

09 AUG 1999

DATAPREP-PERFORMANCE

DATAPREP REPORTS BETTER OVERALL PERFORMANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Information technology company Dataprep Holdings Bhd, has chalked-up RM169,000 in group pre-tax profit for the financial year ended March 31, 1999, returning it to the black from the RM8.7 million group pre-tax loss reported in the previous year.

Group turnover however declined to RM75.4 million from RM94 million previously.

Its chairman and chief executive officer Mirzan Mahathir said the turnaround in performance was due to the measures taken to streamline the group's operations.

At company level, however, Dataprep posted pre-tax loss of RM1.2 million compared with pre-tax profit of RM447,000 in the previous year.

In reviewing the group's performance, Mirzan said the market for IT services had declined significantly during the year under review and many front end proposals were deferred or cancelled, including some Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) initiatives.

"As a result, the expectation of securing large projects envisaged in last year's report did not materialise," he said in its annual report.

"Turnover was restricted to upgrading Y2K compliance, health checks and maintenance, and carry over contracts and was 20 percent below that of the previous year," he added.

Mirzan also said that inspite of the economic situation, Dataprep had continued to invest heavily in training and exposure to the latest developments.

"With our strengths in software development and customisation, engineering, creative applications and sound business management, we are placed to take advantage of the economic recovery," he said.

"Our final task to complete the turnaround is to restructure the company's balance sheet and to this end the Board has appointed financial advisors to work with the management.

"We want to explore various options as an alternative to our plans for a rights issue which could not be carried out during the year due to the uncertain profit expectations and almost moribound stock market," he said, adding that he would make an announcement in due course. -- BERNAMA

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