

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 16 OGOS 2015 (AHAD)**

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Set political agenda aside and support initiative, says Hisham

THE setting up of the National Consultative Committee for Political Financing (JKNMPP) is key to promoting transparency among parties across the political divide.

Those who lauded the JKNMPP initiative, which will lead to the drawing up of an action plan to promote integrity in political funding, said once this was in place, it would be imperative for all political parties to observe it. This, they said, should be the case, even if it meant disclosing sources of their funds.

In **Padang Besar**, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, in welcoming the move, said all political parties must set their political agenda aside and be rational and support the initiative.

"There are those who are not (ra-

tional)... Maybe they have a certain agenda, and moved to twist and view this whole idea negatively.

"It is such a good move and the prime minister should just do it," he said after opening the Umno division meeting in Perlis yesterday.

In **George Town**, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said JKNMPP underlined the ruling party's commitment to enhancing transparency.

"This move to promote transparency serves to disclose donations received by each political party.

"So far, Umno is the only party that is being criticised for what it has received. I have never heard of any other party, especially from the opposition, disclosing their funds.

"When this is regulated, each par-

ty will have to say how much they have received and spent," he said at the Tanjong Umno division delegates' meeting yesterday, adding that subjecting the trail of political donations and spending to auditing should be a basic principle for political parties.

Idris said there should be no reason why the opposition would object to the plan as it, too, should have no qualms about disclosing its political funding.

"You cannot tell people what to do if you are keeping quiet about your coffers.

"They also have large sums being channelled into their accounts and if they were from donations, they have to declare the sources."

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'System will ensure integrity'

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In **Jempol**, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek cited the United States' example in managing political funds.

He said a sound check and balance system would serve to protect the integrity of political parties.

"In the US, political funds are made public and audited from time to time. They have to declare who their funders are and how much is spent for election-related activities, including campaigning and advertising," he said after officiating the Jempol division wings' delegates meeting in Negri Sembilan yesterday.

Shabery said that the establishment of the committee was not because of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) controversy, as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had proposed the initiative many times before.

Gerakan president Datuk Mah Siew Keong said it was high time political funding was regulated.

"There will be greater transparency when laws to deal with such financing are developed. We hope there will be cooperation from all parties," he said.

The JKNMPP will be chaired by Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan, with Datuk Seri Idris Jala as his deputy. Both are ministers in the Prime Minister's Department.

DAP's Liew Chin Tong yesterday said the committee should have been established earlier.

The party, he said, was all for transparency concerning the funding of parties and elections.

In **Tuaran**, the United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko)

said it would submit its own views to the committee for consideration.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Madius Tangau, who is also the party's acting president, said the party was looking forward to the benchmarks that the committee would be setting.

In **Kuching**, Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) president Tan Sri James Jemut Masing said the move was the best way to reduce political corruption during elections.

James, who is also state land development minister, said the public could also have access to an election candidate's financial position, including sources of his funds, before casting their votes.

"At the same time, the setting up of the council would also enable the Election Commission to monitor whether an election candidate is spending within the limits or otherwise."

In **Johor Baru**, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the JKNMPP was a good move.

He believed parties from both sides of the political divide should follow it as it would only lead to good things.

"It is a good thing as will control and determine political funds which are accepted or distributed (in a party). I believe every party will accept it, including those from the opposition. We welcome the move."

In **Muar**, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang said DAP was agreeable to any proposal that required political parties to reveal their funding sources.

"We agree to this as this will ensure transparency of political funds. We hope Umno, MCA, MIC and other political parties will do the same," Lim said at a meet-the-people dialogue yesterday.



Datuk Madius Tangau

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 27
TARIKH : 16 OGOS 2015 (AHAD)

Menabung untuk pendidikan

■ SSPN-i Plus permudah akses pelajar lanjut pelajaran



HADIRIN pada Majlis Mesra PTPN Bersama Pelanggan 2015, semalam.

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Pelancaran produk Skim Simpanan Pendidikan Nasional (SSPN)-i Plus oleh Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional (PTPN) diyakini mampu mengatasi masalah keciciran dalam kalangan pelajar yang mahu melanjutkan pengajian ke institusi pengajian tinggi

(IPT). Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau berkata, produk terbaru itu turut memberi peluang kepada orang ramai membuat tabungan yang dijamin sepenuhnya oleh kerajaan. "Amalan menabung perlu diterapkan dalam minda masyarakat yang masih kurang melaksanakan perancangan kewangan dengan baik. "Oleh itu, melalui SSPN-i

Plus, ia akan memberikan pelbagai keistimewaan kepada penyimpan tanpa membebankan kerana ia menawarkan pelan simpanan dengan pelbagai pilihan pakej," katanya ketika merasmikan Majlis Mesra PTPN Bersama Pelanggan 2015 peringkat negeri di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama Ketua Eksekutif PTPN Agos Cholan dan Ketua Pegawai Pemasaran dan Komunikasi Stra-

tegit PTPN Mastura Mohd Khalid.

Terdahulu, teks ucapan Madius dibacakan Setiausaha Politikinya Joisin Romut.

Madius berkata, kewujudan SSPN-i Plus menepati sebahagian besar kehendak rakyat di negara ini khususnya dalam kalangan masyarakat Islam.

"Produk ini berbentuk skim simpanan disertai takaful yang sentiasa berpandukan sistem kewa-

ngan berlandaskan syariah. Pendeposit bukan saja melabur untuk tujuan pendidikan, malah turut mendapat perlindungan takaful, dividen yang begitu kompetitif serta pelepasan taksiran cukai sehingga RM12,000 setahun.

"Justeru, saya menyeru semua rakyat di negara ini untuk merebut peluang disediakan dengan menyertai SSPN-i Plus," katanya.

Beliau berkata, PTPN di-

tubuhkan berasaskan iktizam kerajaan bagi membolehkan lebih ramai rakyat di negara ini mempunyai akses kepada pengajian tinggi.

"Melalui penubuhan PTPN, akses kepada pendidikan tinggi semakin meningkat apabila lebih 200,000 pelajar setiap tahun berpeluang menjejaskan kaki ke Universiti Awam (UA) mahupun IPT swasta melalui cara pembiayaan PTPN," katanya.

