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Hamid-Tabung Haji

SYED ANWAR JAMALULLAIL IS NEW TABUNG HAJI INVESTMENT PANEL CHIEF

SERDANG, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- Managing Director of Kumpulan Amanah Capital Partners Berhad Datuk Seri Syed Anwar Jamalullail has been appointed with immediate effect as the new Chairman of the Tabung Haji Investment Panel.

This was announced by Prime Minister's Department Minister Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin here today.

Abdul Hamid hoped Syed Anwar would help Tabung Haji with his expertise in the investment field.

A committee of professionals would also help Syed Anwar in his new job, he said.

Syed Anwar, 45, has wide experience in the fields of investment and accountancy and had held top posts in this area in companies and agencies.

These included the post of Senior Auditor in Price Waterhouse of Australia, Investment Chairman of D&C Nomura Merchant Bank Bhd and Corporate Finance Manager of Amanah Merchant Bank Bhd.

He is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) of the Australia Society of Certified Practising Accountants (ASCPA) and Public Accountant of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA). He has a Masters in Accountancy from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday said that he wanted the Tabung Haji Investment Panel to be restructured to ensure that it was more effective and avoided unwise investments.

Dr Mahathir also said Tabung Haji had failed to get good returns from its investments because of the unwise decisions made by inefficient investment panel members.

The Prime Minister had said that previously the Tabung Haji investment panel comprised professions but a "certain person" replaced them with less professional people.

As a result the Tabung Haji investment did not bring any returns but only losses.

Lately Tabung Haji received wide press coverage on the illegal withdrawal of despositors' money totalling more than RM8 million and the forging of official government documents such as Identity Cards and land grants.

On Aug 29, the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai said police viewed seriously the cheating case and did not discount the possibility of insiders in Tabung Haji being involved in the cheating.

Meanwhile the President of "Teras Pengupayahan Melayu" (Teras) Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid in a statement said Tabung Haji Chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmud should resign in keeping with his dignity and credibility as the person responsible for the organisation.

"There should be immediate restructuring of the Tabung Haji top administration and management as the people have lost confidence in the present administration and management," he said.

"All problems that have cropped up, be it weakness in the investment panel, losses on investments, rising costs and so on should be resolved speedily," he said.

He said Tabung Haji need to prove that Muslims had the ability to manage finances and that they were trustworthy and honest in all their actions.

-- BERNAMA

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