

Kit Siang: Summon AG and police chief too
Malaysiakini.com
March 2, 2007
Beh Lih Yi

If Lim Kit Siang has his way, attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail and police chief Musa Hassan will have to face a parliamentary committee in the inquiry into Anti-Corruption Agency boss Zulkipli Mat Noor.

Lim, a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Integrity, said today that he would propose to the committee in a scheduled meeting on March 12 to call in Abdul Gani and Musa.

The opposition leader said the appearance of the duo before the committee will help to throw light on several "vexing questions" following their respective statements in the media recently.

They include whether any investigation was initiated against Zulkipli in 1997 on the corruption charges - when the ACA was said to be aware of the matter - and if there was, why the investigation took 10 years without any outcome.

Lim also criticised Musa for proposing a tripartite task force comprising the police, ACA and AG's chamber to probe the corruption allegations against Zulkipli.

"(The proposal) is most extraordinary as it would open the way for the AG's Chambers to be involved in criminal investigations apart from admitting lack of confidence that the police itself is capable or competent to conduct such investigation on its own," said the veteran politician.

'Nothing personal'

The select committee is scheduled to hear from Zulkipli and the whistleblower Mohamad Ramli Manan on March 12.

Zulkipli landed in the spotlight on Monday following the disclosure of a report penned by Ramli, who is former Sabah ACA chief, last year which contained numerous allegations against the ACA chief ranging from corruption practices to sexual crime.

The ACA chief has dismissed the allegations as "baseless" while the attorney-general said Zulkipli was cleared from the sexual crime after an investigation in 1997.

Lim said although the select committee does not have executive and punitive power, it however can make several recommendations on the matter such as the vetting process involving top government officials.

"It is not for us to act as a court of law to ascertain who is right or wrong," he noted, when asked to comment on views that felt the select committee may not be an appropriate venue to hear the case.

To another question, he said the select committee is looking at the matter with regards to its integrity dimension while the other parties, such as the Public Services Commission, can look at the matter from their own perspective.

Lim, who has issued several media statements and expressed strong views on the matter,

disagreed there will be any prejudice on his part when he sits in the commission to hear Zulkipli's case.

He stressed that he has nothing personal against Zulkipli and what he has commented in the media statements were questions arising from the matter, which he wants clarifications to be made.

In a related development, Musa Abdul Gani had a three-hour meeting earlier today to discuss matters pertaining to the corruption allegations against Zulkipli.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.

Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/63975>