugural **National Robotics Open Competition (“NROC”)** at the KDU University College, Utropolis, Glenmarie, Selangor. This competition was held on 3 September 2016 and received participation from 32 private and international schools across Malaysia. The participants vied for the champion’s title in the competition themed “Rap The Scrap”, which required the students’ creations to reduce, manage and recycle waste.

This competition consisted 3 categories: Senior High category with a challenge themed *Recycling Plant*; Junior High category with a challenge themed *Waste Sorting*; and Elementary category competition themed *Clean Road to School*.

Driven by the many success stories from Malaysian students on global stage, that is the **World Robot Olympiad (“WRO”)**, the NORC is the MOE’s new initiative specially organised to encourage international and private school students in taking up robotics.

**Back in 2005, the MOE together with Sasbadi organised the first National Robotics Competition (“NRC”)** and since then, the competition has grown immensely with the participation of about 9,000 students yearly. Through the NRC, the MOE was able to identify local talents in the robotics field who are globally recognised as the world’s best through WRO – Malaysia has successfully won the overall champion’s title for 5 times in the last 7 years.

Held together with the NROC on that same day and venue was the **National University Robotics Competition (“NURC”)**, which marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the competition. This competition had 15 participating teams comprising tertiary institution students from all over Malaysia.



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“The love and passion for robotics is becoming increasingly prominent amongst students across Malaysia, which can be seen from the growing number of participants at the NRC every year,” **Puan Norhayati binti Mustafa of the Co-curricular and Arts Division, Ministry of Education (MOE)** said. “The robotics competition has proven to be an effective platform for students to learn values very much in line with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, so we have decided to open up the opportunity to independent and international schools as well this year,” she added.

**Sasbadi Holdings Berhad Group Managing Director, Mr Law King Hui** mentioned about the relationship between NURC and NRC. He said, “NRC is a very well received robotics competition among primary and secondary national school students. However, when these student continue their studies into the tertiary level, they find that there are limited institutions offering club or robotics activities. Realising this, Sasbadi has taken the initiative to expand from the NRC into the tertiary education level by introducing the NURC”.

“The winner of NURC 2016 will join the winners of NRC 2016 in representing Malaysia at the WRO, which will be held in New Delhi, India from 25-27 November 2016. We have seen great talents this year at the NURC and I am confident we will again have a steadfast contingent we can be proud of representing Malaysia at the WRO 2016,” added Mr Law.

The national contingent has achieved an exemplary record in the WRO through the last 7 years, having brought home 17 gold medals, 11 silver medals, 17 bronze medals, 8 special awards and 47 Excellence awards. In addition, the Malaysia contingent has been crowned overall WRO Champion 5 times in the last 7 years: the first in 2009, Pohang, South Korea; followed by 2010 in Manila, Philippines; 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia; and 2015 in Doha, Qatar. The contingent’s success places Malaysia as the WRO’s Overall Champion among the other 48 competing countries.

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**About Sasbadi Holdings Berhad**

Sasbadi Holdings Berhad ("Sasbadi Holdings") is primarily a publisher of educational materials, undertaking print publishing focusing on primary and secondary school education. While most of its educational materials are based on the Malaysian National School Curriculum, the Group also publishes other non-curriculum based educational materials and general title books. The Group also undertakes online publishing of educational materials based on the Malaysian National School Curriculum. Sasbadi Holding's business is also complemented by the distribution of applied learning products designed to provide hands-on learning experience to students. These products comprise miniature building blocks and mechanical, electrical and electronic components, as well as devices for measuring and analysing live signals, and software to create measurement and control systems.

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