

Perlis mufti prays Allah rewards Zeti amid 1MDB debacle

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Perlis mufti Asri Zainul Abidin today prayed that God will reward Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz, following BNM's unheeded calls for 1MDB officials to be prosecuted for breaching the Exchange Control Act 1953.

BNM on Friday also issued a statement to say it has cancelled approvals for 1MDB to transfer US\$1.83 billion (RM7.5 billion) overseas, and wants the funds repatriated.

"May Allah reward the Bank Negara Malaysia governor handsomely for her efforts in saving the country from traitors and criminals.

"This is a big jihad," Asri said in a Facebook posting.

The Attorney-General's Chambers earlier said it found no merit in BNM's investigation paper into 1MDB, despite the central bank's second appeal for 1MDB officials to be charged.

The BNM investigation was carried out under paragraph (4)(b) of Part 1 of the Fifth Schedule to the Exchange Control Act 1953 related to knowingly or recklessly making a statement which is false in a material particular.

1MDB also told BNM it cannot repatriate the cash because it has either been used to pay off part of the state investment firm's RM42 billion liabilities, or is earmarked for other things.

BNM's statement comes after an rare decree from the Conference of Rulers urging the investigations into 1MDB to be wrapped up, and wrongdoers, if any, to be punished.

The government said it needs until January to sort out the issue, while Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said no one can push for the investigation to be hastened or delayed as it must be guided by law.

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