

EAIC investigator same MACC officer in Teoh Beng Hock's case, DAP reps claim
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 – Mohd Nadzri Ibrahim, the sole investigator named in the independent probe on two recent custodial death cases, is likely the same anti-graft officer who questioned Teoh Beng Hock the day he died, two Penang DAP lawmakers alleged today.

Bukit Bendera MP Zairil Khir Johari (picture) and Bukit Mertajam MP Steven Sim Chee Keong said they suspect that Mohd Nadzri was formerly attached to the Selangor Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and was the officer who recorded Teoh's statement on July 16, 2009, hours before he plunged to his death.

"We have reason to believe (this)," they said in a joint statement here. "If this is true, it means that an officer previously involved in a custodial death case is now tasked to investigate other custodial death cases.

"Therefore, the integrity of the EAIC again becomes a huge question mark," they added, referring to the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC).

The EAIC yesterday named members of its independent six-man taskforce, which included Mohd Nadzri, EAIC secretary Ahmad Razif Mohd Sidek, director Foo Hui Yi and legal adviser Eda Mazuin Abdul Rahman.

EAIC chairman Datuk Heliliah Mohd Yusof and EAIC commissioner Datuk Seri Robert Jacob Ridu were appointed as supervisors while former Bar Council president Lim Chee Wee and former Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohd Jamil Johari were named as consultants to the team.

According to the EAIC, the task force set up on May 28, will conduct a holistic review of the standard operating procedures (SOP) that led to the deaths of N. Dharmendran and R. Jamesh Ramesh.

But Zairil and Sim said Mohd Nadzri's position was suspect and unsuitable if he had indeed been the officer who interviewed Teoh, a political aide with the DAP, in the early hours of July 16, 2009, before his death.

Teoh was called in for questioning to the MACC the night before on July 15 and was interrogated overnight before he fell to his death on a landing of Plaza Masalam in Shah Alam, the MACC's headquarters at the time.

The case sparked national outrage and cast a spotlight on the MACC's standard operating procedures and alleged infringement on an individual's rights while under their custody.

According to Zairil and Sim, the Bar Council had once also urged for further investigation against the MACC officers involved in the case, including Mohd Nadzri, following accusations of criminal conspiracy, abetment and tampering of evidence.

Zairil and Sim added that based on the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission's (EAIC) website, Mohd Nadzri is now listed as the sole investigator in its directory.

They noted that EAIC chief executive Nor Afizah Hanum Mokhtar had also once said that the authority's investigating officer was inherited from the MACC.

"At the same time, a search in the MACC directory showed that Mohd Nadzri is no longer listed with them.

"Therefore, there is a large possibility that the sole investigator for the EAIC, Mohd Nadzri Ibrahim, is the same MACC officer who interrogated Teoh Beng Hock before his death," they said in the statement.

Zairil and Sim urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to intervene on the matter by stating clearly if Mohd Nadzri was indeed the officer in Teoh's case.

"And if so, he should be pulled immediately from the authority, as well as from all investigations on lock-up deaths," they said.

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