

PAS sees Najib's downfall in TH-1MDB fiasco

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Uproar over the purchase of land from 1Malaysia Development Bhd by Lembaga Tabung Haji (Pilgrims' Fund Board) may mark the end of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, PAS central committee member Nasruddin Hasan said.

It may even lead to BN's ouster in the next general elections given that the fund is close to the hearts of Muslims, he said.

"If they fail to settle this properly in accordance to the people's wishes, it may threaten the prime minister's position.

"It may even cause Umno and BN to be rejected in the next elections," the Temerloh MP said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur today.

Nasruddin (photo) said the issue is stoking public anger after the introduction of the much opposed Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"Tabung Haji (TH) is very sensitive for Muslims," he said.

BN's strongholds are in the Malay heartlands where almost all of voters are Muslim.

Najib is already under pressure after incessant attacks from former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, especially on 1MDB's RM42 billion debt.

PAS wants RCI

Nasruddin also joined the chorus of PAS leaders who called for a royal commission of inquiry into the matter.

Earlier PAS Dewan Ulamak urged for an RCI on what it saw as a breach of trust.

The fund, which manages savings of Muslims who want to perform their obligated pilgrimage to Mecca, has been under heavy fire after it bought land owned by cash-strapped 1MDB.

TH purchased 1.56 acres of the 70-acre tract of land meant for the Tun Razak Exchange project for RM188.5 million.

1MDB purchased the entire 70 acres from the government four years ago for RM194.1 million.

The state investment fund is reportedly is pricing the land at RM3,000 per square foot.

Following the controversy, Najib instructed TH to sell off the land, adding that TH will make millions of ringgit from the sale.

TH chairperson Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim urged contributors not to complain if the buyers end up being non-Muslims.

Najib, who is also finance minister, is chairperson of 1MDB board of advisors.

1MDB is fully-owned by the finance ministry and has debt of RM42 billion.

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