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Bank Islam still interested in Indonesian market



BANK Islam Malaysia Bhd has reiterated its interest in the Indonesian Islamic banking market despite previous attempts to penetrate the world's largest Muslim country meeting a dead-end.

Its MD Datuk Seri Zukri Samat (*picture*) said Indonesia possessed tremendous prospects as the country, with a population of 240 million, is still underserved in the Islamic banking sector.

Bank Islam's previous two attempts to get into Indonesia fell through. One was the proposed acquisition of PT Bank Muamalat in 2012 but the deal was put on hold by the Indonesian party.

On domestic expansion plans, Zukri said the bank will continue to increase its branches to 150 by 2015 as underlined by the bank's three-year blueprint from 2013 to 2015. — *Bernama*