

Dr M's ex-aide quizzed about a Chinese trader

MalaysiaKini.com

Oct 2nd, 2015

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Lawyer Matthias Chang, once a political secretary to former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was asked about a particular 'Chinese businessperson' during his second round of questioning by police today.

Chang's lawyers said the questioning today, which lasted two hours, was largely about 1MDB.

When contacted, Chang said he could not help the police on the particular Chinese businessperson as the police officer could not properly pronounce the person's name.

"He said something like 'See Chuan - someone like that'. I said I don't know any Chinese businessperson like that, unless I am given a very precise name.

"But so far as the name that was given to me, I don't know head or tail. I don't normally deal with Chinese business people, anyway.

"I can't remember what he (the officer) actually said. It sounded very funny, so I said 'I don't know'," Chang (photo) told Malaysiakini.

He was last questioned by the police on Sept 28.

The police called Chang in because he acted as counsel for former Batu Kawan Umno division vice-chief Khairuddin Abu Hassan, who has lodged police reports in several countries on funds linked to 1MDB and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Khairuddin was arrested on Sept 19 and remanded for six days under Section 124C of the Penal Code for 'activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy'.

Chang's lawyers present during questioning

He was released a day before his remand expired but re-arrested under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012, an anti-terrorism law which allows for up to 28 days' detention, on grounds of sabotaging the nation.

Chang said he was accompanied by three lawyers - Zainur Zakaria, Ahmed Bazlan Che Kassim, and Mohd Afiq Akmal Mohammad - during the latest round of questioning at the Dang Wangi district police headquarters.

"No arrest as yet, but they said they may require further statements if needed. I told them I am ever ready and also ready to be arrested," Chang said in a statement later.

He arrived at the district police headquarters at 9.30am and questioning began an hour later.

"Matthias was called as a witness as he had accompanied Khairuddin (photo) to a few countries with regard to the claims (police reports) Khairuddin has made.

"There was no pressure from the police, but the questioning was more on 1MDB," Ahmad Bazlan told journalists outside the Dang Wangi station after the questioning.

He declined to elaborate on the specific questions posed by police.

On a related development, Mohd Afiq gave an update on Khairuddin, who is still under detention and has been admitted to hospital as a result of dengue.

"Khairuddin's situation is better than before, even though his blood pressure is slightly low.

"However, there has yet to be any decision by the doctor on when he can be discharged.

"On our (the lawyers') request and with (investigating officer) ASP Muniandy's permission, we were allowed to visit Khairuddin," Mohd Afiq said.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/314306>