

I have no power to remove Pua, admits PAC chief
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By Ram Anand

New Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin today said he had "no power" to remove DAP lawmaker Tony Pua from the committee.

Hasan yesterday said the committee would discuss Pua's seat on the bipartisan panel when it resumed its meetings.

But at a press conference at the Parliament lobby today, Arifin said that the committee would discuss the ethics and conduct of PAC members in general.

"I have no power to determine his membership in the committee. That is up to the select committee."

However, Hasan said that the conduct of PAC members needed to be discussed.

This came following allegations by several Barisan Nasional (BN) lawmakers that Pua had abused his position in PAC by making public statements about 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), which the panel was investigating.

Pua had been accused of conflict of interest due to his critical statements against 1MDB and because he was also a police witness in investigations into 1MDB.

The DAP MP, however, had said he never used confidential information given to PAC in his public statements about 1MDB.

Hasan today criticised the statement made by DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang questioning if the new PAC chairman was trying to get Pua removed from the panel.

"That statement was political. And it was a quick advice and free tuition for me on how to run PAC."

Hasan said that the select committee might decide on new members for PAC by the end of the week.

"I will decide after that (when to call for a PAC meeting)."

He added that PAC remained committed in continuing its inquiry into 1MDB.

A recent Cabinet reshuffle saw four PAC members, all from BN, taking up deputy minister posts, leaving the select committee with the task of replacing them. – October 20, 2015.

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