

**Police now say will wait for Auditor-General's audit on 1MDB**  
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Police today said it would wait for the National Audit Department to complete the audit report on debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) before commencing with their own investigations into the matter.

Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, who yesterday announced that a new task force was being formed to investigate the strategic investment company, explained that this was provided the Auditor-General uncovered any discrepancies during their probe.

His statement echoed that of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), which said it would wait for the audit process to be completed before moving on with investigations, and on whether the Auditor General's Department and the Public Account Committee (PAC) found a case for them to pursue.

"In the event that the enquiry uncovers any discrepancies, the police will commence investigations henceforth," Khalid said in a statement today.

He said that if an investigation was initiated, the focus would be on 1MDB's decision makers.

On suggestion that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak would be quizzed regarding the matter, Khalid clarified that what he meant was that police would speak to those the force believed would be able to shed light on the case.

"Be that as it may, the focus will be on the decision makers in the company," he said, adding that these actions would only commence if the Auditor-General's report discovered discrepancies and indications of wrongdoing.

Khalid also cautioned all parties against lodging reports without any basis, and warned of police action against those who deliberately waste police resources.

"Please allow due process to take its course," he said.

On the formation of the task force, Khalid said it was to allow pooling of resources in facilitating the investigations which he said would be more effective than carrying out separate investigations.

"In addition to the police's Commercial Crimes Division and the Attorney-General's Chambers, the task force also includes MACC," he added.

The 1MDB has been dogged by controversy over its debt portfolio, which has reached a staggering RM42 billion, as well as financial mismanagement.

Last week, whistleblower site Sarawak Report's exposés prompted opposition

politicians, former Umno leaders and anti-graft bodies to demand a thorough investigation into 1MDB, and piled pressure on Najib, who is also the finance minister and chairman of 1MDB's advisory board.

Last Wednesday, he ordered the Auditor-General to "independently verify 1MDB's accounts", with the findings to be passed to a bipartisan parliamentary public accounts committee.

"If any wrongdoing is proven, the law will be enforced without exception," Najib said in a statement released by his office. – March 10, 2015.

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