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## LTH aims to boost fund size to RM50b by year-end

BY **EE ANN NEE**

**PETALING JAYA:** Lembaga Tabung Haji (LTH) expects to increase its fund size to RM50 billion by year-end, from RM43 billion in 2013.

Its group managing director and CEO Datuk Paduka Ismee Ismail said the Pilgrims' Fund Board now has 8.3 million depositors.

"Last year, we started at RM35 billion and closed at RM43 billion (fund size). I won't be surprised if we reach RM50 billion in the year-end," he told reporters after the launch of a corruption risk management plan workshop here yesterday, which was

officiated by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief

commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

Ismee said that growth of LTH has been driven by equities, fixed income, property and it will continue in that manner.

He is upbeat on the property sector as a whole and in the long term, with opportunities both locally and abroad. However, this does not mean that allocation for other investments such as equities and fixed income will be less.

"We're still using our current strategic allocation. If we need to review, we will, but at the moment, we've not fully utilised our property

asset allocation," Ismee said.

For this year, asset allocation for its investment portfolio consists of 40% in equities, 30% in fixed income and 20% in property.

Meanwhile, on the revised syariah screening methodology by the Securities Commission that will see the number of syariah-compliant securities cut to 653 of 914 companies listed on the stock exchange, companies are given six months (until May 31, 2014) to ensure they comply with the new criteria issued by the Shariah Advisory Council.

"We have a few (non-syariah compliant securities). We are studying it and, up to this point, there would not be huge implications," said Ismee.