

## **DAP wants new PAC chief by Aug 31**

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**Susan Loone**

DAP wants Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to name the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman by Aug 31, Merdeka Day.

Gelang Patah MP Lim Kit Siang said the chairman must be appointed immediately so that the probe on 1MDB can proceed.

"There is no reason to delay it but every reason for Najib to call an immediate emergency meeting in Parliament to appoint the chairman," Lim said at a press conference in the party's headquarters in Jalan Rangoon, Penang today.

"The DAP, PKR and Gerakan Harapan Baru MPs are on standby and prepared to attend this meeting to vote for the new PAC chairman," he added.

Lim said even Umno ministers like Hishammuddin Hussein supported the idea of a special meeting and BN backbenchers club chairman Shahrir Abdul Samad (photo) had also called for the vacancies to be filled soon, to enable the PAC to carry out its duties.

Lim said that speaker Pandikar Amin often spoke of a first world Parliament.

"A first world Parliament has the opposition leader as PAC chairman, we hope we can start a new era of being a first world Parliament," Lim quipped.

The senior DAP adviser added that the PAC chairman must be someone of "impeccable character, credibility and honour".

"He or she must be someone who everyone believes will carry out a professional and independent job," the senior Lim said.

Asked who is DAP's choice chairman candidate for PAC, Lim said the party has chosen veteran Kepong MP Tan Seng Giaw (photo), who is a Kelantanese.

Asked who would the DAP prefer if the chairman were to come from BN, Lim suggested former minister Shafie Apdal. He added the DAP was prepared to discuss with Najib on this.

However Lim totally rejected the notion that former Mara chairman Annuar Musa be appointed as PAC chairman.

He pointed out Mara is in the midst of controversy involving alleged improprieties in billion ringgit property deals in Australia, that happened under Annuar's watch. "He himself should be probed by PAC," Lim asserted.

## **Cabinet reshuffled**

Calls for a new PAC chairman to be quickly named began after the recent cabinet reshuffle on Jul 28, as Najib had appointed its then chief Nur Jazlan Mohamed as deputy minister.

The reshuffle also saw Shafie and Muhyiddin Yassin, then deputy prime minister, dropped from the cabinet.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said that the party's preference was for Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to lead PAC.

"He may not want it, so we suggest Shafie (photo), who may be willing to take up the post. He has not said no to it yet," said the Penang chief minister.

Meanwhile, DAP national publicity secretary Tony Pua expressed concern that if the announcement of the PAC chairman was delayed, the probe on the 1MDB would be delayed for another six to nine months.

"Najib himself had said he has nothing to hide as he has asked the PAC to probe the 1MDB scandal.

"So he must announce the designated chairman candidate and set the date for Parliament to vote on the matter," said the Petaling Utara MP.

"As members of PAC, we are all prepared to proceed with the probe on 1MDB once we have a chairman," he added.