

Pua not interested in the truth, says 1MDB
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1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) said opposition lawmaker Tony Pua was not interested in the truth, amid more barbs with the DAP politician today in response to his latest urging for the troubled government-owned firm to explain investments it had redeemed from the Cayman Islands.

"Contrary to Tony Pua's claim, 1MDB has clearly provided detailed information on this on a number of occasions," 1MDB president and group executive director Arul Kanda Kandasamy said in a statement today.

"Such 'monkey business' by Pua does not benefit anyone. Malaysia is not a jungle – we have due process, procedures and laws to be followed. Accordingly, the lawful authorities must be allowed to carry on with their investigations."

Arul Kanda also repeated 1MDB's answers to claims that it had not adequately answered for the US\$1.1 billion (RM4.51 billion) brought back from the Cayman Islands.

He said 1MDB had been repaid for its US\$1.83 billion investment in murabaha notes form by PetroSaudi Oil Service Limited which converted the amount into shares of the company for a value of US\$2.22 billion.

1MDB then sold these shares for US\$2.318 billion and received "fund units" in a Cayman Islands registered fund.

"These fund units were owned by 1MDB via its 100% subsidiary, Brazen Sky, and held through BSI Bank Singapore as custodian," Arul Kanda said.

1MDB's total investment was thus US\$1.83 billion, for which it received US\$2.318 billion of fund units, "representing a gain over time of US\$488 million", he said.

Pua had asked Arul Kanda to again explain how much the "units" parked in Singapore were worth.

"Arul Kanda must explain what exactly are these mysterious 'units' parked in BSI Bank Singapore. Are they backed by listed or private company shares, or by properties or other assets?"

"More importantly, what is the bank-assessed valuation of these so-called units?" he asked in a statement today.

Arul Kanda and Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah had previously contradicted each other on the repatriation of the Cayman Islands investment, with the 1MDB chief saying they were in the form of cash, and the minister saying they were "assets" and "units".

Arul Kanda today added that he had offered to engage with Pua to share facts on 1MDB but accused the MP of not being interested in the truth.

"Rather, his aim is to score political points, undermine ongoing investigations and negatively impact 1MDB's rationalisation plan."

Arul Kanda also said that authorities such as the attorney-general, auditor-general, police, Bank Negara, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), were all currently pursuing investigations on 1MDB.

However, MACC recently announced that the special government task force probing 1MDB had been disbanded under the new attorney-general, and PAC's probe into 1MDB by reviewing the auditor-general's findings on its accounts, was also temporarily suspended. – August 17, 2015.

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