

New chairman for Tabung Haji panel

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Syed Anwar appointed to improve poor investment returns

By Hazatul Syima

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: Amanah Capital Partners Bhd group managing director Datuk Seri Sved Anwar Jamalullail has been appointed chairman of Tabung Haji's investment panel.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Brig-Jen (Rtd) Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Hamid said today the appointment of Sved Anwar takes effect immediately.

"We hope that with his expertise and experience, Syed Anwar will be able to tighten and improve the investment arm of Tabung Haji."

Zainal Abidin was speaking to reporters after open-

ing a two-day national seminar titled *Al-Quran As the Source of Knowledge in the Globalisation Era* at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang.

He said one of the aspects that needed to be restructured in Tabung Haji, as stated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is its investment panel.

Mahathir had said yesterday that more professionals will be brought in to handle investment matters and improve Tabung Haji's poor investment returns.

The prime minister also expressed disappointment over the illegal withdrawal of RM7 million of Tabung Haji funds and said action will be taken against those responsible.

Zainal Abidin said he will be announcing the appointment of panel members in the next few days.

"There is no limit to the number of panel members

but we will probably appoint eight to 10 members"

Asked whether he will appoint other professionals besides Syed Anwar to the panel, Zainal Abidin said: "Yes, maybe."

Syed Anwar, 49, holds a BA -(Accounting) degree from Macquarie University, Sydney, and started his career as an accountant with Malaysia Airlines in 1975.

He joined Pricewaterhouse (Australia) as senior auditor in 1979 and three years later, D&C Nomura Merchant Bank Bhd as its investment manager.

Syed Anwar joined Amanah Merchant Bank Bhd as corporate finance manager in 1985 and was appointed Amanah Capital Partners Bhd group managing director on Oct 1, 1998.