

Probe into Beng Hock's death has great flaw, says DAP
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DAP has criticised the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI), set up to investigate the death of Teoh Beng Hock, saying it had committed a "great flaw" after failing to pin the death on Malaysia's anti-graft body.

Party leader Lim Kit Siang, marking the fifth anniversary of Teoh's death today, said despite "evidence galore", the RCI had failed to affix responsibility on the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

He said responsibility should not only fall on MACC officers but also the institution.

"The RCI report only made oblique references to the MACC's role and responsibility over Teoh's death without pointing directly to MACC's liability and responsibility.

"This is most unsatisfactory and an abdication of responsibility of the RCI on its specific terms of reference 'to inquire into the death of Teoh Beng Hock and the circumstances surrounding and contributing to his death'," he said in a statement today.

Teoh, who was the political aide to Seri Kembangan assemblyman Ean Yong Hian Wah, was found dead on the fifth floor of Plaza Masalam in Shah Alam in 2009 after being summoned by the MACC to have his statement recorded over his boss' alleged abuse of state funds.

A coroner's inquest had in January 2011 returned an "open verdict" ruling out both suicide and homicide.

The RCI was then subsequently set up, which was chaired by Federal Court judge Tan Sri James Foong.

It then found that Teoh was driven to suicide after relentless questioning by anti-graft officers after hearing testimonies from 70 witnesses in a bid to unravel the circumstances behind Teoh's death.

Lim accused the MACC of going to great lengths to participate in "a conspiracy of silence and lies to pervert the course of justice to cover up" the actual causes and circumstances of Teoh's death.

"Teoh's death will be in vain if his killers remain free and unpunished and the MACC is not held responsible and liable for his death," said the Gelang Patah MP.

In billing Teoh's death as one of the "greatest injustices" in the nation's 57-year history, Lim vowed that Malaysians committed to justice would not rest until Teoh's killers were brought to justice.

"DAP and Pakatan Rakyat will continue to highlight the injustice of Teoh's unresolved murder at MACC premises as well as the growing list of custodial deaths, especially in police lock-ups in the next meeting of Parliament," he added.

On December 1, 2011, the High Court in a revision, upheld the coroner's open verdict in the inquest to ascertain the circumstances leading to Teoh's death.

Both the coroner and the High Court found there were pre-fall injuries on Beng Hock's neck but concluded that there was insufficient evidence to point towards assault.

The family had filed a suit against the MACC and 12 others in February last year for assault and occupier's liability.

Teoh's father, Leong Hwee, his mother, Teng Shuw Hoi, his fiancée Soh Cher Wei and son Er Jia are seeking damages for their sadness, loss of dependency and negligence on the part of the defendants.

So far, 13 witnesses have given evidence for the family.

But the civil suit was put off pending the Court of Appeal decision on whether the former political aide had died because of foul play or he had committed suicide. – July 16, 2014.

- See more at:
<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/probe-into-beng-hocks-death-has-great-flaw-says-dap#sthash.Eb2oO17L.dpuf>

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