



THE HOME OF BANKING AND CAPITAL MARKETS IN THE REGION



THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE REGION

With an ecosystem of around 1,800 firms, DIFC provides an enabling platform for region-wide investment banking, M&A, commercial banking and innovative project finance, including securitisation and asset-backed financing, across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region.

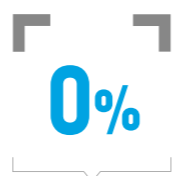
DIFC is home to most of the world's leading financial institutions.



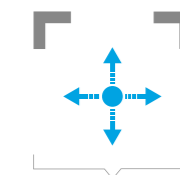
WORLD-CLASS LEGAL SYSTEM



ROBUST REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



0% TAX EFFICIENCIES



FLEXIBLE BUSINESS OPTIONS



STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE



UNSURPASSED CONNECTIVITY

WE'VE CREATED THE ENVIRONMENT YOU REQUIRE

We understand there are many factors informing your decision to set up in a new jurisdiction. Our offering and experience makes us your natural choice.

WORLD-CLASS LEGAL SYSTEM

- Common law framework adjudicated by respected court system
- Distinct from UAE legal system
- Laws and regulations issued in English

ROBUST REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Independent risk-based regulator: Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA)
- Recognised by UK's FCA, US Federal Reserve and other global jurisdictions
- Know Your Customer, AML and Data Protection regulations

0% TAX EFFICIENCIES

- Tax exception for 50 years on profits, capital or assets from 2004
- No tax levied on employee income

FLEXIBLE BUSINESS OPTIONS

- No restriction on capital repatriation
- 100% foreign ownership
- Wide range of options for structuring legal entities

STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE

- Fully-equipped Business Centre facilities
- Choice to rent or buy real estate to meet your requirements

UNSURPASSED CONNECTIVITY

- Leading financial centre in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region
- At the heart of South-South trade and investment flows
- Ideal for trade and export financing for companies, regionally and internationally



CATEGORIES OF REGULATED ACTIVITIES

Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting Deposits • Managing a PSIAu
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing in Investments as Principal (not as Matched Principal) • Providing Credit
Category 3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing in Investments as Principal (only as a Matched Principal) • Dealing as Agent
Category 3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Custody (only if for a fund) • Acting as the Trustee of a Fund
Category 3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing a Collective Investment Fund • Managing Assets • Providing Trust Services as a Trustee of an Express Trust • Managing a PSIAr • Providing Custody (other than for a fund)
Category 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging Credit or Deals in Investment • Advising on Financial Products or Credit • Arranging Custody • Insurance Intermediation • Insurance Management • Operating an Alternative Trading System • Providing Fund Administration • Providing Trust Services other than as a Trustee of an Express Trust
Category 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Islamic Financial Institution whose entire business is conducted in accordance with Shari'ah and which manages a Profit Sharing Investment Account

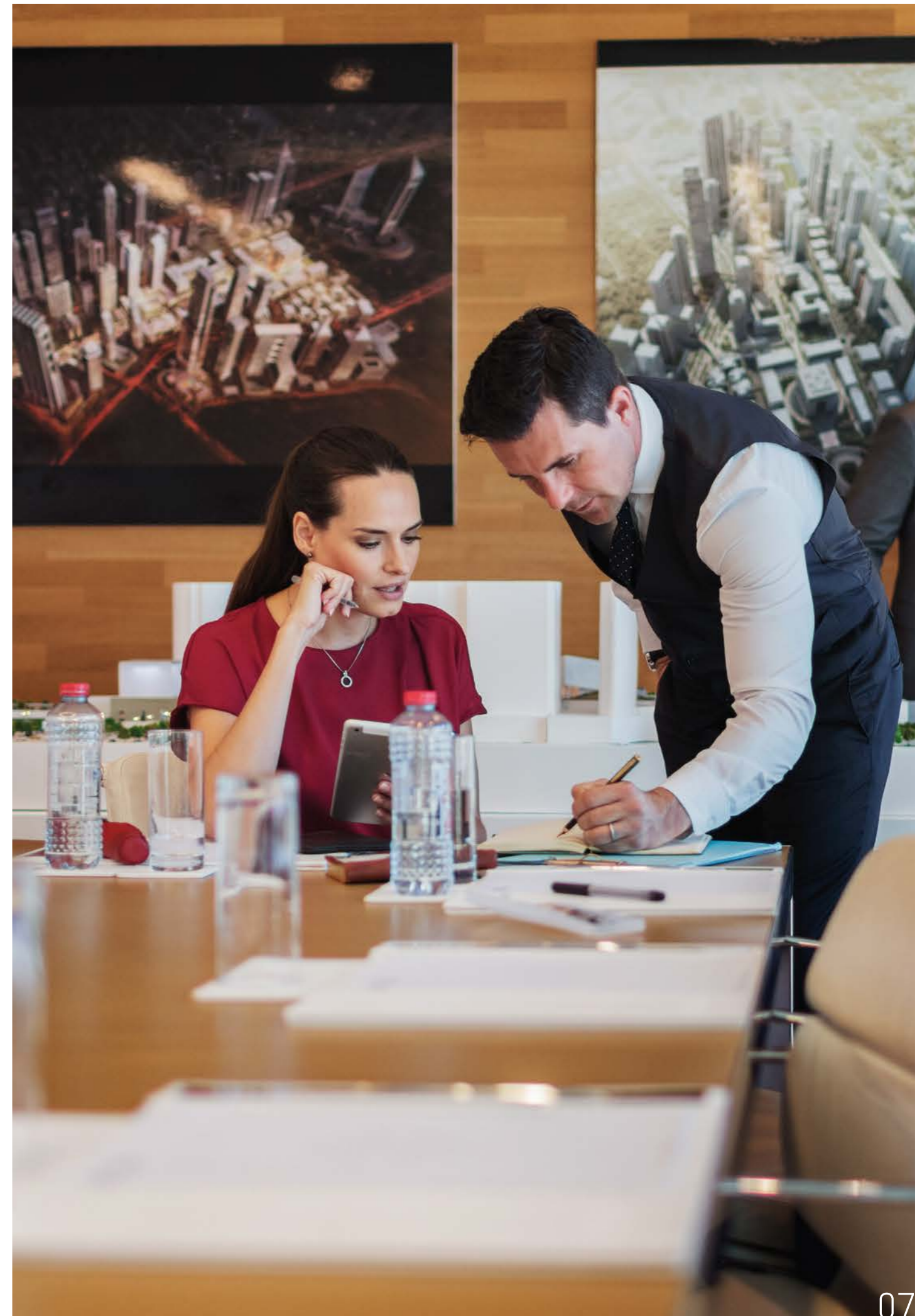
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

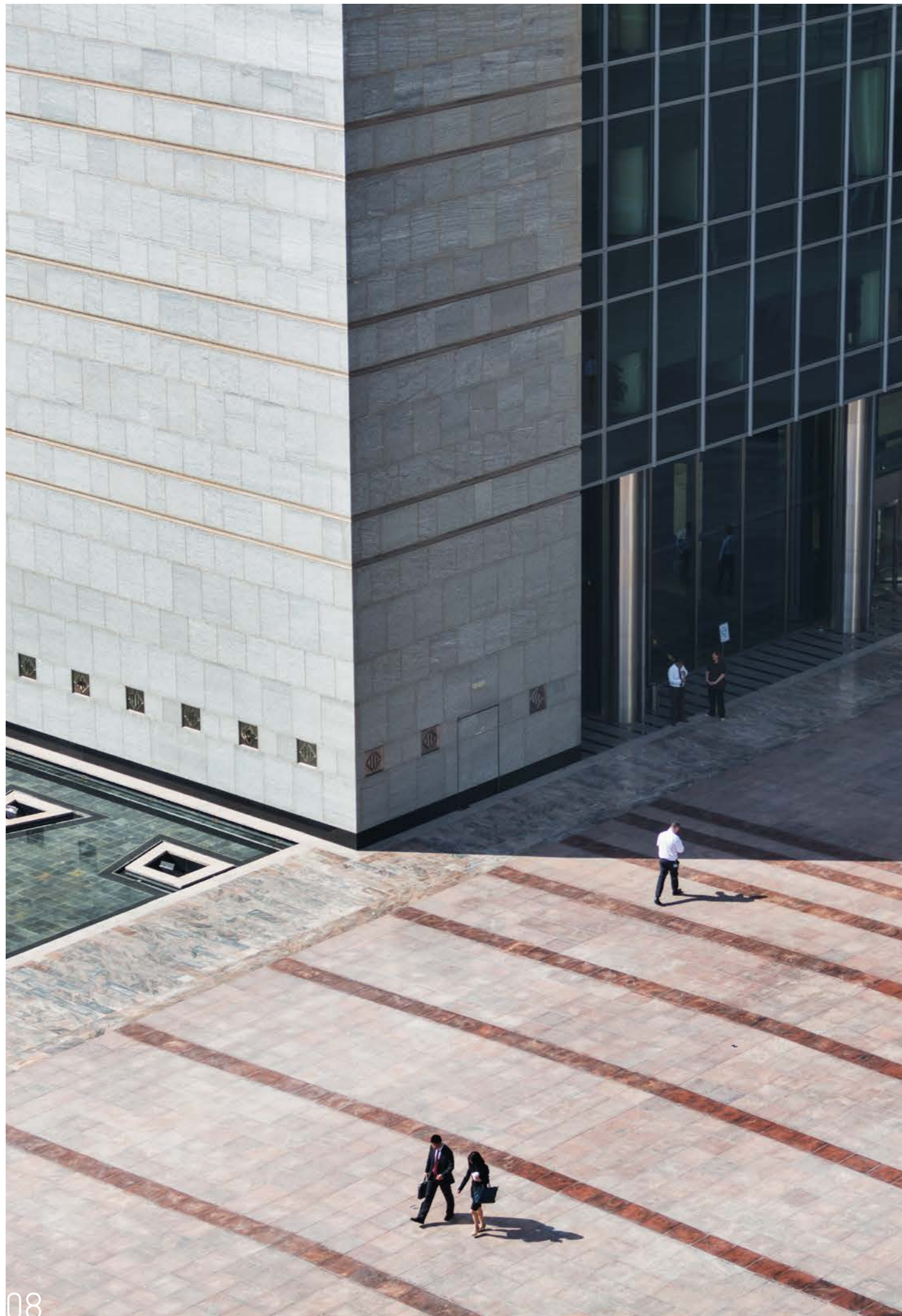
In addition to the above categories, firms can establish representative offices for:

- Marketing financial services or products offered in a jurisdiction other than DIFC
- Making introductions or referrals related to these financial services or products

GLOBAL HOME FOR ISLAMIC BANKING

AN ESTABLISHED HUB	The largest number of Islamic financial services institutions and Islamic windows operating in a MEASA international financial centre.
REGULATION	Provides the necessary regulation and legislation for Islamic financial institutions to develop and sell Shari'ah-compliant products.
LICENSING	Requires firms conducting Islamic finance activities to have an endorsement on their licence.
GOVERNANCE	Obligation to appoint a Supervisory Board of at least three competent Shari'ah scholars.





EFFICIENT LICENSING PROCESS

With simple and straightforward licensing, registration and regulation, setting up and operating in DIFC is fast and efficient. The process includes:

STAGE 1

Provide DIFC with letter of intent

STAGE 2

Discussion with DFSA/DIFC Authority

- Type of activity/activities
- Finalise business model

STAGE 3

Submit application documents to DFSA

STAGE 4

Submit application documents to DIFC Registrar of Company (ROC)

STAGE 5

DFSA issues Principal Approval.

- ROC issues Commercial Licence
- Government Services issues Visas
- DFSA issues Full Licence

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- Physical presence in the Centre
- Mandatory Appointments:
 - Senior Executive Officer (SEO)
 - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
 - Compliance Officer (CO)
 - Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)
- SEO, CO, MLRO must be UAE residents
- CO and MLRO can be combined and outsourced

CONSIDERING DIFC? TAKE THE NEXT STEP

GET IN TOUCH

Setting up a representative office, a branch, or a new entity in a new jurisdiction can seem daunting, but DIFC has made the process transparent and efficient. Learn more at: www.difc.ae/setting-up.

Our specialised team offers no-obligation assistance. For more information, please contact: setup@difc.ae, we'll reply to you within 48 hours.

For further information about our pricing regime, please visit <https://www.dfsa.ae/en/Your-Resources/Fees>

DIFC, THE GROWTH PLATFORM FOR BANKING AND CAPITAL MARKETS FIRMS

- World-class regulation
- Large multi-lingual workforce
- Unique legislation for specialised corporate structures
- Highly regarded, independent regulator
- Independent, English-speaking, common law judicial system



Join the conversation



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**GATEWAY TO GROWTH
ADVANCE. ENGAGE. ENJOY.**