

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 28 MAC 2025

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIME

MUKA : 5
SURAT

Ekuinas CEO to step down on March 31

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NINE YEARS AT THE HELM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (Ekuinas) has announced that Datuk Syed Yasir Arafat Syed Abd Kadir will step down as chief executive officer (CEO) on March 31, concluding a 15-year tenure with the company, including nine years as CEO.

Since taking the helm in 2016, Syed Yasir Arafat has played a role in transforming Ekuinas into a leading private equity firm, managing RM4 billion in funds under management and deploying RM5.6 billion in economic capital across 28 companies.

He led the creation of Dana Asas, a Bumiputera-focused private equity fund, and introduced private credit as a new investment asset class.

According to its 2023 annual report, Ekuinas manages an investment portfolio of RM4.24 billion. To date, the company has direct and outsourced investments in 48 companies across its core target sectors, which include education, fast-moving consumer goods, oil and gas, retail, healthcare, and services.

Syed Yasir Arafat said it has been a privilege to lead Ekuinas through its evolution into a purpose-driven, performance-focused investment institution.

"Together with an exceptional team, we've built a resilient platform that not only delivers value but also drives inclusive, long-term impact for Malaysia. I'm proud of what we've accomplished."

In line with Ekuinas' long-term leadership succession planning, Aliff Omar Mohamad

Omar, currently senior director of investment, will assume the role of acting CEO.

Aliff, who joined Ekuinas in 2017, has rapidly risen through the ranks and has been a key member of the leadership team, working with Syed Yasir Arafat on strategy and value creation.

With over 16 years of experience in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and capital markets, he has led numerous high-impact transactions across Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

Ekuinas chairman Tan Sri Shahril Ridza Ridzuan said: "Syed Yasir Arafat, being one of the pioneer members of Ekuinas, leaves behind a lasting legacy of vision and leadership."

"His commitment to building future leaders has been instrumental in preparing Aliff for this transition."

"The board has every confidence in Aliff's ability to steer Ekuinas into its next phase of growth while representing the core values of the company."



Datuk Syed Yasir Arafat Syed Abd Kadir



Aliff Omar Mohamad Omar