

PAS' new PAC member backs Zahid's secrecy oath

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Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan delivers a speech during the implementation of Hudud in Malaysia seminar at the Masjid Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin in Putrajaya, April 1, 2015. — Picture by Yusof Mat Isa

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 — PAS' newly-appointed Public Accounts Committee (PAC) member Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan today supported Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's proposal for PAC members to take an oath of secrecy to maintain the confidentiality of its proceedings.

The Kota Baru MP said an oath of secrecy would ensure that secrets which could affect the country's security are not leaked to the public.

"This [oath of secrecy] is to determine that all the members in PAC will not expose too much or reveal everything that transpires in the proceedings.

"Because some of the evidence is not for public," he told reporters when met at the Parliament lobby.

"The focus here is not to reveal and expose too much. Meaning that not all can be revealed and exposed... We must have the do's and don'ts," Takiyuddin added.

Takiyuddin was appointed into the PAC last week, replacing Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar who quit PAS last month and joined PKR.

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid suggested last week that PAC members pledge an oath to maintain the confidentiality of its proceedings, amid allegations of leaked documents from the panel.

Zahid, who is also a member of Parliament's Selection Committee, added that any statements or reports involving PAC's engagements should come from the panel itself, with individual members refraining from issuing personal remarks publicly.

Contents of the PAC's inquiries and hearing are already confidential, and may not be revealed before these are tabled in Parliament.

Documents thought to be from the PAC's probe on 1MDB are believed to be the basis of several *Wall Street Journal* exposés on the Malaysian firm, including one alleging that a US\$993 million (RM4.2 billion) payment to International Petroleum Investment Corporation (IPIC) went missing.

The reports prompted Umno leaders to allege that PAC members sold information on 1MDB for profit and demand authorities investigate their finances.

1MDB has also used the purported leak to deflect Pua's criticism, regularly telling him to investigate the source of the leak before continuing his offensive against the firm.

Former PAC chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed has insisted that the leak could not have come from members of the committee, however, saying they would not have been given copies of the transcripts from the hearings that contained the relevant documents.

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