

Zahid Proposes For All PAC Members To Take Oath Of Secrecy

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Thursday proposed for all members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to take an oath of secrecy to maintain confidentiality and secrecy, as well as to prevent leakage of information and documents related to the committee's investigations.

He said he had taken the proposal to the attention of the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia as the government was in the opinion that it should be done.

"The oath of secrecy is aimed at preventing leakage of investigation document or information, and we also want to ensure that matters discussed in the PAC meeting will not be taken out in the open.

"Any statement or report should be made officially by PAC members and not as personal opinion," he told reporters at the Parliament building here today.

Also present were PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said and Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Council chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad.

However, Ahmad Zahid said Pandikar Amin, who is also the Parliamentary Select Committee chairman, told him that the proposal should be referred to the legal adviser first.

The deputy prime minister said if all PAC members took their oath of secrecy, there would be no issue of government withholding information concerning the investigations carried out by the PAC because its members comprised MPs from both the government and the opposition.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid said the list of new BN representatives in the PAC would be announced soon by Pandikar Amin at the Dewan Rakyat sitting.

He said the BN had submitted several names to replace the existing members based on the regulations set by the parliamentary Select Committee.

"I don't need to announce the names officially because I have submitted it to Pandikar Amin as he is the chairman of the Select Committee," he added.

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