

**No distinction between Pua's PAC role and public statements on 1MDB, says Pandikar**  
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**By Ram Anand**

Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said he could not distinguish public statements made by Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) from the DAP lawmaker's role in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which is investigating 1MDB.

He said this when Pua asked whether he was barred from making any public statements on 1MDB while PAC was still investigating the firm.

PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin yesterday said Pua could not issue any public statements on 1MDB following Pandikar's ruling barring a debate between Pua and 1MDB boss Arul Kanda Kandasamy.

"You can make statements if it doesn't use PAC information. But my problem is I can't distinguish between what you say outside and your role in PAC," he said in the house today.

"It's like trying to separate sugar and sweet. You were the first one to pursue the 1MDB issue anyway."

However, Pandikar did not explicitly state whether there was a gag order on Pua although he insisted that Pua was still free to debate 1MDB issues in the house.

"That is your right to debate," Pandikar said.

Pua had earlier asked if he was barred from making public statements and debating 1MDB in the house following Pandikar's ruling blocking the proposed debate with 1MDB boss Arul Kanda Kandasamy.

"I feel as though my right and my freedom of speech are being restricted," Pua said regarding the decision to block the debate.

However, he accepted Pandikar's ruling. – November 4, 2015.

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