

Headline	Johan officially named TH new chief		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Reserve		
Date	01 Jul 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	Corporate Malaysia	Circulation	12,000
Page No	4	Readership	36,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	141 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,305
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,914



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THE government has named Datuk Johan Abdullah (picture) as Lembaga Tabung Haji's (TH) new group MD and CEO effective today, replacing Tan Sri Ismee Ismail who helmed the pilgrims' fund for the past 10 years.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom announced the appointment of Johan in a statement yesterday. Johan, 59, was named as acting CEO on May 16, after Ismee's announcement to step down.

Prior to joining TH as the deputy group MD and CEO in January 2015, Johan served as

the CEO of BIMB Holdings Bhd since May 2008.

He also held several senior position roles at Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd with extensive experience in corporate finance, capital markets and Islamic finance.

Johan holds a Masters in Business Administration (Finance) degree from Morehead State University and also a degree in Business Administration (Finance) from Eastern Michigan University.

Ismee had expressed intention to step down in January earlier this year, prompting for a power transition pro-



Pic by Ismail Che Rus

gramme in TH.

However, there has been no official information on where

Ismee is heading after his time at TH.

Under Ismee's stewardship, TH diversified its investment portfolio and income stream with revenue soaring over RM4 billion for the first time, while profit after zakat and taxes surpassed RM3 billion for the year ended Dec 31, 2015.

The depositors fund size saw a fourfold rise from RM13.3 billion (early 2006) to RM62.5 billion by end-2015. TH has 123 branches throughout Malaysia and one in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. — by P. PREM KUMAR