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Mahathir-Tabung Haji

TABUNG HAJI PROMOTES THE USE OF SAVINGS BOOKS BY ITS DEPOSITORS

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- The Tabung Haji Board today presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad his Tabung Haji savings book to promote the use of savings book by its depositors.

Tabung Haji chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood said that the agency introduced the use of savings book for its depositors in May last year but response was not very encouraging.

He hoped that the use of the savings book by Dr Mahathir, who makes his deposits through monthly salary deductions, would help promote the use of the savings book.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting with Dr Mahathir, Dr Zainol said that Tabung Haji depositors would be required to use their savings book when making withdrawals from next year.

At present, only 1.74 million of the 4.3 million Tabung Haji depositors are using the savings book.

Zainol said that at the one-hour meeting, Tabung Haji was told to further enhance its management capability to restore public confidence in the agency.

He said that Dr Mahathir wants Tabung Haji to exploit the expertise of its professional staff to provide satisfactory service to its depositors.

Dr Mahathir also advised Tabung Haji to be more professional in making decisions.

Decisions, according to the prime minister, should not be made by only one officer but by a panel after an indepth study.

Zainol said that Tabung Haji had also been told to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims in the coming haj season due to the prevailing circumstances.

Dr Mahathir also proposed that Tabung Haji encourage pilgrims to curb their spending during their pilgrimage as all kinds of goods were available in the country.

Last year, there was an outflow of some RM79 million during the haj season.

Zainol also said that Tabung Haji would from next month collaborate with the National Registration Department (NRD) to verify the identity of depositors.

Tabung Haji, he said, had also streamlined its rules and procedures pertaining to the withdrawal of savings of its depositors to ensure that the incident in which some RM8 million were missing from depositors' accounts last September would not recur.

Zainol also said that the investment panel appointed by Tabung Haji had conducted a study and its recommendations would be considered and changes were expected to be carried next year.

He said that problems arose over the management of investments because the amount of savings deposited increased to RM10 billion within a short period but the management and rules pertaining to investment remained unchanged.

Tabung Haji, he said, had also appointed consultants to provide advice on procedures to further enhance the capability of the management.

Zainol gave an undertaking that depositors' savings would be guaranteed and Tabung Haji would refund depositors should anything happens.

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