

Dr Halim appointed acting TNB chairman

By B.K. SIDHU

STAR 21 NOV 2002

DATUK Dr Halim Shafie, the secretary-general of the Energy, Communications & Multimedia Ministry, has been appointed acting chairman of Tenaga Nasional Bhd, following the resignation of Datuk Jamaludin Jarjis from all positions in TNB when he was made second Finance Minister.

Jamaludin, or JJ as he is popularly known, said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur that the TNB board had met yesterday afternoon and decided on Dr Halim's appointment, which takes effect today.

Jamaludin also said he would exit the corporate scene by divesting all his interests and giving up whatever positions he held in companies, without naming them. Asked about his shareholdings in the companies, he said he would reveal them "as and when the public wishes".

On Halim's tenure as acting chairman of TNB, Jamaludin said: "It is an interim post and until such time when the Finance Minister (and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) decides who will be the next chairman."

Halim, 53, holds an economics degree from Universiti Malaya and a masters in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. He is also non-executive director of TNB and director of Telekom Malaysia Bhd.

Jamaludin appeared very composed and contented with his new appointment although he was limping badly from an injury on his left foot.

Jamaludin is expected to be sworn in as second Finance Minister today, an appointment some analysts have described as a good career move.

● Turn to page 3

Jamaludin says TNB has a good team

● From page 1

STAR 21 NOV 2002

Asked if he was surprised by his appointment and when he knew about it, he said: "The public found out about it yesterday and I am a member of the public."

On his immediate task as second Finance Minister, he said: "I would render my best support to the Finance Ministry, discharge the duties of the ministry and handle the finances of the country."

Asked if he was up to the job as he is said to be lacking the financial credentials, he said: "I will let the market judge. As you know when I was appointed TNB chairman the

stock went down by RM1."

Jamaludin, who has a PhD in electrical engineering from Canada's McGill University and has been in the power industry for over 20 years, believes TNB is in good hands and that he has to move on. He is confident that the existing team at TNB, led by president and chief executive officer Datuk Pian Sukro, would take the utility to greater heights.

On whether there would be any changes in the company's policy after his departure, Jamaludin said: "I can reassure you that the present board and management will continue with the policies in place because

they were drafted by the management, including Pian, and supported by the government.

"I don't think there would be any major changes. There is also enough planting until 2010 and the country will remain lit for the next eight years and beyond."

He added that Pian would help create value for TNB's generation, distribution and transmission units and ensure continual improvement in its services.

Asked what his greatest regret was while at TNB, Jamaludin said: "You can't pick and choose, it is a total package and I thank God, he has been kind (to me)."