

Abi Sofian to replace retiring Abdul Samad as NCB head

LEE LAY KIN

He has been chief executive officer of Northport since 2012

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KUALA LUMPUR: Abi Sofian Abdul Hamid, chief executive officer (CEO) of Northport (Malaysia) Bhd — the port operating arm of NCB Holdings Bhd — has been appointed group managing director of NCB Holdings from Sept 1, replacing retiring Datuk Abdul Samad Mohamed.

Rubani Dikon, who is now Northport's head of finance and company secretary, will take over leadership of the port.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia yesterday, NCB Holdings said Abi

Sofian, 52, has served in Northport for more than 19 years. He has held his position as Northport's CEO since April 16, 2012.

Abdul Samad, 68, has some 47 years of working experience in port and port-related organisations, having served for nearly 20 years in two port authorities before joining Northport (then Klang Container Terminal Bhd) in 1986 as general manager and chief operating officer.

He progressed to become CEO three years later, taking over from an expatriate appointee.

He joined the board of Northport and was made managing director in 1993, shortly after the company was listed on the local bourse. He remained in Northport until September 2000, when he was appointed group managing

director of NCB Holdings following the successful completion of the restructuring exercise.

Rubani, 48, meanwhile, has served in Northport for more than 18 years.

Permodalan Nasional Bhd, MISC Bhd, Kumpulan Wang Amanah Persaraan and the Port Klang Authority have 53.8%, 15.7%, 9.2% and 5.3% stakes, respectively, in NCB Holdings.

For the first financial quarter ended March 31, 2014 (1QFY14), NCB Holdings saw its net profit plunge seven-fold to RM4.76 million from RM34.94 million a year ago on lower container throughput and lower-than-targeted scale of business activities in its logistics operation. Revenue declined 11% to RM205.61 million from RM230.91 million a year ago.



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