

**Is new PAC chief trying to get Pua out, asks DAP  
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By Ram Anand**

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang today questioned if new Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chief Datuk Hasan Arifin was trying to remove a vocal member of the panel.

Lim asked if DAP MP Tony Pua was being targeted due to his outspokenness on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), which PAC is investigating over alleged financial irregularities.

Yesterday, Arifin said that he would "look into" Pua's status as member of the nine-member committee once PAC reconvenes.

"Is Arifin following a pre-set agenda to remove Pua from PAC?" Lim asked during a press conference at the Parliament lobby today.

Arifin, a first term MP for Rompin, was appointed the new PAC chief after previous chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed was promoted to the Cabinet.

DAP secretary general Lim Guan Eng meanwhile said that instead of looking at Pua's membership, the new PAC chief should make investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) a priority.

"He should be investigating 1MDB, not Tony Pua.

"There are definitely hidden agendas in this issue," the Bagan MP said.

He said Arifin was not getting off to a good start in leading PAC if his intention was to "politicise" Pua's membership in the bipartisan committee.

Pua has been one of the most vocal critics of 1MDB even before PAC had begun its inquiry into the troubled state-owned investment firm.

He has been accused of bias and conflict of interest for his vocal criticism of the firm while being part of the inquiry, and because he is also a police witness in investigations into the firm.

Pua, however, said he did not use information obtained during PAC hearings in his public statements about 1MDB and that his comments were based on other public sources.

In a press conference later today, Pua said it was "obvious" that Barisan Nasional (BN) was trying to target his position in PAC. – October 20, 2015.

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