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## MD: Bank Islam aims to have 141 branches by year-end

**KOTA BARU:** Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd plans to have 141 branches nationwide by year-end, said managing director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat.

"In 2015, we are proposing to open nine more branches, making it 150 branches nationwide," he said after opening the bank's 134th branch in Padang Garong here yesterday.

He said the new branches will be located in Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan, Terengganu, Selangor and Johor.

In addition to the bank's branch expansion, Zukri said Bank Islam has also enhanced its distribution channels by establishing five urban business centres. He said it is also making improvements to its Internet and mobile banking services as well as setting up more than 1,200 self-service terminals nationwide.

On the bank's performance, Zukri said although its overall performance may not match that of last year, he is confident that it will record gains.

"We are expecting 10% decline in our assets and loan performance this year. Last year, Bank Islam achieved an outstanding performance, the best since our inception 30 years ago."

He said the decline was due to the new terms and conditions imposed by Bank Negara Malaysia on loans. — *Bernama*