

1MDB: Arul Kanda Ready To Face Pua On Live TV Without Condition
Bernama
Oct 31, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) President and Group Executive Director Arul Kanda Kandasamy said he is ready for a live television broadcast with DAP lawmaker Tony Pua on issues surrounding the state own investment company, without any conditions.

He also hoped the event would take place as soon as possible.

"I hereby withdrawn my (earlier) condition. I will meet Tony Pua in a debate or talk show on live TV without condition," he said in a press conference here, Saturday.

Last Thursday, Arul Kanda in a statement had said that he was prepared to face Pua on a live television broadcast on the condition that the Member of Parliament for Petaling Jaya Utara must quit his position as a member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Arul Kanda was responding to Pua's challenge via his blog that they take part in a talk show, with Pua posing the questions.

Arul Kanda said he had earlier set the condition because Pua was a member of the PAC, and it was to avoid any conflict of interest as PAC was also probing the 1MDB issue.

"He is of the view that difficult or complicated questions are not addressed to 1MDB. So Tony Pua has said he wants to ask a question to me on the matter.

"I have openly accepted YB Tony Pua's challenge but with one condition, YB Tony Pua is a PAC member. PAC is conducting investigation on 1MDB. Meaning he is a judge, he is going to judge 1MDB in the testimony and the answers that we are going to give to the PAC," he said.

He also thanked RTM for the TV station's offer to telecast the event.

Arul Kanda, who helmed 1MDB since January this year, also asserted that there was no covering up on the company's financial status despite allegations thrown at it by various quarters.

Arul Kanda said the company had also answered all the issues raised via interviews with local and international media as well as press statements, adding that this year alone, 72 media statements had been issued by the company to answer its critics.

He also refuted claims that 1MDB was selective in providing answers and interviews to the media.

"Ever since I took this job, we have done TV interviews, not only local media but also

international media. It is incorrect to say that 1MDB only give answers to simple questions and to certain mass media only, before this with UMNO (to give information). MIC has not meet me. I openly answered the questions (relating to 1MDB)," he said.

In the 90 minutes news conference attended by some 80 local and foreign media, Arul Kanda also explained on the company's debt rationalisation plan and updates of the plans undertaken to reduce company's debts, as well as the history of the company.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1185271>