

**Issue Of A-G Influencing 1MDB Probe Does Not Arise - Task Force
Bernama
July 16, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- Any issue of Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail interfering in and influencing the investigation on the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) by the Special Task Force does not arise, it was stated today.

Instead, the task force said, Abdul Gani, as the Public Prosecutor, was only referred to for guidance and legal advice to ensure that the investigation was handled in a holistic way and in accordance with the law.

The task force also comprises Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

A joint statement issued Thursday by Zeti, Khalid and Abu Kassim clarified that the investigation was handled by Bank Negara, Royal Malaysia Police and MACC as the relevant investigating agencies.

It also stated that it was the normal practice for the attorney-general to give guidance and advice in cases under investigation and that the guidelines and legal advice provided in the case of 1MDB were similar and consistent with the common practice in all cases being investigated.

The statement said the discussions among the agencies were held from time to time for the purpose of collective coordination to ensure a smooth investigation process.

The statement was issued in response to a Malaysian Insider portal report today titled 'Gani Patail should withdraw from 1MDB task force, say former A-G, lawyers' which stated that it was not appropriate for Abdul Gani to be a member of the task force investigating the 1MDB case.

According to the statement, MACC, the police and Bank Negara had their own scope of investigation in accordance with the country's legal provisions.

"Hence, the MACC chief commissioner and Bank Negara governor are the heads responsible at their respective investigation level," he said.

"In this matter, the attorney-general is very well aware of his jurisdiction as provided for in Article 145(3) of the Federal Constitution and Section 376 of the Criminal Procedure Code," said the statement.

The statement said the task force would carry out the investigation in a transparent, independent and professional manner and hoped that all parties would place their confidence and trust in the task force.

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Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1153571>