

It's Najib who should go on leave over 1MDB, Pua tells Umno lawyer
The Malaysian Insider
Jun 26, 2015

Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah should ask Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to go on leave while debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development (1MDB) is investigated by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), said DAP's Tony Pua.

Pua, who is on the bi-partisan panel, said this after the top Umno lawyer suggested he step down from PAC because he "issued a lot of statements which can affect investigations into the company".

The DAP national publicity chief questioned if there was an attempt to get him removed from PAC so that the top management of 1MDB would not face his anticipated grilling, given his extensive research on the dealings of the state fund.

Pua said Shafee should instead ask Najib to take leave as every transaction undertaken by 1MDB had his explicit written approval as the finance minister.

"How can Datuk Seri Najib Razak be allowed to direct the manner, timing and mechanism of investigations over such a monstrous scandal where he is also a prime suspect?

"Shouldn't the lawyer in Tan Sri Mohamed Shafee who claims to uphold natural justice balk at such a massive conflict of interest?", Pua questioned in a statement today.

The Petaling Jaya Utara MP said that BN Backbenchers Club chairman Datuk Seri Shahrir Abdul Samad's support of Shafee's call on the grounds that Pua "knew too much" had sullied the Johor Baru MP's credibility.

Both Shafee (pic, left) and Shahrir had suggested that Pua become a witness in the investigations instead.

"If his claim that I know 'a lot about 1MDB' is indeed true, all the more I should be part of the investigation team.

"Why should I be a witness since I'm not in any way related to the various questionable transactions carried out by 1MDB?" Pua asked.

He said PAC was made up of 8 Barisan Nasional (BN) and 5 opposition MPs.

"Surely, if I step out of line, the 8 BN MPs will pounce on me and give no quarter."

He added that if he made completely unfounded statements and 1MDB was able to debunk his allegations during the PAC hearing, BN MPs would not miss out on the opportunity to deride him in the committee meetings.

Pua said the entire proceeding will be recorded verbatim and published in the report

tabled in Parliament and available to the public.

"So, if 1MDB was able to make a complete fool of me, my foolishness will be recorded permanently in history."

He said he did not have high hopes that Shafee would ask Najib to take leave given how he acted as public prosecutor against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in his sodomy case, and the fact that the lawyer had gone on a nationwide roadshow to demonise the former opposition leader.

"And he has the cheek now to ask me to shut up over the investigation of 1MDB.

"What irony," said Pua.

Last month, PAC started its investigation into the Finance Ministry-owned 1MDB, an investment vehicle established in 2009 which has accumulated debts of RM42 billion.

A series of exposes on the company has piled pressure on Najib and prompted opposition politicians, former and current Umno leaders as well as anti-graft bodies to demand a thorough investigation into the fund.

The Auditor-General is currently looking through 1MDB's books, with a preliminary report expected to be submitted to the Parliament this month. – June 26, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/its-najib-who-should-go-on-leave-over-1mdb-pua-tells-umno-lawyer#sthash.HQFQFJHX.dpbs>