

No reason to step down from PAC, says Tony Pua
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DAP lawmaker Tony Pua today said there was no reason for him to step down from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as he was not under investigation by police over 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

He said police were only questioning him as a witness in their probe into the debt-ridden state investment firm.

Pua was responding to 1MDB's statement last night urging him to step down from the bipartisan parliamentary panel while he proved his innocence in the allegations made against him.

"1MDB should first get their facts right. I've been specifically informed by the police that I am being questioned only as a witness to their investigations.

"Is 1MDB saying that I should quit my place in PAC just because I'm assisting investigations as a witness?" Pua said in a statement today.

On Wednesday, Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said police would again summon Pua for questioning, after The New Straits Times reported Pua admitting he had introduced Sarawak Report founder and editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown to The Edge Media Group bosses.

The IGP said the Petaling Jaya Utara MP would be questioned in investigations opened under Section 120 of the Penal Code for attempts to topple the government.

Following this, 1MDB urged Pua to step down from PAC as he was "under investigation by the police".

But Pua refuted this, adding that even if he were under investigation, he did not understand how it conflicted with the investigation into 1MDB.

He said it was unlike the case of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is under investigation for RM2.6 billion deposited into his personal accounts.

Najib was a "criminal suspect" who remained in a position of power and continued to exert influence over the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) probe, said Pua.

He added that 1MDB should explain why a US\$1.4 billion (RM6.02 billion) payment from 1MDB was reportedly missing from Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Corporation (IPIC) financial statement.

He said 1MDB should secure an official public confirmation by IPIC that it continued to hold the RM6.02 billion in cash as a refundable deposit to 1MDB.

1MDB made a collateral payment of US\$1.4 billion which went to Aabar Investments PJS, a subsidiary of IPIC, The Wall Street Journal said, quoting the auditor-general's draft report in its account highlighting the allegedly missing money.

Quoting sources, WSJ said neither IPIC nor Aabar received the money and they had no knowledge of the funds' whereabouts.

In refuting the report, 1MDB said that its audited financial statements "clearly describe" the amount and purpose of the payments, which, it added, was structured as a deposit (ie. a financial asset belonging to 1MDB and not an expense to 1MDB).

1MDB said it could also confirm that IPIC provided the guarantees for the principal and interest of two US\$1.75 billion bonds it had issued, with a total principal and interest amount of approximately US\$5.5 billion. – September 11, 2015.

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