

Be realistic, Tabung Haji investors told

SHAH ALAM: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Tabung Haji investors should not expect high returns all the time, especially at a time when companies were going through a downturn.

Returns fluctuated, he said when asked to comment on the board's bonus of 5.5% for the financial year 2000, described as the lowest in the last eight years.

"If we get lower returns and the government has to

put in its money to get more returns, then there's no need to invest.

"We might as well take the government's money," the Prime Minister told reporters after launching a youth unity rally at Malawati Stadium here yesterday.

Asked whether Tabung Haji should review its investment plans, Dr Mahathir said everyone knew that investors would not get higher profits because of the

downturn in share prices.

"But some people want to get the same high profits even if the share prices go down. This is unrealistic." He said any wrongdoing in the auditing of Tabung Haji's accounts could be traced and action could be taken against the culprits.

On the decision by the Selangor Government to increase water tariffs, Dr Mahathir said the government could not hold electricity

and water rates at current prices for so long.

He said it was not right for the water tariffs to stay the same while the costs of other items had gone up.

He said if there was any mismanagement in the water supply administration, it should be corrected.

The Selangor Waterworks Department has proposed a 50% to 100% increase in water tariffs for all consumers in the Klang Valley.

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