

Pandikar says he can't issue gag order on 1MDB's Arul Kanda
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By Ram Anand

Dewan Rakyat speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said today he did not have the power to stop 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) boss Arul Kanda Kandasamy from debating or issuing public statements despite being a witness in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) probe into 1MDB.

Pandikar yesterday ruled that the debate between Arul and DAP's Tony Pua could not go on as long as Pua remained a PAC member.

When asked by Pua if Arul Kanda could no longer be a PAC witness if the latter debated a non-PAC member, Pandikar said he did not have powers on such matters.

"I do not have powers to issue gag orders on someone who is not a PAC member," he said in the House.

Pandikar also refused to reconsider his ruling blocking the debate and stood by his decision.

The debate was supposed to take place this week until Pandikar's ruling.

Arul Kanda accepted Pua's challenge to a debate without any conditions before this.

DAP said it planned to send another opposition MP to debate Arul Kanda, insisting that the event continued. – November 4, 2015.

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