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KUALA LUMPUR: It is up to the prime minister to decide whether a one-day parliamentary session should be held to appoint new members to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Dr Ronald Kiandee said yesterday.

According to Parliament's rules of procedure, Kiandee said, the power to call for any Dewan Rakyat sitting outside of its regular sessions lay with the executive.

"Parliament can convene only when the prime minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) has announced a decision to hold an emergency sitting," he told the *New Straits Times*.

This follows DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang's call for Najib to hold a special meeting in Parliament before Aug 31 to appoint a new chairman for the PAC.

In a statement posted on his blog yesterday, Lim said Najib, who will chair a cabinet meeting tomorrow, should look into the matter urgently.

"Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein has also publicly expressed support for a one-day special Parliament to fill the post of PAC chairman.

"However, they are thinking of a special one-day sitting of Parliament some time next month, which would cause inordinate and unjustifiable delay in allowing the new PAC chairman to be appointed, and PAC to resume its investigations into IMDB (Malaysia Development Bhd)"

Lim added that the 75 members of parliament from DAP, PKR and Gerakan Harapan Baru were ready to attend the special parliamentary sitting, should one be called on Aug 31.

Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Samad had also called for a one-day sitting so that suitable candidates could be appointed to fill vacant posts on the PAC.

Shahrir had said Alling the vacancies would allow the PAC to resume its probe into IMDB's finances, which had been temporarily suspended following the appointment of four PAC members to ministerial posts during a cabinet reshuffle on July 28.

Their replacements are expected to be appointed only when Parliament reconvenes in October.

PAC deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw urged Najib to allow the committee to resume its work to avoid delays in the investigation.

"The probe into IMDB cannot wait for three months. There cannot be any impression that the investigation is being interfered with."

The four PAC members appointed to the cabinet were the committee's chairman, Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Datuk Mas Ermeyati Samsudin and Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau.