

'Ismee to return to Tabung Haji as CEO'

Homecoming of sorts come January 2 for fund's ex-finance chief, say sources

By FAUZIAH ISMAIL and SHAHRIMAN JOHARI

TABUNG Haji, which manages savings from Muslims to perform the haj, is set to appoint Ismee Ismail as its chief executive officer (CEO).

Its previous CEO, Datuk Mohd Bakke Salleh, has left to run Felda Holdings Bhd, the single largest palm oil producer in the world, starting next year.

Ismee, 40, currently the CEO of ECM Libra Private Wealth Management, will start work at Tabung Haji on January 2, sources told Business Times.

The sources said it is a homecoming of sorts for Ismee who was at Tabung Haji before. He was then its senior general manager in charge of finance.

"He's very smart, very aggressive. It should be good for Tabung Haji. He's also been there, so he



ISMEE: Immediate task is the TH Plantations listing

Ismee was also in the pioneer team at Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd, a special agency created to clean up bad loans from banks, where he served as chief accountant/treasurer.

Ismee could be expected to carry out much of what Bakke had planned for the group, which is also one of the country's biggest stock market investors with assets of about RM12.6 billion.

An immediate task would be the initial public offering (IPO) of its plantation arm, TH Plantations Bhd.

Although certain parliamentarians protested against the proposed IPO, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi decided in October to approve the plan.

Last year, Tabung Haji recorded a RM500 million profit after zakat (tithe) and declared a 4.3 per cent bonus for its 4.9 million depositors.

The profit was achieved on the back of a record RM838 million in earnings.

In 2003, Tabung Haji paid a



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Profit after zakat (RMm) (Bonus)

