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TRX land deal most challenging issue for Ismee

KUALA LUMPUR: Tabung Haji managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) Tan Sri Ismee Ismail has described his controversial Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) land deal as the most challenging issue in his 10 years of helming the pilgrims' fund.

Ismee defended Tabung Haji's move in buying a 0.63ha plot in TRX from Malaysia Development Bhd and assured depositors that their money with the fund is safe.

Tabung Haji paid about RM188.5 million for the plot but decided to sell it after being advised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to end the controversy.

"For the 10 years that I've been with Tabung Haji, this is the most

challenging moment as CEO. I don't want to comment on the (TRX) land issue because it is now being investigated by the authorities and

also because I am a neutral party in the transaction," he said in a recent interview with Berita Harian.

"However, what I want to say is that overall, many are aware that Tabung Haji had received proposals which caused distrust among our depositors.

"I want to assure all depositors that they have nothing to worry about as their savings are guaranteed by the government, as stated in the Tabung Haji Act."

Ismee said depositors could go to any Tabung Haji branch or bank automated teller machines to check their savings.

"I want to assure all depositors that they have nothing to worry about."

*Tan Sri Ismee Ismail
Tabung Haji
managing director
and chief executive
officer*