

**TH has successfully achieved All Objectives of Its Establishment – Najib
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PETALING JAYA, July 26 (Bernama) -- Almost five decades after its establishment, Tabung Haji (TH) has successfully achieved all its objectives, especially in helping the Malay Muslims in welfare and socioeconomic aspects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the success had also made TH the pride of the country and an institution tried to be emulated by many other countries, but to no avail.

"In almost five decades, TH has done so much in helping and improving the socioeconomic wellbeing of the Malay community," he said when launching the TH Foundation in Kelana Jaya here Tuesday.

Also present were his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and his deputy Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, as well as TH top management and staff.

Najib said matters concerning haj pilgrims and the interests of depositors were the primary objectives of TH establishment and had remained as its top priorities.

The prime minister said one of the significant successes of TH was in maintaining the haj fee for Malaysian haj pilgrims at RM9,980 since 2009.

In fact, he said TH had also managed to provide subsidy of RM160 million for the pilgrims this year, hence enabling each pilgrim to receive subsidy of almost RM8,000.

"The RM8,000 subsidy received by each pilgrim is just a little short from the fee of RM9,980 that they have to pay. Now, where in the world can you get that price (to perform haj)?," he said.

Najib also stressed on TH's success in protecting the interests of its depositors who he claimed had received satisfying returns from their investments.

However, he said a lot of TH-related matters had been turned into issues and politicised by certain quarters, including in the acquisition of the Tun Razak Exchange land in the city.

"The land was purchased at a price of RM1,800 per square foot, but when I asked Datuk

Johan Abdullah (TH Group managing director and chief executive officer) how much it worth now, he said there are buyers who would pay for a price of RM2,200 per square foot.

"We can already see the profit, but still, it is being politicised by certain quarters," he said.

On the foundation, the prime minister said it was hoped that the foundation would help more people in need and could raise more fund to meet its objectives.

The TH Foundation is established with the aim to coordinate all TH corporate social responsibility initiatives, including in educational sector and distribution of aid during disasters.

The foundation will be managed separately by its own board of directors with an initial allocation of RM5 million to carry out its activities.

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