

Pandikar rejects Mahfuz's motion on Tabung Haji

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By Kow Gah Chie

PARLIAMENT The Dewan Rakyat today rejected an emergency motion from an opposition MP to discuss the controversial purchase of Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) land by Lembaga Tabung Haji, citing that the issue has been dealt with.

Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia said the government and Tabung Haji have taken action to sell the land, so there is not much left to be discussed in the House.

"Action has been taken by the government and Tabung Haji, which is to sell the land. So what other issues are there to talk about?" Pandikar asked.

He then rejected the motion raised by Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) to discuss the Tabung Haji's deal in his chambers.

Following this, Mahfuz (photo) raised his protest in the House.

"I am disappointed. This is a big issue that needs Parliament to step forward to protect Tabung Haji," said the PAS information chief.

"I am not saying this is not an important issue," replied Pandikar.

The parliamentarians, he added, can raise the issue during the debate on 11th Malaysia Plan which will be tabled in Parliament on Thursday.

'Probe deal thoroughly' call

A disappointed Mahfuz had sent the joint memorandum from PKR, PAS and 16 other NGOs to the speaker, urging the legislative institution to investigate the controversial land deal.

The group claimed to represent Tabung Haji general depositors who wanted parliament to probe the land deal thoroughly through a parliamentary select committee

The memorandum on behalf of the movement dubbed 'Saving Tabung Haji Movement' also urged that the findings of the investigation be revealed to the public.

"All wrongdoers should be brought to face justice," added the memorandum.

In a controversial deal alleged to be part of a bailout of the beleaguered 1MDB by GLCs Tabung Haji had purchased 1.56 acres of land from 1MDB at RM188.5million (RM2,773 per square foot).

1MDB had before that purchased the entire 70 acres of TRX land from the government for a

mere RM194.1 million (RM64 psf).

It was further learnt that the Pensioners Fund Inc (KWAP) may also have purchased a 40-storey building from 1MDB but the fund claimed it has made no commitment to buy into the development as yet.

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