

1MDB debate - DAP to find replacement for Pua

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Kow Gah Chie

DAP will not have its lawmaker Tony Pua resign from Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and leave the 1MDB probe, party whip Anthony Loke said today.

"As the whip of DAP, I do not agree that Pua resigns as PAC member or abstains from the 1MDB investigation, for he plays an important role in the investigation.

"DAP will not allow any quarter to pressure him to withdraw from 1MDB probe," Loke said

The party will discuss with its allies PKR and Amanah in order to find a replacement so that the debate with 1MDB boss Arul Kanda Kandasamy slated for Friday night will remain on track, he said.

"We will discuss. The replacement candidate may come from DAP, PKR or Amanah. We will offer this to them.

"We are confident the debate will still be on. I take the word of Communications and Multimedia Minister Salleh Said Keruak, who promised live streaming over RTM," Loke said.

Nevertheless, Loke questioned if this was a strategy by BN and the government to avoid the debate, in that they knew beforehand the decision of Dewan Rakyat Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia.

According to him, the ministers and leaders acted as though they had no fear in having the debate take place as they knew the speaker would step in to prevent it.

"I see this as yet another strategy and shadow play from the BN government. This is a way out for them to save face," he said.

"The deputy prime minister (Ahmad Zahid Hamidi), the PAC chief (Hasan Arifin) and Salleh were so gung-ho.

"Zahid urged Pua to be man enough to debate, so of course Pua is ready. However, the speaker's ruling is now that the debate cannot be allowed," he said.

Speaker 'a shield'

"They were so courageous because they knew they had a shield - the speaker," he said.

Pandikar this morning ordered Pua to either resign from the PAC or withdraw from the committee's investigation into 1MDB if he wanted to debate with 1MDB's Arul Kanda.

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