

## **Tony Pua says no conflict of interest as PAC member debating 1MDB boss**

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**By Looi Sue-Chern**

DAP lawmaker and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) member Tony Pua said there would be no conflict of interest in his live debate with 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) president Arul Kanda Kandasamy.

He said as long as he was not using any information obtained by PAC in the debate, there would be no conflict of interest.

"I think people are saying that there is conflict of interest. I don't know where that came from.

"I have raised questions about 1MDB within the committee or outside the committee. As long as I do not use information from the probe, there is no conflict of interest."

Pua said he could not have any conflict of interest in the affair because he had no links to 1MDB or Arul Kanda.

"The person who has conflict of interest is the prime minister because he approved 1MDB's business dealing and he is also the one who ordered the firm to be probed.

"For people to tell me to resign and not the PM to do so, too, I don't think that is fair," he said when asked by reporters to comment on certain quarters saying that his debate with Arul Kanda was inappropriate because of his position as a PAC member before a forum on Budget 2016 at the Penang assembly building last night.

PAC is running its own investigations into 1MDB, a state investment firm that had amassed debts of RM42 billion.

Pua, who is Petaling Jaya Utara MP, has been the most vocal PAC member on the controversial firm, making regular statements about the company and its business dealings.

He had faced pressure before to quit his position in the bipartisan committee following his outspokenness against 1MDB.

Recently, when he challenged Arul Kanda to a live debate – which has received mixed reaction – the latter agreed only on the condition that Pua first quit PAC.

The matter has since been resolved when Arul Kanda said yesterday that he would meet Pua in the debate, discussion or talk show on live television without condition.

Pua said he welcomed Arul Kanda's statement, which had also shown that the latter

was open on the format of their live exchange.

“We won’t even need an emcee for the event. I can be the emcee.

“I will ask him (Arul Kanda) questions. Like an interview. That will be the format.”

It was reported that both Arul Kanda and Pua’s representatives would discuss on the time and place for the event. – November 1, 2015.

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