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# PILGRIMS' MONEY USED TO INJECT CASH INTO 1MDB

- Lembaga Tabung Haji confirms purchase of TRX land.
- Conflict of interest — its group MD and CEO Tan Sri Ismee Ismail is 1MDB director; its deputy group MD and deputy CEO Datuk Johan Abdullah is chairman of a 1MDB subsidiary; and its investment panel member Datuk Abdul Samad Ismail is 1MDB advisory panel member.
- Its chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim first denies land purchase on his Twitter account and later claims he miscommunicated.  
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## I miscommunicated, says Tabung Haji chairman

KUALA LUMPUR: Lembaga Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim has confirmed the fund's investment in a plot of land worth RM188.5 million, and now says he had miscommunicated in his earlier denial about the land deal with debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"Yes. Sorry for the miscommunication. It's not true about the RM722 million acquiring the 2 lots ... That's what I denied," he tweeted yesterday.

In another tweet, he said the pilgrims' fund had only made one investment and "at a lower price".

"Not two units as written in the blog. That was what I was denying," he said.

Last night, Azeez had tweeted that the allegations made in a blog which leaked documents allegedly detailing the purchase of two plots of land were untrue.

"Not true. Tabung Haji will issue

a statement on this matter soon," he had said, when asked about the matter by another Twitter user on Wednesday.

He also urged 1MDB to clarify the matter as soon as possible before it was "spun" further.

A blog called "The Benchmark" alleged that Tabung Haji purchased two plots of land at 1MDB's Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) project for a total of RM772 million in cash.

The alleged documents showed that the deal was expedited and agreed upon in April.

Azeez's latest tweet yesterday clarifying his earlier denial comes after Tabung Haji chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Johan Abdullah confirmed yesterday the fund had invested in a piece of land with the view of building a residential tower at the price of RM188.5 million.

Johan in a statement also denied that the pilgrims' fund had bought a second parcel of land from 1MDB

at TRX as alleged.

"Leakages of proposal papers are not proof of approved investment decisions," Johan said in his statement.

He added that the RM188.5 million paid for the parcel of land in TRX was at a "discounted" price to current market value.

The anonymous blog had alleged that Tabung Haji made purchases of two plots of land using depositors' funds and bought the land at a far higher value than what 1MDB paid for it.

1MDB Real Estate Bhd obtained the land for the construction of TRX at RM64 per sq ft from the federal government.

1MDB has attracted controversy as it sits on a sizeable debt of around RM42 billion, and the government has admitted that the state-owned investment arm is facing cash-flow problems. — *The Malaysian Insider*