

**PAC Making Public Interim Report On 1MDB Against Dewan Rakyat Standing Orders  
-Pandikar  
Bernama  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The proposal by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to make public the PAC's interim report on its probe into the dealings of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) is against the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat, said Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia.

He said the the Dewan Rakyat's Standing Order 85 prohibited the PAC's findings from being made public before they are presented to the House (Dewan Rakyat).

Standing Order 85 states: The evidence taken before any Select Committee and any documents presented to such Committee shall not be published by any member of such Committee, or by any other person, before the Committee has presented its Report to the House.

"The publication of an interim report is also against Section 23 of the Houses of Parliament (Privileges and Powers) Act 1952, which clearly disallows any MP or committee from making revelations outside the House without first getting its approval.

He said this in commenting on a statement by PAC vice-chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw that the committee might issue an interim report on its probe into the dealings of 1MDB, a sovereign fund, to let the public know the status on the investigations it has carried out.

On the issue of whether the PAC can continue its meetings as it only has just three members left, Pandikar said Standing Order 83 (3) stated that unless the House otherwise directed, three members including the Chairman shall be the quorum.

"However, although the quorum criteria have been met, but because the chairman's post has been vacated, the PAC cannot continue with its meetings until a chairman is appointed by the House," he said.

He also stressed that Standing Order 77(3) was only applicable when there is a sitting chairman and that the PAC did not have inherent powers to choose one of their own to be chairman when the post was vacated.

Standing Order [77 (3) states: In the absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman due to illness or for any other reason whatsoever the Committee shall elect any one member to act as a Chairman to preside over the Committee's meeting.

On the issue of the vice-chairman filling in for the chairman, Pandikar said the vice-chairman cannot do this because Standing Order 82 (2) was very clear on the procedures on the appointment of a new chairman.

Standing Order 82 (2) states: In the event of the death of a member appointed to a Committee, or if his seat becomes vacant for any other reason, the House or the Committee of Selection, as the case may require, shall appoint another member in his place, and in so doing shall observe the provisions of paragraph (1){ (1).

The paragraph says: Every Select Committee shall be so far as is practicable, the balance between the parties within the House is reflected in the Committee.

The issue cropped up after four members of the PAC, from the Barisan Nasional, including the chairman, were enlisted to be members of the Executive.

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