

29 SEP 2001

Abdullah-Tabung Haji

ACA WILL STEP INTO TABUNG HAJI CASE IF PROBE SHOWS CORRUPTION

PETALING JAYA, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- The Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) will take up the Tabung Haji illegal withdrawal case only if the police probe shows that corruption is involved, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The Deputy Prime Minister said police were still investigating the case with the focus on all aspects.

"Normally when police investigate a case and find that there is a need for the ACA to step in, they will make the suggestion to the ACA. If they don't see the need (for ACA's involvement), police will continue investigating on their own," he said.

Abdullah, who was speaking to reporters after chairing the first meeting of the National Voluntaryism Forum, was asked to comment on calls by various groups and individuals for the ACA to investigate the case.

More than RM8 million has been reported withdrawn fraudulently from Tabung Haji accounts.

Abdullah was also asked if Malaysia would exchange information with the United States on the activities of Afghanistan's Taliban regime following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the government had proof that the local militant group KMM had links with the Taliban.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that would depend on the type of information sought.

"We will look at the information sought. What needs to be shared, we will share. Otherwise, we won't," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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