

**PRESS RELEASE BY
TAN SRI DATO' SRI DR. TEH HONG PIOW, CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC BANK**

PUBLIC BANK PAYS A SPECIAL DIVIDEND OF 40%

As announced earlier, the Public Bank Group achieved a pre-tax profit of RM1.36 billion for the nine months ended 30 September 2004, a 30% improvement compared to RM1.05 billion registered in the same period in 2003.

In view of the Public Bank Group's sterling performance, the Board of Directors has declared a special dividend of 40% less 28% taxation. The special dividend payout is part of Public Bank's on-going activities to enhance the efficiency of its capital structure. The total special dividend will result in a payout totalling RM927.7 million. The Group's risk-weighted capital ratio would continue to remain strong at 17.5%, after payment of the special dividend.

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