

## **1MDB: Give National Audit Department Some Space - PAC**

**Bernama**

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- All parties should stop making any assumptions and instead give enough space to the National Audit Department (NAD) to carry out its audit on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman, Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said PAC believed in the integrity, ability and credibility of the NAD under the leadership of the Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang to conduct the audit in a neutral, transparent and responsible manner.

"NAD should be given sufficient space to perform the audit of 1MDB and it should be done without any fear or intervention from any party," he said in a statement, in Kuala Lumpur, Tuesday.

Nur Jazlan said there has been too many assumptions and information on 1MDB's accounts spread on the social network, news portal and blogs and as such, it was better for all the stakeholders to be patient and wait for the audit results.

He said it was important for the NAD to conduct the audit in a careful manner to make sure every nook and scope of the accounts, operations and 1MDB investments were audited thoroughly.

"PAC will also collaborate with the Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) if there are any irregularities found in the 1MDB audit, once we get the report from the NAD," he added.

Meanwhile, the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said police would only begin investigations if the audit on 1MDB by the National Audit Department uncovers any discrepancies.

He said police would await Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang's report on this matter.

"In the event that the inquiry uncovers any discrepancies, the police will commence investigations henceforth," he said in a statement in the capital.

Speaking in Putrajaya earlier Tuesday, Ambrin disclosed that the department had begun an audit of 1MDB soon after being instructed to do so by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak last week.

Khalid in his statement clarified media reports which quoted him as suggesting that Najib would be questioned regarding this issue.

"What I actually meant was that the police will speak to all whom we believe can help shed light on the case. Be that as it may, the focus would be on the decision makers in the

company," the IGP said.

Khalid reiterated that these actions would only commence if the Auditor-General's report unveiled discrepancies and indications of wrongdoing in the government-owned strategic development company.

"Otherwise, investigations will not ensue," he said.

The country's top police officer cautioned all parties against lodging reports pertaining to 1MDB without any basis.

"Police will take action against those who deliberately impose on our time and resources unnecessarily. Please allow due process to take its course," he said.

It was reported that the Attorney-General had formed a special task force to investigate police reports lodged over 1MDB issues concerning alleged mismanagement of funds.

Khalid said the task force would be headed by the Attorney-General's Chambers to allow pooling of resources in facilitating investigations.

This, he said, would be more effective than carrying out separate investigations.

In addition to the police Commercial Crimes Division and the AG's Chambers, Khalid said the task force also included the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

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