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Bank Islam appoints Zamani new chairman

PETALING JAYA: Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd has appointed former Bank Negara deputy governor Datuk Zamani Abdul Ghani chairman of the bank effective yesterday.

Zamani takes over from Datuk Mohd Bakke Salleh who resigned as chairman of the bank on July 15, last year.

Zamani started his career at the economics department of Bank Negara in 1971.

He rose through the ranks to the position of, among others, deputy director in the treasury operations department, director of the bank regulation department, director of the insurance regulation and inspection department and later as Bank Negara deputy governor.

He was special adviser in Bank Negara prior to his appointment at Bank Islam.

Bank Islam recently reported a record profit before zakat and tax of RM503.4mil for the 18-month ended Dec 31, 2010.

This translated into a 44% jump on an annualized basis over RM233.1mil as at end-June 2009.

Bank Islam reported its financial performance for the 18-month period following the change in its financial year-end to December to synchronise with Lembaga Tabung Haji, its parent company.

Managing director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat attributed the achievement of surpassing the half-a-billion-ringgit mark for the first time to strong financing growth that was matched by an impressive improvement in asset quality; growing contribution from non-fund based income and decline in cost-to-income ratio.

There was also continued increase in deposits through current and savings accounts.

He added that for the financial period ended Dec 31, 2010, the bank had proposed a dividend of 4.75% amounting to RM80.7mil.