

BN nominates Jazlan as PAC chief, Seng Giaw as deputy
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After a heated exchange on whether he was the right man for the job, three-term BN Pulai MP Datuk Nur Jazlan was appointed the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman and opposition veteran Dr Tan Seng Giaw his deputy.

Several key opposition members including Bagan MP Lim Guan Eng, PKR Gombak MP Azmin Ali and Pokok Sena MP Datuk Mahfuz Omar earlier argued in Parliament today that having an opposition member as the chairman would increase PAC's credibility.

Leading the charge, Lim argued that most major parliamentary democracies have the PAC committee headed by the opposition.

Azmin said Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was the logical choice by virtue of his position.

He noted that the Selangor Pakatan Rakyat (PR) leadership had offered the Selangor PAC chair to the BN opposition leader (BN) in the state, Sungai Burung assemblyman Datuk Mohd Shamsuddin Ilas, but he turned it down.

Mahfuz suggested Tan as he had the experience of having been on PAC as a deputy over three terms.

However, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said that the fact that opposition members were being included in the PAC was sufficient, as had been the case over the years.

In a report by The Malaysian Insider earlier today it was stated that BN was nominating Jazlan, a trained accountant and corporate man, as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was concerned about the plethora of cases likely to come before the committee.

"Jazlan has the background and is seen as acceptable to the opposition too," said a BN source, pointing out that the Pulai MP was a PAC member in the last parliament.

The Malaysian Insider learnt that BN had considered several other names for the post, including a few former ministers who are still MPs but Najib had plumped for Jazlan due to his corporate and accountancy background. The others were also seen to have too much political baggage for the key post.

Jazlan will have a tougher time than his predecessors as PR now has a formidable bench of parliamentarians knowledgeable in finance such as Raub MP Datuk Mohd Ariff Sabri, Bagan MP Lim Guan Eng, Petaling Jaya MP Tony Pua and Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli.

PAC will also have a wider portfolio to cover as the Auditor-General can now open up the books of sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd, which holds the government's shares in some 70 companies, including public-listed entities.

The Auditor-General's Report has been used as a basis for PAC investigations and there are number of public infrastructure projects that have seen cost overruns and delays that would

be of interest, such as the KLIA2 project.

Under Parliament rules, PAC consists of a chairman and vice-chairman to be appointed by the House, and not less than six and not more than 12 members to be nominated by the committee of selection, as soon as may be after the beginning of each Parliament.

PAC's main job is to examine the country's accounts and appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure, accounts of public authorities and those administering public funds, Auditor-General's Reports and other matters it deems fit.

Jazlan was formerly chairman of UDA Holdings Bhd, a company under the Ministry of Finance, and also a director with Telekom Malaysia Bhd.

Jazlan is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants UK and was a council member and chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants, as well as a council member of the Asean Federation of Accountants.

He is the eldest son of former information minister and Umno secretary-general the late Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat. - July 18, 2013.

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