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Jamaludin appointed TNB head

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie today announced the appointment of Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis as the new Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman.

"Dr Jamaludin has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of TNB effective Sept 1," he told newsmen after opening the "Business and Investment For Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific", forum on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Jamaludin is the Barisan Nasional MP for Rompin and formerly TNB deputy chairman. He will hold the post of chairman to the utility company for a two-year term.

Today's announcement ended speculation over the successor to outgoing executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

On the candidate for the post of TNB chief executive officer (CEO), Moggie said the matter was being looked into. (The CEO post was also previously held by Tajuddin).

"There are a few candidates but I won't mention them here. When the time is right, we will make the announcement," he said.

He added that at the moment, TNB senior vice-president Datuk Fuad Jaafar would be carrying out the duties.

Asked whether it would be an internal appointment, Moggie declined to comment but said that the announcement would come soon.

"There is no specific time-frame for the announcement of the new CEO...it won't take that long."

He also said that it had always been the policy to have the chairman and the CEO as two separate appointments and it would be the case for TNB.

Jamaludin, who was present at the Press conference, expressed his gratefulness for the appointment and pledged to carry out his responsibilities and duties accordingly.

"I would like to thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has placed his trust in me to head this key utility company.

"My first responsibility is to ensure that there is greater transparency and accountability as well as good governance in TNB, so that the running of the company would be placed under greater scrutiny," said Jamaludin.

"Secondly, it is to ensure that both domestic and industrial customers receive good service.

"There is a need to ensure there is sufficient resources, and reliable delivery system and distribution of electricity," he added.

On whether there would be any change in TNB's policy, he said it was difficult to say at this point but should there be any changes, a media briefing would be held after the company's board meeting, scheduled tomorrow.

Jamaludin who was appointed TNB deputy chairman just last month, had resigned as the executive vice-chairman of EPE Power Corp Bhd, a company involved in power-generation.

"I am no longer a player in the power service industry.

"If I am to preach good governance, then it must come from me first," he added.

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