

Tony Pua given green light to challenge overseas travel ban
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By V. Anbalagan

Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua today obtained leave to challenge a travel ban against him by the Immigration Department, lawyer Gobind Singh Deo said.

He said the Attorney-General's Chambers did not raise objection to the application.

Senior federal counsel Shamsul Bolhassan confirmed that the AGC did not contest the matter.

Gobind said the director-general of Immigration and Malaysian government would now file a response to Pua's judicial review bid.

A case management will be held on October 15.

"The court will fix a hearing date to hear the merits of the application once they have filed their response," Gobind said after a hearing in chambers before High Court judge Datuk Asmabi Mohamad.

Pua, who filed the application on August 19, wants the High Court to declare unlawful the order issued by the Immigration Department.

The DAP national publicity chief is also seeking damages for losses suffered following the restriction on his travel abroad.

Pua named the director-general and Putrajaya as respondents and said the decision to stop him from travelling abroad was arbitrary as he had not been given prior notice.

"Such action is a breach of my fundamental right (to travel) under the Federal Constitution," he said.

Pua said the decision was unreasonable, unfair, a wrongful exercise of discretion and tainted with mala fide.

He said since his passport was valid until 2020, he should be able to travel unhindered.

Pua, who has been critical of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), was stopped by immigration authorities from leaving the country on July 22.

He was to fly to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for work purposes when he was stopped by immigration at low-cost carrier terminal klia2 at 3.15pm.

Pua is also being sued by the prime minister, who has accused Pua of incessantly attacking him over the Finance Ministry-owned investment firm to gain political

mileage. – October 1, 2015.

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