

20 SEP 2001

Tabung Haji-Panel

TABUNG HAJI INVESTMENT PANEL NAMED TODAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The Tabung Haji investment panel comprising syariah law experts, corporate leaders and accountants was announced today.

The panel is headed by Amanah Capital Partners Berhad managing director Datuk Seri Syed Anwar Jamalullail who was appointed recently.

Among the seven-member panel announced by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin are Syariah Judicial Department Director General Datuk Sheikh Ghazali Abdul Rahman and Islamic Economic Development Foundation (YPEIM) Director General Dr Abdul Malek Awang Kecil.

Others are MBF Holdings Berhad executive director Azizan Abdul Rahman, Amanah Capital Malaysia Bhd Corporate Services chief Wahid Omar, Danaharta Nasional Berhad's Property Management director Mohamed Bakke Salleh and Datin Paduka Zahridah Ismail and To' Puan Dr Hayati Mohammad.

Zahridah is Symphony Global Technologies Sdn Bhd director and Yayasan Budi Penyayang trustee holder while Dr Hayati is Human Resources Ministry's Business Process project team leader.

The eighth member of the panel would be appointed by Bank Negara, Abdul Hamid told reporters after attending a business zakat (tithes) presentation ceremony at the Zakat Collection Centre here.

Abdul Hamid said that members of the panel were selected based on the views of the various parties who were convinced of their capability in helping to overcome shortcomings of Tabung Haji in terms of investment.

The revamp of the Tabung Haji investment panel was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 31 following losses incurred by Tabung Haji on its investments.

The capability of the Tabung Haji management has been disputed especially following a reduction from 8 per cent to 5.5 per cent this year in the bonus of the four million Tabung Haji depositors.

Abdul Hamid recently said that the Tabung Haji management needs a comprehensive restructuring to prevent greater losses which may require a rescue effort.

Asked on the action taken by Tabung Haji to prevent further fraudulent withdrawals of the savings of depositors, Abdul Hamid said that the agency was working on a new mechanism for withdrawals.

He said that Tabung Haji would collaborate with the Home Ministry and the National Registration Department in coming up with the formula.

Last July, Tabung Haji incurred losses of RM7.725 million from the accounts of two depositors through fraudulent counter withdrawals using forged documents including identity cards and land titles.

At the function, nine companies paid a total of RM4 million as business tithes.

They are Bank Rakyat (RM1.9 million), Perumahan Kinrara Bhd (RM663,348), KAF Discounts Bhd (RM638,000), Tenaga Nasional Berhad (RM424,842), Takaful Malaysia (RM193,255), Moccis (RM103,000), Asean Retakaful International (RM72,374), Kospeta Bhd (RM22,867) and Kopetro Bhd (RM28,024).

The Zakat Collection Centre chairman, Datuk Abdul Rahim Abu Bakar, said that more companies run by Muslims were now aware of their responsibility in paying zakat.

Previously, the collection of zakat, mostly zakat fitrah or obligatory

tithes, only amounted to RM5 million annually.

Following the setting up of the centre and the systematic collection of the zakat, last year alone a total of RM56 million was collected.

From the centre's record, from January to August this year, collection of business tithes totalled RM4.7 million or 32 per cent of the set target of RM15 million.

-- BERNAMA

SLR AHH RM