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## Changes at Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd

TWO business consultants who were formerly with Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd are expected to run debt-ridden Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd soon.

Abdul Rahman Ahmad, 31, and Shahril Ridza Ridzuan, 30, both Cambridge-trained, are to become chief executive and executive director of the company respectively.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who confirmed this, said current company president Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Maidin would be chairman.

"There are some minor changes, not much changes. But because of problems, we have decided to put a number of people to do the day to day running," he said at a Press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on reports about changes at MRCB.

Abdul Rahman Ahmad and Shahril left Danaharta about one and a half years ago to form a consulting firm. Bernama said it is not known whose interest they represent at the moment.

Abdul Rahman Maidin has a 25 per cent stake in MRCB through Realmild Sdn Bhd.

Bernama reports: The latest developments surrounding MRCB are seen as a determined attempt by the authorities to be tough in resolving problems faced by debt-laden companies which are deemed strategic to the country.

Datuk Azman Yahya, who took over as chairman of the Corporate Debt Restructuring Committee on Aug 1 while remaining as non executive chairman of Pengurusan Danaharta, has indicated that deadlines would be set for such companies to make decisions to tackle their financial woes.

MRCB, which closed six sen higher at RM1.43 with 6.982 million shares changing hands on the KLSE yesterday, has interests in property development, power generation, The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Bhd and Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Bhd (TV3).

It is estimated that MRCB's debts stood at RM1.5 billion at the end of May this year.

MRCB has in the meantime initiated a series of asset sales to reduce its debts. On Monday, Abdul Rahman Maidin said MRCB hoped to complete its proposed disposal of a 22.7 per cent in Rashid Hussain Bhd to Utama Banking Group Bhd by Aug 31.

UBG is to pay RM399.48 million for 105,127,000 RHB shares from MRCB, thus pricing the shares at RM3.80 each, a far cry from the average price of RM15.80 MRCB had paid for them in 1997 but still higher than its present prevailing prices.

The asset disposal by MRCB is seen by market watchers as a "fire sale" in an attempt to stave off intervention by the authorities.

MRCB has been trying hard to sell off its investment in RHB but had been unable to do so because of the poor market conditions.

Over the past few months, the Government, through its investment arm, Khazanah Nasional, has intervened in loss-making companies like Malaysian Airline System Bhd and United Engineers Malaysia Bhd/Renong Bhd.

When reporters recently asked Dr Mahathir whether the Government would intervene in MRCB, he replied, "Not at the moment".

The latest moves at MRCB are still sketchy pending an official announcement from the company but it appears that CDRC's Azman has decided to speed things up as far as restructuring of problem companies is

concerned, say industry observers.  
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