

Musa Aman denies any role in 'Project IC'

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By Aidila Razak

SABAH RCI Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman has informed the royal commission of inquiry (RCI) into illegal immigrants in Sabah that he had no involvement in the so-called Project IC, as claimed by a witness last week.

"Last Thursday, Dr Chong Eng Leong made serious allegations linking my client to Project IC.

musa aman pc in sabah 190608 01"I have been instructed to inform that he (Musa, right) denies any involvement in the alleged Project IC," the chief minister's lawyer Roderic Fernandez told the RCI sitting in Kota Kinabalu today.

Fernandez, who is a former Sabah attorney-general, said Musa had also instructed him to hold a watching brief and to request for the notes of proceedings pertaining to the allegation by Chong.

Fernandez said Musa would decide his next course of action after he is able to peruse the notes of proceedings.

The application was granted by RCI chairperson Steve Shim, who instructed the RCI secretariat to extract portions pertaining to the allegation for Musa to make a decision on what he wanted to do.

'Musa chaired Umno task force to register foreigners'

Last week, Chong, a former Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) politician who authored a book on Project IC, testified that Musa chaired a task force back in 1991 that was designed to register foreigners as Umno members after giving them Malaysian citizenship.

"When Umno first entered Sabah, this task force was formed, and the chief was none other but Musa Aman himself," Chong had told the RCI.

Speaking to reporters later, DAP assemblyperson for Likas Junz Wong, who was in the public gallery, said it would be in the people's interest for Musa to testify before the RCI to clear his name.

"The RCI should decide (whether to call Musa as a witness or not but) he has a

social and political responsibility to come clean," Wong said outside the Kota Kinabalu High Court complex, where the RCI is sitting.

Meanwhile, in his testimony today, 192nd witness Ismail Mohd Yakub from the Tawau Municipal Council said that 40 percent of Tawau residents are non-citizens.

Basing this on the council's 2010 census, he said the immigrants have good relations with Sabahans, as most of them have adopted the local lifestyle.

"That's why it's not a big problem that 41 percent of people in Tawau are non-citizens.

"Plus, the local culture is highly tolerant," he said.

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