

Putrajaya says probing MACC trio over Teoh death
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 — Police and public prosecutors are now investigating the three anti-graft officers who allegedly drove Teoh Beng Hock to suicide, after his sister lodged a police report over the matter, according to Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz.

The de facto law minister said in a written reply in Parliament to DAP's Serdang MP Teo Nie Ching that the Attorney-General's Chambers is now studying investigation papers after the report lodged by Teoh Lee Lan on October 28 last year.

The minister in the prime minister's department (picture) had said on October 24 that the AG was not pursuing legal action against the three Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officers implicated in the DAP aide's 2009 death as no police report had been lodged and there was a lack of investigative evidence.

"Police are conducting investigations to gather testimonies and evidence on the report. Investigation papers have been referred to the state prosecution chief and AGC to be studied and further advice," he said.

However, Teo told reporters today this contradicted Nazri's March 29 reply to PKR's Gopeng MP Lee Boon Chye where he said "the AGC has found no criminal wrongdoing... no legal action will be taken against the three MACC officers."

The Padang Rengas MP refused to comment on the matter today, only sending a message through his aide for reporters to "clarify with the AG as his officer provided the response."

Teoh, political aide to Seri Kembangan assemblyman Ean Yong Hian Wah, was found dead on July 16, 2009 on the fifth-floor corridor of Selangor MACC's office in Shah Alam after overnight questioning.

A coroner's inquest returned an "open verdict" ruling out both suicide and homicide, leading Datuk Seri Najib Razak to order a royal commission of inquiry (RCI) after public uproar.

The royal panel found that the three MACC investigating officers involved in the case used "continuous, aggressive and improper questioning tactics on TBH which had breached its existing standard operating procedures" and recommended that action be taken against them.

A previous RCI in 2007 probing allegations that appointments of judges were fixed also recommended action against senior lawyer Datuk VK Lingam, tycoon Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Umno secretary general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, former Chief Justices Tun Eusoff Chin and Tun Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim as well as Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

But Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, who has been AG since 2002, has not prosecuted any

individual implicated in either RCI.

His failure do so, combined with allegations by former senior police officers that he fabricated evidence in high-profile cases such as Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's "black eye" case in 1998, has led to calls that a Tribunal be set up to investigate the claims of misconduct.

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