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TABUNG HAJI

Do not be led astray by irresponsible politicians

"A **CITIZEN** leader is someone who brings their character and courage to making a contribution on behalf of the community and the common good," says author Peter Alduino of *The Citizen Leader*.

A leader is one who clearly knows the difference between fact and opinion. An opinion is a self-report of feelings or personal judgment whereas a fact is based on facts.

Recently, a member of the opposition party claimed that Tabung Haji had been drawn into a political game. He also claimed that savings from depositors had been "burnt" as a result of failed investments.

Are these claims verified? Are these the whole truth? It is crucial for us to not be influenced by this politician.

Do we want to be drawn in this "Pied Piper" scenario? Or do we

stay firm and not allow ourselves to be influenced by a politician who continues to amplify his erroneous claims on Tabung Haji?

For decades, Tabung Haji has been a platform for Muslims to perform the haj. But of late, Tabung Haji has been portrayed in a negative light as an organisation that uses depositors' money for its investments.

Whether or not, Tabung Haji has suffered millions in losses, it

will not affect those wanting to perform the haj. That is something for Tabung Haji to worry about. We need not worry. Our role as Muslims is to fulfil the pillars of Islam.

A responsible leader or citizen would know the repercussions of false accusations or partial truths, what more accusations to feed his own political propaganda.

Tabung Haji should be revered and not criticised or even politi-

cised for that matter. It is sad to see that one man would go the distance to tarnish the good name of Tabung Haji, causing many to withdraw their savings and lose their chance to perform their haj.

I urge those who have been influenced to not let irresponsible politicians lead them astray.

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