

Bank Negara seeks to nab five in get-rich-quick schemes

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KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara is seeking to arrest five individuals who are suspected of operating get-rich-quick schemes.

The five individuals are Dahlan David bin Abdullah, Ramunatul Aida binti Rahmat, Abd Halim bin Rafii, Abdul Halim bin Che Ismail and Harun bin Mat Saat. They are all believed to have committed crimes involved in illegal deposit taking and money laundering.

“They are operators of illegal schemes. They held positions of director in their respective companies. We believe they are all still in the country,” said a source who is investigating the case.

Illegal deposit taking falls under the Banking and Financial Institutions Act 1989 while money laundering falls under the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001.

Dahlan David and Ramunatul were respectively chief executive officer and director of Jazmeen (M) Sdn Bhd.

In a 2007 note to investors, Dahlan said “... Jazmeen is a platform and avenue for people to invest, save and earn a profitable monthly return, as we are growing by the numbers. My goal is to turn Jazmeen into an international business conglomerate”

Abdul Halim bin Che Ismail was a director in Silver Coin Resources Sdn Bhd while Abd Halim bin Rafii was in Syarikat Eastana Farm Industries Sdn Bhd. Lastly, Harun was in Pan Phoenix Dina Sdn Bhd.

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Bank Negara is offering rewards to members of the public for information that leads to the successful arrest of these individuals. In March, a task force, helmed by Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, was formed with Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) chief executive officer Datuk Azmi Ariffin.

Azmi also presides on the working committee that consists of other regulators such as Bank Negara, police, the Securities Commission of Malaysia and the Cooperative Commission of Malaysia.

Last month, the task force obtained a conviction against Grand Merger Resources Enterprise for illegal cash transaction under the Kootu Fund (Prohibition) Act. The other cases, relating to illegal interest schemes against Island Red Cafe and Golden Nest Sdn Bhd under Section 84 of the Companies Act, are pending trial in court.

In May, Bank Negara started investigating The Gold Label Sdn Bhd for suspected illegal deposit-taking and money laundering activities.

The central bank raided the company's premises in Northpoint Offices, Tower A Mid Valley City, Kuala Lumpur yesterday, following complaints received from the public.

Relevant assets and documents were seized for purpose of investigation. A global economic crime survey in 2009 found that nearly half of the financial crimes were committed by middle managers as a result of the economic downturn which had affected many organisations.

Source: <http://biz.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/7/28/business/6745312&sec=business>