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MWC withdraws deposits (HL)

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MALACCA, Wed. - The Malacca Water Corporation, a State Government agency, has withdrawn RM12 million in fixed deposits from two banks whose employees were said to be openly supporting Opposition parties.

Its deputy chairman Hasnoor Sidang Hussin said RM2 million of its RM5 million in fixed deposits in Bank Islam Bhd was withdrawn yesterday, while another RM10 million of its RM27 million in Bumiputra-Commerce Bank Bhd was transferred to other banks this morning.

The RM2 million from Bank Islam has been moved to Maybank (RM1 million), Bank Kerjasama Malaysia Rakyat Bhd and Bank Pertanian (RM500,000 each).

The RM10 million from BCBB has been deposited in Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia (RM1 million), Bank Pertanian (RM1.5 million), Maybank (RM3.5 million), EON Bank Berhad (RM2 million) and Public Finance Berhad (RM2 million).

Hasnoor said further withdrawals would be decided by Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam, who is also the corporation's chairman. Representatives of the two banks would be meeting Mohd Ali soon.

Bank Negara on Monday issued a stern warning to employees of banking institutions to adhere to secrecy provisions under the BAFIA or risk facing prosecution.

Governor Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman said the central bank would not hesitate to prosecute anyone breaching the law.

Bank Negara's warning follows alleged leaks of information by some employees at Bumiputra-Commerce Bank Bhd and Bank Islam (Malaysia) Bhd's branches in Malacca recently.

The leaked information, suspected to have been divulged by opposition sympathisers, had been posted on the Internet.

As a result, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week called on financial institutions to be more responsible in their operations and uphold the principles of secrecy and confidentiality. Bank Islam and Bumiputra-Commerce Bank have said they would investigate. Yesterday, Hasnoor said Bank Islam had submitted to the State Government names of its employees said to be openly supporting the Opposition, including a list of those who were sacked for taking part in last November's general election.

In another development, Mohd Ali today named the State Government's panel clinics whose services have been terminated for "supporting the Opposition".

The clinics are: Klinik Nik Amrah & Zaleha (Jalan Hang Tuah), Klinik Dr Halim (Jalan Semabok), Klinik Dr Azlan (Batu Berendam), Klinik Taqwa (Masjid Tanah), Klinik Azman (Tanjung Kling).

The others are Klinik Ihsan dan Siti Sdn Bhd (Alor Gajah), Klinik Penawar dan Surgeri (three clinics in Balai Panjang, Taman Cheng Baru and Bukit Baru), Klinik Asuza (Masjid Tanah), Klinik Yahya (Pulau Sebang), Klinik Penawar (Tangga Batu) and Klinik Hidayah (Merlimau).

He said the clinics were found to have campaigned for the Opposition in the last general election. The State Government, he said, would not reconsider its decision to blacklist them.

Hasnoor, meanwhile, said all Federal Government departments and agencies in Malacca should follow the State Government's move.

"They should not dilly-dally in implementing it. Although the State Government has no say in the administration or running of Federal

agencies, it is only appropriate that they follow suit."
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