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Azim-Bank

GOVT'S RIGHT TO DEPOSIT MONEY IN BANKS OF ITS CHOICE - AZIM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- The government reserved the right to choose banks of its choice for its financial transactions including withdrawing cash deposits of its agencies.

Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman Abdul Azim Mohamad Zabidi said just as individuals, the government would also not keep its money in banks whose staff always cursed and condemned the government.

"Ordinary people like us will withdraw our money from such banks and keep them in another bank.

"Hence, if the government take a similar action, it is it's right do so. Why it should make an institution profitable which did not at all support the policies introduced by the government?," he told BERNAMA today.

He was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the government would stop dealing with banks whose employees could not be trusted as they used customers' confidential information for their political interests.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam had announced that the state government would withdraw its agency's RM10 million fixed deposit kept in two local banks.

He said another RM30 million fixed deposit would also be taken out after it matured because some of the banks' employees supported opposition parties.

Azim said financial institutions should maintain their credibility by making trust and confidentiality as the thrust of their operations.

" We are holding positions entrusted upon us. One of the trusts is to maintain secrecy, if we cannot even protect such trusts, what more big responsibilities?

"I hope those supporting opposition parties must also be fair, they cannot cry out for reforms and justice but their actions are not reflective of a person who wishes to uphold justice," he said.

Azim said BSN would ensure its employees were not involved in leaking out government or customers' secrets.

Azim said stern action would be taken against them including termination of service if they were found to be involved in such activities.

He, however, admitted that it was difficult to take action against staffers leaking customers' confidential information in the absence of a specific report against an employee.

He did not rule out the possibility of other state government's emulating the Melaka government if such leakages were found to be widespread.

Azim said one way to check such abuses is by restricting access to computer systems to only certain officers.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ/HBM TS