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## 'CIO disagreed with management'

A couple of weeks after Halim Alias' sudden departure from Lembaga Tabung Haji (LTH), some light has been shed on why the former CIO exited the pilgrim fund a few days after a controversial Petra Perdana Bhd shareholders' meeting.

LTH's senior general manager for corporate finance and services, Datuk Syed Saleh Syed Abdul Rahman, confirmed market talk that Halim had not agreed with how the pilgrim fund's portfolio review committee decided to vote in the Petra Perdana shareholders' meeting.

However, he was also quick to add that Halim did not state any reasons in his resignation letter.

"We made a decision [on how LTH should vote in the Petra Perdana shareholders' meeting] but the CIO had a different view on the matter. But whatever happened is already in the past and the CIO resigned on his own accord," he tells *The Edge*.

Syed Saleh also clarified that Halim was not a proxy for LTH at Petra Perdana's long-drawn-out extraordinary general meeting (EGM).

When asked whether LTH's proxies voted in accordance with the mandate set out by the committee, Syed Saleh says he would not know.

"We don't know [if the voting was carried out as per the mandate] because we have not received a report from Petra Perdana yet... we don't know exactly what went through," he says.

On whether one could infer that the former CIO had left in protest, Syed Saleh says, "I don't know. He didn't mention anything in his [resignation] letter."

As to whether it was true that Halim did not turn up for work the next day and could not be contacted, Syed Saleh says, "I don't like to share [information] on that."

Halim's resignation earlier this month created quite a stir. The issue stemmed from a boardroom tussle between two factions of shareholders at Petra Perdana, one led by executive director Shamsul Saad with Datuk Henry Kho Poh Eng and his brother Francis Koh Pho Wat, and the other led by CEO Tengku Datuk Ibrahim Petra with his wife Datin Nariza Hajjar Hashim, Wong Fook Heng and Tiong Young Kong.

The group led by Ibrahim was ousted from the board after a 14-hour EGM. LTH, which has about 10% equity interest in Petra Perdana, played a crucial role in the closely fought race.

The pilgrim fund sent two proxies for the voting session, each with 5% under their belt. However, the two are said to have voted differently — for and against the removal of four directors. This could only mean that one proxy had not followed instructions. **E**