

Abim wants TH 'cleansed' of 1MDB dealmakers

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"Cleanse Tabung Haji from 1MDB."

This was what was written on one of the placards held by Muslim Youth Movement (Abim) members protesting Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH)'s purchase of 1Malaysia Development Bhd's land.

To do so, Abim said in a three-page memorandum submitted to TH today, is for TH chairperson Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim to resign.

Abim president Amidi Abdul Manan said besides Azeez, those involved in TH's purchase of 1Malaysia Development Bhd's land must also step down.

"We want those involved in all levels of the 1MDB deal to resign, and Abim wants the chairperson too to step down because of his mistake, which has given the impression that TH had lied," he said.

The memorandum was received by acting Tabung Haji chief operating officer Adi Azuan Abd Ghani at Bangunan Tabung Haji at Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur.

Amidi (photo) was referring to Azeez's earlier tweet denying a blog expose claiming that TH had purchased land from 1MDB.

Azeez later clarified that what he meant is that TH only bought one parcel of land, and not two as alleged in documents exposed by the blog.

He also defied resign calls, saying he did not cause losses to TH.

Last Wednesday, a blog leaked documents claiming Tabung Haji purchasing 1MDB's land in a bid to help the cash-strapped 1MDB, which has accumulated a staggering debt of RM42 billion.

This translates to a purchase of RM2,773 per square feet by Tabung Haji, while 1MDB reportedly bought the land for only RM64 per square feet from the government.

It was later confirmed that Tabung Haji had paid RM188.5 million for 1.56 acres of the 70-acre Tun Razak Exchange land owned by 1MDB.

1MDB had purchased the entire 70 acres from the government for a mere RM194.1 million.

Public outcry pushed Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to advise TH to sell the land.

However, Najib decried that TH will lose out on hundreds of million in potential profit by giving up the prime land.

TH now only stands to gain up to RM6 million through the quick sale, Najib said.

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