

New PAC chief says priority is 1MDB probe

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Newly appointed Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Hasan Arifin said the probe into 1MDB is his priority, and he pledged to take up this challenge without fear or favour.

"Any financial matter of the government is our priority," he said when asked if he would treat 1MDB fiasco with urgency.

The 1MDB hearing, which was forced to stop for three months after its ex-chairman Nur Jazlan Mohamed and three members were elevated to the cabinet, will recommence this Parliament sitting, which ends on Dec 3, he said.

He, however, did not give a date for the next session.

The PAC needs to fill up three vacancies following the cabinet reshuffle of July 29, he said.

PAC ex-member Reezal Merican Naina Merican was promoted to deputy foreign minister while Mas Ermieyati Samsudin is now the deputy tourism and culture minister.

Another former member Wilfred Madius Tangau was promoted to science, technology and innovation minister.

The Rompin parliamentarian also expected PAS to nominate a new member to the PAC as their current representative and Kuala Krai parliamentarian Hatta Ramli has left PAS for Amanah.

'I am ready'

After the appointment of all the new members by the select committee, then PAC will decide on the date of its first meeting.

The 62-year-old said he was ready for the job despite being an MP for only five months.

"I am ready for this job," he said, adding he was a former Pahang deputy chief minister and former Umno supreme council member with an economics background.

He also said he has no hesitation taking up the new task and needs nobody's advice.

"No. I don't need any advice," he said.

Hasan also vowed that he would not change from being a no-nonsense man and pledged to execute his duty as outlined by the Parliament.

He also denied that the PAC hearing, which postponed for three months following the cabinet reshuffle, was done to delay PAC's probe into 1MDB.

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