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Johan Abdullah to lead TH

by AZREEN HANI

LEMBAGA Tabung Haji (TH) yesterday announced group MD and CEO Tan Sri Ismee Ismail will be replaced by his deputy Datuk Johan Abdullah, effective July 1.

Johan, the present deputy MD and CEO, will act as the acting MD and CEO at the pilgrimage fund beginning May 16. Johan's appointment, which is approved by TH board, came after Ismee had requested to leave the fund. The latter has been at the helm of the pilgrimage fund since 2006.

"This handing over of duties is in accordance with the succession plan which has been put in place since January last year," said TH chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim in a statement yesterday.

The announcement confirmed *The Malaysian Reserve's* (TMR) report yesterday that Johan will succeed Ismee at TH. Sources told TMR that the change of guard is part of a "succession process" that has been in place since Johan joined

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No reason was given for Ismee's departure

FROM P1 **Johan Abdullah**
TH in January last year.

According to industry sources, Ismee, whose contracts as the group MD and CEO will end this year, will step down "in the nearest future". No reason was given for Ismee's departure from TH.

The market is speculating that Ismee is eyeing the COO post at Sime Darby Bhd following the resignation of Tan Sri Dr Abd Wahab Maskan earlier this year due to health reasons. It is also believed that Sime

Darby president and CEO Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh's contract also expires this year.

Abdul Azeez thanked Ismee for his contribution during his 10-year term at TH.

"We are proud and thankful for his leadership for more than 10 years, as TH has managed to undergo a transformation process that improves its financial performance," said Abdul Azeez.

Prior to joining TH on Jan 15, 2015, Johan was the CEO and group MD of BIMB Holdings

Bhd from May 15, 2008, to Jan 15, 2015.

He has vast experience in the financial corporate sector, stock markets and Islamic banking.

Johan holds an MBA in finance from Morehead State University, a BBA in finance from Eastern Michigan University and a diploma in banking from Mara University of Technology.

Meanwhile, Abdul Azeez also credited Ismee's vision and leadership for leading TH

to gain international accolades and recognition.

He was also instrumental in the listing of TH's subsidiary, TH Plantations Bhd, on the stock exchange, as well as implementing a new information technology system in the organisation.

Ismee is also responsible for the capital and management restructuring of TH's financial companies, including Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd, as well as introducing new changes in TH's internal management.