

For Immediate Release**HLFG achieves 23.9% Growth in Profit After Tax and Minority Interest
for the First Quarter ended 30 September 2013**

Kuala Lumpur, 26 November 2013 - Hong Leong Financial Group Berhad (“HLFG”) announced its results for the first quarter ended 30 September 2013 (“1Q14”), as released to Bursa Malaysia today. HLFG Group achieved a profit before tax for the first quarter of RM812.6 million in respect of our financial year ending 30 June 2014 (“FY14”), an increase of 18.0% year-on-year (“y-o-y”). Profit After Tax and Minority Interest increased by 23.9% y-o-y to RM430.2 million in 1Q14. The growth in earnings was contributed by all of our three core businesses of Commercial Banking, Insurance and Investment Banking.

HLFG’s Commercial Banking division, Hong Leong Bank Berhad (“HLB”), achieved a growth in profit before tax of 9.7% y-o-y in 1Q14 to RM699.3 million. This was attributed to higher net interest income and a larger contribution from the Bank of Chengdu Co., Ltd’s earnings, of which HLB’s 20% share grew by 46.6% y-o-y or 28.5 million to RM89.5 million. Despite a challenging back drop, HLB achieved a gross loan growth of 7.1% y-o-y in 1Q14.

HLA Holdings Sdn Bhd, HLFG’s insurance division, recorded a profit before tax of RM81.2 million in 1Q14, an increase of 84.1% y-o-y or RM37.1 million. The higher earnings were largely due to lower actuarial reserves arising from higher interest rates whilst supported by continued good business performance from our 70%-owned life insurance subsidiary Hong Leong Assurance Berhad (“HLA”). Gross premiums increased by 15.3% y-o-y to RM506.3 million and HLA’s management expense ratio had further improved to 5.7%. Our focus remains to grow and improve our premium base, profitability as well as distribution channels.

The Investment Banking division, held under Hong Leong Capital Berhad recorded a stellar growth in its profit before tax of 58.1% y-o-y to RM18.5 million. This was due to higher contributions from both investment banking and stockbroking businesses. HLFG is also pleased to announce that Hong Leong Investment Bank Berhad had received the award of ‘Best Investment Bank in Malaysia’ for 2013 by *World Finance*.

HLFG’s earnings per share (“EPS”) increased by 23.7% y-o-y to 41.3 sen in 1Q14, a record in terms of recurring EPS for a particular quarter. Net assets per share increased from RM9.66 as at 30 June 2013 to RM10.04 as at 30 September 2013.

“We are encouraged by the strong earnings growth achieved in our 1st financial quarter results. We will strive not only to sustain but improve our business performances going forward in the execution of our business plans.” said Mr Raymond Choong, President & CEO of HLFG.

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About Hong Leong Financial Group

Hong Leong Group is a leading provider of financial services through the subsidiaries and associate companies of Hong Leong Financial Group Berhad.

The Group's Financial Services companies provide a broad spectrum of financial services – commercial banking, treasury, insurance, investment banking, capital markets, stock-broking and asset management throughout Malaysia, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Cambodia. Based in Kuala Lumpur, our products and services are distributed via a diverse range of distribution channels.

Our vision is to be an integrated financial services group that consistently meets our customers' needs. Our goal is to become a leader in the financial services industry; a leader in each of the markets that we operate in.

For further details, visit www.hlfg.com.my or www.bursamalaysia.com, and for further clarification, please contact:

Chew Seong Aun
Chief Financial Officer
Tel: +603 2164 8228
Email: cfo-hlfg@hongleong.com.my