

Penang PAS pushes for Tabung Haji debate

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By Susan Loone

Penang PAS calls for an emergency motion to debate on the integrity of Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) at the ongoing state legislative assembly, which sits today until Friday.

To insist on their proposal, about 10 local PAS members held a peaceful protest outside the state assembly building calling for the motion to be tabled soonest possible.

“The state assembly ought to debate the issue as the recent controversy surrounding TH is of public interest, especially the Muslim community in Penang,” said state PAS economic bureau chairperson Zolkifly Md Lazim, during the protest.

“The authorities must probe this matter thoroughly so that more of the people’s money would not be misused,” he added.

Najib should not cover up

“Please charge those who are involved in misusing the money of our Muslim believers. Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak should not cover up the issue and instead, explain what has happened to it,” he stressed.

The group (photo) later handed over a letter proposing the emergency motion to Deputy Chief Minister I Rashid Hasnon.

State executive council member Abdul Malik Abul Kassim, who heads the Islamic Affairs Council, said he will study the letter before agreeing to the proposal.

The group’s proposal adds to public uproar over the purchase of land from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) by Tabung Haji, a national pilgrims’ fund board.

Tabung Haji came under fire after it bought land owned by the Finance Ministry’s fully-owned company 1MDB, which is alleged to be RM42 billion strapped in debts.

PAS described the controversy as so intense that it may threaten Najib Abdul Razak’s position as Prime Minister, as he also holds the post of Finance Minister.

The embattled Najib is already facing a leadership crisis, including massive attacks from former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamed, over alleged financial mismanagement of 1MDB.

Najib has instructed Tabung Haji to sell off the land, to make millions of ringgit from the sale.

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