

'AG's silence eroding people's confidence in gov't'
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Robert Phang Miow Sin, a member of the MACC's consultative and advisory panel, has again hit out at attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail for his silence on his connection with Shahidan Shafie, proxy of former Malaysia Airlines chairperson Tajuddin Ramli.

NONEPhang (right) said Prime Minister Najib Razak's reminder of the "four diseases" and his call to BN leaders not to be "arrogant" was a timely reminder for the AG to face the public's questions and demands.

"The PM's reminder that ministers and BN leaders must not be arrogant is very timely. Government leaders who feel they are not accountable to the ordinary man in the street would make the citizenry have not only disdain for the government, but that would also sow the seeds of hatred towards the BN government," said Phang in a statement today.

"In the end the BN government will be alienated from the people and that can only spell disaster at the ballot box," he warned.

He said the root cause of public cynicism over MACC and in particular the prosecution of former Selangor menteri besar Mohd Khir Toyo for graft, was a result of doubts over the "credibility of the AG Chambers, in particular of the personal integrity of AG Gani Patail himself".

He said that as the AG's conduct "public and personal" had to be "beyond reproach", any suspicions on the AG not addressed would make MACC and the government's efforts "futile".

"It will be unfortunate if the AG himself becomes a stumbling block to the government's and the MACC's efforts to portray a 'Bersih, Cekap, Amanah' government. It is like the saying, 'Ketam cuba mengajar anaknya berjalan lurus'," said Phang.

Why charge Khir under Penal Code?

The MACC advisor added that public concerns over the charging of Mohd Khir (below) had to be answered.

NONEAcknowledging the importance of public perception, Phang said, "I am therefore compelled to voice out the public scepticism why Khir Toyo was charged under the Penal Code and not under the MACC Act, since the investigation was made by the MACC and not the Police.

"The public has not forgotten that the MACC Act was passed specifically to facilitate easier investigation and prosecution for corruption offences," he said.

He reminded that "the AG Chambers had invoked the more draconian corruption provisions in the predecessor (Anti-Corruption) Act to the MACC Act, when charging Ramli Yusuff and lawyer Rosli Dahlan" and questioned why the same severity was not applied in the case of Mohd Khir.

NONEPhang added that "it is an open secret that it was MACC's recommendation to withdraw the charge against Rosli Dahlan, yet the AG has not responded".

He said that there was public suspicion that Rosli was being persecuted for his role in the Malaysia Airlines case involving losses of RM 8 billion during the tenure of Tajuddin (left), that he had been pressing for prosecution on.

He said that following the Najib's call, Abdul Gani should come forward and answer to his allegations, lest the government loses public trust as warned by the PM.

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