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ATM access for Tabung Haji depositors planned

ALOR STAR, Thurs. - Lembaga Tabung Haji depositors will be able to use automatic teller machines to conduct transactions by the year 2000, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said.

He said a computer software company had been appointed to develop a programme which would be used to conduct Tabung Haji transactions.

"There are now about 3.4 million depositors and some of them save a lot of money, including all their pay, with the board and ATM machines would be very useful to them," he said.

The board will appoint a local bank to manage the ATM machines.

Abdul Hamid said Tabung Haji collected about RM2 billion from depositors annually and the figure had reached RM2.4 billion as at October.

He said this to reporters after a meet-the-people session organised by the Alor Star Umno division here.

However, Abdul Hamid said depositors would not be allowed to withdraw all their money once the ATM facility was introduced as a fixed amount would be set aside for them to perform their Haj.

He said the ATM facility would also be introduced in Mecca for Malaysian pilgrims.

Earlier, at a similar function in Sik, Abdul Hamid said the people should not resort to street demonstrations to show their dissatisfaction over issues.

To a question during a dialogue session with government employees at the Sik district office, Abdul Hamid said the people should not misinterpret Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to become the First Finance Minister as an act of greed.

He said Dr Mahathir was possibly holding on to the post because he feared others may use it to gain support in next year's Umno elections.

"He is holding the post to be fair to Umno members... the reason is because the post is a very influential and important one.

(END)