

Ruling On 1MDB Debate Was Made After Seeing Government's Willingness To Make It Happen - Pandikar Amin

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia today explained that the ruling concerning the public debate between Tony Pua and Arul Kandasamy on the issue of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was made after seeing the seriousness of both parties, as well as the government, to make it happen.

"I see that the government has made a statement that they are willing to facilitate the debate, which means that it is imminent that that debate will happen," he said at the Speaker-meets-media editors event here Tuesday night.

Pandikar Amin said if he allowed this to happen, then there would be unnecessary for any committees, particularly the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), to convene meetings and investigate the allegations concerning the government's strategic investment company.

He also stressed that the 1MDB issue should not be debated in public, but to be solved using the right channel and through the PAC investigation, which is still ongoing.

"Why should there be a debate while the matter was being investigated? I'm not against any debate, but wouldn't it (debate) affect the results of the PAC investigation?"

"If the statements are made by the PAC, then go ahead and debate. But the question now is whether the debate will solve the problems? The answer is no...then why not go through the (investigation) process first," he said.

Pua, who is Petaling Jaya Utara MP, had previously challenged Arul, President and Executive Director of 1MDB, to an open debate, to which the latter agreed.

Subsequently, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak expressed Radio Television Malaysia's (RTM) willingness to broadcast the debate live on Friday.

However, in the Dewan Rakyat sitting today, Pandikar Amin ruled that Pua should resign as a member of the PAC or refrain himself from being involved in the investigation if he plan to go ahead with the debate.

At the same time, he said Arul, who was the main witness, should also not be involved in the PAC investigation.

When asked on DAP's plan to replace Pua with another representative to continue the public debate, the Speaker said he had no power to stop it.

"I cannot control anything that is not within my power...the reason why I get involved in

this was because it is within my power. PAC is subject to the Dewan Rakyat's Standing Order 77, which says that in whatever activities, PAC must follow the existing Standing Order.

"Whatever rules applicable to the Dewan Rakyat are also applicable to PAC committee," he added.

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