

1MDB special task force disbanded, says MACC
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The high-level government task force investigating 1Malaysia Development Bhd has been disbanded, with the three main agencies now ordered to work independently, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said.

In a statement today, the anti-graft agency sought to allay concerns that it had issued a statement on the RM2.6 billion channelled into the prime minister's accounts without the involvement of the police and Bank Negara Malaysia, which was the original composition of the task force headed by former Attorney General Tan Sri Gani Patail.

"The MACC did not make the announcement through the task force after the Attorney-General advised us that there was no need for a special task force.

"That the investigating agencies can continue their roles based on the relevant laws," the commission said.

It did not name which particular AG the advice came from, but Gani was replaced by Federal Court judge Tan Sri Apandi Ali last week.

Since Gani's removal from office as A-G on July 27, the position of task force made up of the A-G, MACC, Bank Negara and police has been in question with critics questioning if it was still in force.

In the past week, however, members of the task force were hauled up for questioning by Bukit Aman under Section 124 of the Penal Code for activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy.

MACC special operations director Datuk Bahri Mohamad Zin was the sixth person to be hauled up and had said that he was questioned on the alleged draft of the charge sheet against Najib which was published by whistleblower site Sarawak Report last week.

MACC deputy public prosecutor, Ahmad Sazilee Abdul Khairy, was also arrested together with Tan Sri Rashpal Singh, a former MACC adviser, and Jessica Gurmit Kaur, an officer with AGC.

Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar also reportedly did not discount the possibility of Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akthar Aziz and MACC number two Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull being questioned by the police.

It was reported earlier today that MACC chief Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed had gone on leave for a week. – August 5, 2015.

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