

'Corporate man' Mirzan won't quit

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By T. Buvaness

PETALING JAYA: Konsortium Logistik Berhad executive chairman and president Mirzan Mahathir said he will not quit the corporate world like his brother Mokhzani.

Mirzan said he still has a lot of work to do to build his company and make it the biggest haulier in the country and the region as there is great potential for it.

The son of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was at first reluctant to answer personal questions fielded by reporters after Konsortium's annual general meeting yesterday.

However, when pressed by

reporters if he will follow Mokhzani who sold his entire shares in Tongkah Holdings Bhd and quit as director from all listed companies, he said:

"Why should I, what will I do after that anyway?"

He added that he is a corporate man.

Mirzan also said he is not interested in politics and will not get involved in it.

"I have a lot of work to do as a company which wants to survive must look globally as it is a different environment to play in compared to having a business domestically," he said.

He said Konsortium, the second largest national container haulage company, expects its merger with Diperdana Holdings Bhd to be completed by the end of this year.

Mirzan said the company signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Diperdana on March 21.

He added that the company will make the necessary submissions next month to the authorities to get approval and expects the decision to be made within three to five months.

"Once the acquisition is finalised, we will have a larger customer base and fully capitalise our equipment and we will have a fleet of 839 prime movers," he said.

Mirzan said Konsortium will hold the major stake in the merged company.

He said Konsortium recorded a turnover of RM247 million in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2000, up 7% from RM231 million in 1999.

Gross profit was also higher at RM95 million, up 12% from RM85 million in 1999.

"I believe there is a need for consolidation in the industry, especially with the present situation where 55 new players got operation licences," he said.

He noted that the influx of new players combined with the economic slowdown in the US has resulted in heavy discounting of haulage rates.

The economic slowdown in the country has also affected the industry as exports of electrical and electronic items, and furniture have slowed compared to last year.

However, Konsortium is well-positioned as its infrastructure is in place and it has a reputable value-added service for its customers, Mirzan said.