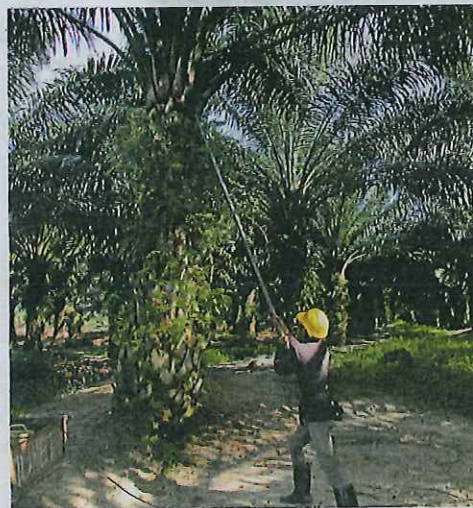


TARIKH	14 / 2 / 2013	SECTION	NATIONAL
MUKA SURAT	7	RUANGAN	PRIME NEWS

BLESSED YEAR FOR HAJ SAVERS



Tabung Haji will continue to focus on investments that give continuous recurring income, such as properties like hotels (top) and plantations (below).



ENCOURAGING RETURNS: Depositors get RM2.6b bonus after revenue grew by 34 per cent last year to RM3.7b

LEMBAGA Tabung Haji (TH) declared a six per cent annual bonus for its depositors last year, as well as an additional Haj bonus of two per cent.

The amount is three percentage points above the rate for fixed deposit accounts at Islamic and conventional banks.

The bonuses, amounting to a total payout of RM2.6 billion, were announced by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom recently.

The company's revenue grew 34 per cent last year, amounting to RM3.7 billion, and this was a record as it was the first time the figure surpassed the

RM3 billion mark, as well as securing more than RM2 billion in net profit for the second time in a row.

The payout is an increase of 14.3 per cent from the RM2.1 billion in 2012, and net profit increased by 26 per cent to RM2.6 billion.

Group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Ismee Ismail says he is confident that TH will be able to maintain its performance in the coming year.

"We are cautiously optimistic of maintaining this positive revenue trend with the right investment strategies."

TH has a total of 8.3 million depositors with a fund size of RM43.1 billion. Of the 8.3 million depositors,

Lembaga Tabung Haji has a total of 8.3 million depositors with a fund size of RM43.1 billion. (Inset) The additional Haj bonus will be disbursed to depositors to increase their savings to perform the Haj.

7.7 million, or 93 per cent, have yet to perform the Haj.

The additional Haj bonus will be disbursed to these 7.7 million depositors. It is aimed at assisting them to increase their savings to perform the Haj.

Last year, TH's investment assets grew to RM47.9 billion, up 20 per cent from RM39.8 billion in 2012, because of more investments and savings from depositors.

This figure also represents a value creation of RM11.8 billion to depositors' funds since 2006.

Jamil says TH's bonus rate is competitive considering that its investment profile is limited as it is a syariah-compliant company, while savings are voluntary and without limit.



Ismee says the company will continue to focus on investments that give continuous recurring income, such as equity, fixed income and property.

TH's income is mainly derived from equity trading, properties, fixed income, money market and other financial instruments.

It plans to generate more investments in the property sector as it seeks to generate more recurring income to ensure its future sustainability.

"Other than fixed-income, our in-

vestment in the property sector has been generating recurring income for us. That is the reason the sector is important for our growth.

"Equity (trading) investment also generates a recurring income in the form of dividends, and for that, TH gives priority to companies with good dividends and dividend policies," Ismee says.

TH's foreign property investment portfolio includes the United Kingdom, Australia and Saudi Arabia.