

Rahman Dahlan talking nonsense, 1MDB report can be made public, says Tony Pua
The Malaysian Insider
July 26, 2015

The finance minister has the power to direct the auditor-general (A-G) to make public his findings in the interim report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), DAP lawmaker Tony Pua said, after an Umno minister claimed otherwise.

Pua said Barisan Nasional (BN) strategic communications director Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan was speaking "complete and utter nonsense" when the latter said clauses in the parliamentary standing order prevented the report from being made public.

"While the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) cannot indeed be made public until the PAC's report is tabled in Parliament, that's the PAC's report and not any A-G's report.

"PAC has absolutely no power to prevent any document submitted to the committee to be separately made available to the public or any other party," said Pua, who also sits on the bipartisan committee.

The DAP publicity chief added that no clause in the parliamentary standing orders, the Audit Act 1957 and the Federal Constitution forbids the A-G's investigations, audits or findings from being made public.

"All that is necessary for it to happen is a directive from the finance minister to whom the A-G reports," said Pua.

He said this begged the question as to why Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also finance minister and chairs the 1MDB advisory board, had yet to order the A-G to disclose publicly the interim report.

The Petaling Jaya Utara MP said the report would allow Malaysians to confirm if Sarawak Report had tampered with the documents related to 1MDB before they were published on the whistle-blower site.

He said it would also prove whether The Edge, which had its publishing licences suspended, used "unverified information" as the basis for its reports.

"Perhaps more importantly, the interim report can testify to whether there was an evil conspiracy to bring down a democratically elected government as alleged by BN leaders or was it a coming together of patriotic, right-thinking individuals who want to ensure government leaders and individuals behind billions of ringgit of corruption and misappropriation are punished for their crimes?"

Pua said Rahman's tendency to give "flimsy and untenable excuses" to prevent the interim report from being made public would merely convince the people that Najib's

administration was determined to cover up its wrongdoings.

"The minister must realise that the truth will always find its way to the surface, and it will never be successfully suppressed.

"Hence the faster the interim report is made public, perhaps the less damaging it will be for the prime minister's and BN's credibility."

On Thursday night, Rahman had tweeted that the prime minister had no power to make the A-G's interim report on 1MDB public as it was bound by a parliamentary standing order.

The urban wellbeing, housing and local government minister said any information submitted or discussed in the PAC could not be made public by the committee before it was submitted to the Dewan Rakyat.

The 1MDB interim report was forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on July 9 even as the bipartisan panel conducted its inquiry into the debt-laden state investment vehicle.

Yesterday, Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said that the government might extradite Sarawak Report founder and editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown for interfering in the country's sovereignty if a case could be established.

His statement came a day after his ministry suspended The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily for three months starting tomorrow over their coverage of 1MDB.
– July 26, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/rahman-dahlan-talking-nonsense-1mdb-report-can-be-made-public-says-tony-pua>