

PAC to decide on 1MDB probe witnesses after audit report

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Alyaa Azhar

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will decide whether there is a need to call in more witnesses in relation to the corporate governance of 1MDB after the auditor-general tables the audit report on the company.

“After the auditor-general tables his report and if there is a need for it, the PAC will consider to call in more witnesses,” PAC chief Hasan Arifin said in a statement, after today’s proceedings involving former 1MDB chairperson Bakke Salleh and ex-CEO Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi.

PAC member Tony Pua previously urged that ex-1MDB CEO Mohd Hazem Abdul Rahman and Bank Negara governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz be called to testify before the committee on the matter.

However, Hasan on Tuesday said no more witnesses will be called before the PAC as it has enough information to table its report on 1MDB’s corporate governance to Parliament.

Meanwhile, when met after today’s proceedings, Pua (photo) told Malaysiakini that the PAC has yet to decide whether both Shahrol and Bakke will be the last witnesses or otherwise.

The Petaling Jaya Utara MP, however, said that Bakke and Shahrol had given their cooperation to the PAC in today’s hearing.

“PAC members were able to raise all questions that we wanted to put forward. Some were answered, some were not.

“But at least all questions were raised and we don’t need to call in Shahrol again,” he said.

Press conference cancelled

Pua also confirmed that a press conference which was initially slated for tomorrow has been cancelled.

“No, there is no session tomorrow. We have concluded (the hearing) today,” he said.

The auditor-general will present the audit report on 1MDB on Feb 24 and 25 and the PAC will then table its report to Parliament in the next Dewan Rakyat session.

The PAC was roped in to look into the debt-ridden sovereign fund after it was reported that it had accumulated massive debts and had been struggling to meet its commitments, with billions in assets, investments, cash and ‘units’ unaccounted for.

The company, however, has consistently denied both wrongdoing and mismanagement, claiming that it was not in financial trouble but has embarked on a 'rationalisation' of its assets and liabilities.

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