Independent Assurance Report to the Shareholders of Baladna Q.P.S.C on the suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of significant processes as of 31 December 2021 in connection with the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market Issued by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority's (QFMA's) Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016

## To the Shareholders of Baladna Q.P.S.C. Doha - State of Qatar

Report on the Directors' assessment of the suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of significant processes as of 31 December 2021 of Baladna Q.P.S.C hereinafter referred to as the "Company" and its subsidiaries together referred as the "Group" in connection with the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market Issued by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority's (QFMA's) Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 24 of the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market Issued by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016, we have carried out a reasonable assurance engagement over the Management's Internal Control Statement on assessment of suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting (Management Internal Control Statement) as of 31 December 2021, based on the framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission "COSO framework".

## Responsibilities of the directors and those charged with governance

The Board of Directors are responsible for implementing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate policies, and making accounting estimates and judgements that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The Group's assessment of its internal control system is presented by the Management to the Board of Directors in

the form of the Management's Internal Control Statement contained in the Corporate Governance Report, which includes:

- the management's assessment of the suitability of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal control framework over financial reporting;
- the description of the process and internal controls over financial reporting for the Significant Process of (general IT and application controls, entity level controls, revenues, receivables, inventory management, fixed assets, treasury and cash management, biological assets, payroll, financial reporting and periodic closing of the financial records);
- the control objectives; including identifying the risks that threaten the achievement of the control objectives;
- designing, implementing and maintaining controls to achieve the stated control objectives; and
- identification of control gaps and failures; how they are remediated; and procedures set to prevent such failures or to close control gaps.

The Group has assessed the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of its internal control system as at 31 December 2021, based on the criteria established in the Internal Control- Integrated Framework 2013 issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO framework"). These responsibilities include the design adequate internal financial controls that would ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including:

- adherence to the Group's policies;
- the safeguarding of its assets;
- the prevention and detection of frauds and errors;
- the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records;
- the timely preparation of reliable financial information; and
- compliance with applicable laws and regulations,

including the QFMA's law and relevant legislations and the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market issued by the QFMA's Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016.

### **Responsibilities of the Assurance Practitioner**

Express a reasonable assurance opinion on the fairness of the presentation of Management's Internal Control Statement, based on the criteria established in COSO Framework, including its conclusion on the effectiveness of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting of "Significant Processes" presented in the Corporate Governance Report to achieve the related control objectives stated in that description based on our assurance procedures.

# Reporting on internal controls over financial reporting

We conducted our engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information' issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board ('IAASB'). This standard requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain reasonable assurance on the Management's Internal Control Statement over assessment of suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting of significant processes of (general IT and application controls, entity level controls, revenues, receivables, inventory management, fixed assets, treasury and cash management, biological assets, payroll, financial reporting and periodic closing of the financial records) in all material respects, to achieve the related control objectives stated in the description of the relevant processes by management, based on the COSO framework.

A process is considered significant if a misstatement due to fraud or error in the stream of transactions or financial statement amount would reasonably be expected to impact the decisions of the users of financial statements. For the purpose of this engagement, the processes that were determined as significant are: (revenues, receivables, inventory management, fixed assets, treasury and cash management, investment management, payroll, financial reporting and periodic closing of the financial records).

An assurance engagement of this type also includes evaluating Board of Directors' assessment of the suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the controls in an organization involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of design and operating effectiveness of the controls. Our procedures on internal controls over financial reporting included:

- obtaining an understanding of internal controls over financial reporting for significant processes;
- assessing the risk that a material weakness exists; and
- testing and evaluating the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk.

In carrying out our engagement, we obtained understanding of the following components of the control system:

- Control Environment
- Risk Assessment
- Control Activities
- Information and Communication
- Monitoring

The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the suitability of design and operating effectiveness, whether due to fraud or error. Our procedures also included assessing the risks that the controls were not suitably designed or operating effectively to achieve the related control objectives stated in the Corporate Governance Report. Our procedures included testing the operating effectiveness of those controls that we consider necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the related control objectives stated in the Corporate Governance Report were achieved.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion on the Management's Internal Control Statement over their assessment of the suitability of design and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting.

### Our independence and quality control:

In carrying out our work, we have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior and the ethical

requirements that are relevant in Qatar. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the (IESBA) Code.

Our firm applies International Standard on Quality Control 1 and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

# Meaning of internal controls over financial reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. An entity's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the entity;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and that receipts and expenditures of the entity are being made only in accordance with authorizations of the management of the entity; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the entity's assets that could have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

### **Inherent limitations**

Because of the inherent limitations of internal financial controls over financial reporting and compliance with relevant laws and regulations, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Therefore, internal controls over financial reporting may not prevent or detect all errors or omissions in processing or reporting transactions and consequently cannot provide absolute assurance that the control objectives will be met. Also, projections of any evaluation of the internal financial controls over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the internal financial control over financial reporting may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or

procedures may deteriorate.

Furthermore, the controls activities designed, implemented and operated as of 31 December 2021 covered by our assurance report will not have retrospectively remedied any weaknesses or deficiencies that existed in relation to the internal controls over the financial reporting and compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to the date those controls were placed in operation.

#### Other information

The Board of Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Corporate Governance Report but, does not include Management's Internal Control Statement.

Our conclusion on the Management's Internal Control Statement does not cover the other information and we do not, and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

If, based on the work we have performed, on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

When we read the complete Corporate Governance Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and the QFMA.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the Directors' ICFR Report forming part of the Annual Corporate Governance Report, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in the COSO Framework, including its conclusion on the effectiveness of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of Internal Control over Financial Reporting as of 31 December 2021.

## Moore Stephen and Partners Certified Public Accountants

#### Fathi Abu Farah

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Doha - Qatar 7 March 2022