



**PRESS RELEASE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

EQ8 UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST WAQF ETF TO DRIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT INVESTING

Kuala Lumpur, 10 December 2024 – Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd (“Eq8”), a member of Kenanga Investors Group (“Kenanga Investors”), has announced the listing of the world’s first Waqf-featured exchange-traded fund (“ETF”), the Eq8 FTSE Malaysia Enhanced Dividend Waqf ETF (“Waqf ETF” or “EQ8WAQF”), on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad (“Bursa Malaysia” or “Exchange”). The Waqf ETF aims to distribute income annually with half of the income distribution to be allocated as Waqf assets with the remaining half payable to unitholders. The launch is the result of a strategic collaboration between Eq8 and Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia (“YWM”) which was announced in June this year with YWM as the appointed Waqf administrator of the Waqf assets generated by the Waqf ETF.

“We are proud to announce the launch of the world’s first Waqf-featured ETF together with YWM, marking a significant milestone after months of dedicated effort. The Waqf ETF underscores Kenanga Investors unwavering commitment to advance impact investing, especially in today’s climate. Waqf is now widely recognised as a critical pillar of support for Malaysia’s socio-economic development and contributes to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. We perceive the launch to be in alignment with the government’s call for increased collaborations between religious bodies, the public and the private sectors in order to maximise potential for Waqf assets to fund projects such as education, healthcare, economic empowerment and environment. This reflects the spirit of Waqf in creating long-term, sustainable benefits for communities, fostering social equity, and addressing pressing societal needs”, said Kenanga Investors’ Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Wira Ismitz Matthew De Alwis.

The Waqf ETF represents a continuous commitment by Kenanga Investors and its group of companies to participate in the Securities Commission Malaysia’s Islamic Fund and Wealth Management Blueprint, Waqf-Featured Fund Framework alongside the enhancements to Bursa Malaysia’s Main Market Listing Requirements. The Waqf ETF is the third Waqf-featured product by the group that has been issued since the launch of the Kenanga Waqf Al-Ihsan Fund in 2021.

Umar Alhadad, Executive Director of Eq8, shared, “EQ8WAQF exemplifies how an Islamic capital market product can be innovatively developed to integrate investment returns while fostering inclusivity, sustainability, and shared prosperity. Through democratised access on the Exchange, investors will have the opportunity to access and achieve dual impact investing goals from the Waqf ETF. EQ8WAQF features an index lead scheme to generate dividends from the thoughtfully designed index which combines an income-focused strategy with a momentum-based approach. This innovative strategy aims to deliver higher dividend yields while providing investors with potential capital growth, positioning it as an advantageous alternative to traditional dividend-focused funds”.



“We are glad to continue our partnership with Kenanga Investors with the introduction of the Eq8 FTSE Malaysia Enhanced Dividend Waqf ETF. This Waqf ETF serves as an additional instrument in accommodating Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia’s efforts to grow Waqf assets and the wellbeing of the community with the distribution of the Waqf assets for the EQWAQF to be channelled towards economic empowerment, education, healthcare, and environmental causes. With the formation of innovative products like this, investors of all faiths may now take part in contributing towards the betterment of society. We look forward to working closely with more stakeholders across Malaysia to drive the growth and development of Waqf”, YWM’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ridzwan Bakar explained.

Bursa Malaysia’s Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift, said, “We extend our congratulations to Eq8 and Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia on the launch of the world’s first waqf-featured ETF. The Exchange has observed a growing trend of investors opting for Shariah or ethical investing, given its close alignment with ESG investing. As such, the introduction of the EQ8WAQF is therefore timely and is expected to be well-received by investors, particularly those seeking financial returns while making a positive impact on society. Importantly, the EQ8WAQF supports our effort to broaden investment opportunities and foster inclusivity for investors, offering more products to encourage their participation in the capital market”.

The Waqf ETF is the fifth addition to Eq8’s ETF product suite making it the largest ETF issuer in Malaysia. EQ8WAQF is suitable for investors seeking medium to long-term investment opportunities in liquid financial instruments with index-tracking features that focus on high-yield, dividend-paying Shariah-compliant equities.

For more information about Eq8, please visit www.eq8.com.my.

About Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd (Formerly known as i-VCAP Management Sdn Bhd) 200701034939 (792968-D)

Eq8 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kenanga Investors Berhad and was incorporated on 25 October 2007. Eq8 holds a Capital Markets Services Licence (CMSL) for fund management in relation to portfolio management which was issued by the Securities Commission Malaysia under the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007. Its principal business activity is the provision of Shariah-compliant investment management services. Eq8 manages five equity ETFs that are listed on Bursa Malaysia. As at 30 November 2024, the asset under management is RM348 million.

About Kenanga Investors Berhad 199501024358 (353563-P)

We provide investment solutions ranging from collective investment schemes, portfolio management services, and alternative investments for retail, corporate, institutional, and high net worth clients via a multi-distribution network.

The Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management’s 2024 Best of the Best Awards awarded Kenanga Investors Berhad (“**KIB**”) under the following categories, Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager, Best Impact Investing Manager in ASEAN, Malaysia Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CEO of the Year, Malaysia CIO of the Year, Malaysia Best House for Alternatives, Malaysia Most Improved Fund House and Malaysia Best Investor Education.

At the LSEG Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2024, KIB received awards for the Kenanga Malaysian Inc Fund (“**KMIF**”) under the best Equity Malaysia Diversified – Malaysia Pension Funds over 10 Years and the Kenanga Diversified Fund (“**KDF**”) under the best Mixed Asset MYR Flexible – Malaysia Pension Fund over 10 Years. The FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2024/2025 has awarded the Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 with the “Sector Equity – Malaysia Focused” award for the third consecutive year since 2022. For the eighth consecutive year, KIB was affirmed an investment manager rating of IMR-2 by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, since first rated in 2017. The IMR rating on KIB reflects the fund management company’s well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices.



About Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia

Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia (“YWM”) is a national waqf entity that was established on 23 July 2008 and registered with the Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister’s Department under the Trustee (Incorporation) Act 1952 [Act 258]. For more information on the implementation of waqf projects and to do waqf, please visit www.ywm.gov.my.

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Disclaimer: *Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus dated 28 November 2024, and we recommend that investors consider the fees, charges and risk factors involved before investing. The Prospectus has been registered and/or lodged with the Securities Commission Malaysia (“SC”), who takes no responsibility for its contents. Investors may obtain the Prospectus at our offices or any authorised participating dealer and market maker. Unit prices may go down as well as up. A Fund’s track record does not guarantee its future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the unit trust loan financing risk disclosure statement before deciding to borrow to purchase units. If you are in doubt when considering the investment or any of the information provided, you are advised to consult a professional adviser. Eq8 Capital Sdn Bhd (Formerly known as i-VCAP Management Sdn Bhd) 200701034939 (792968-D) is committed to prevent conflicts of interest between its various businesses and activities and between its clients/director/shareholders and employees by having in place procedures and measures for identifying and properly managing any apparent, potential and perceived conflict of interest by making disclosures to clients, where appropriate.*