

The AG and Shahidan: When silence is not golden
Malaysiakini.com
Disember 7, 2010

Social and anti-graft activist Robert Phang appears to have hit the raw nerve of the government with the latest allegation that attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail had gone on a trip to Mecca with former Malaysia Airlines System (MAS) chairman Tajuddin Ramli's proxy Shahidan Shafie.

Tajuddin is locked in an alleged RM8 billion MAS scandal which was exposed and backed by confidential documents produced recently by blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin.

For the AG to be allegedly associated with a possible crime and for him to remain silent on the allegations, unable to even go on record to deny the allegations, is worrying.

The public's perception is that the allegations are true because the AG is unable to act or deny against the allegations.

Phang has said he had received many calls from friends who showed concern for his well-being, advising him to be cautious with anti-graft issues. Phang is a panel member of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) advisory committee.

It is his duty to fight graft without fear or favour.

In fact, more than a year after the establishment of the MACC, Phang is clearly the only member who has consistently displayed some guts in the fight against graft with his relentless public statements, with some of them even being critical of the MACC itself.

The others, meanwhile, have been shy of publicity, rendering themselves as MACC puppets or showpieces. They are only interested in keeping up with their appointments

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/letters/150194>