

MACC tells EAIC to drop investigator on deaths in custody
Malaysian Insider
June 14, 2013
By Boo Su-Lyn

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 — The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has urged the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) to remove Mohd Nadzri Ibrahim, its sole investigator, from investigating death-in-custody cases.

The MACC's recommendation came after two DAP MPs said on Wednesday that Mohd Nadzri, who was previously attached with the graftbuster, was likely the one who had recorded Teoh Beng Hock's statement in 2009 before the DAP political aide plunged to his death from the then Selangor MACC headquarters in Shah Alam.

"SPRM does not want any SPRM officers linked to any controversies, whether it involves SPRM itself or the EAIC," said the MACC in a statement issued late last night, using its Malay initials.

"In this matter, SPRM wishes to stress that Mohd Nadzri Ibrahim, an SPRM officer who was seconded to the EAIC since more than a year ago, is an officer who has always conducted his duties professionally. Like SPRM, SPRM is confident that the EAIC, which is an independent commission, would also want to ensure justice for all parties involved in the issue of deaths in custody," it added.

The MACC, however, did not confirm if Mohd Nadzri was involved with Teoh's interrogation in 2009.

The EAIC told The Malaysian Insider yesterday that Mohd Nadzri's position would be discussed at the next meeting of its task force on deaths in custody.

The task force's meeting is said to be its second since it was set up on May 28, with the date of the meeting yet to be fixed.

On Tuesday, the EAIC named the members of the independent six-man task force, which included Mohd Nadzri, EAIC secretary Ahmad Razif Mohd Sidek, director Foo Hui Yi and legal adviser Eda Mazuin Abdul Rahman.

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

According to the EAIC, the task force will conduct a holistic review of the standard operating procedures (SOP) that led to the recent deaths of N. Dhamendran and R. Jamesh Ramesh in police custody.

On Wednesday, DAP lawmakers Zairil Khir Johari and Steven Sim Chee Keong said the EAIC's integrity would be in doubt if it was proven that Mohd Nadzri was the MACC officer who was part of the anti-graft probe of Teoh on July 16, 2009, before the DAP political aide fell to his death on the same day.

Teoh was called in for questioning by the MACC on July 15, 2009, and was interrogated

overnight before he fell to his death on a landing of Plaza Masalam in Shah Alam, the Selangor MACC's headquarters at the time.

The case sparked national outrage and cast a spotlight on the MACC's SOP and alleged infringement on an individual's rights while under its custody.

The DAP duo said that there was a large possibility that Mohd Nadzri was the MACC officer who interrogated Teoh before his death, citing the EAIC's website and the MACC's directory while also referring to EAIC chief executive Nor Afizah Hanum Mokhtar previously saying that the commission's investigating officer was inherited from the MACC.

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