

## **Why need PAC if press releases suffice, asks Pua on 1MDB probe**

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The Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) failure to call up additional witnesses in its investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) proves that the parliamentary institution has failed the trust of the people, says DAP.

Its national publicity Chief Tony Pua said he was stunned by PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin's statement that no additional witnesses would be called other than former 1MDB president and chief Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi and former 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh.

Based on Hasan's arguments, PAC need not call more witnesses because 1MDB had already issued dozens of press statements to explain everything, and that former 1MDB chief Mohd Hazem Abdul Rahman's testimony was not needed as problems during his tenure had already been answered by 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Lodin Wok Kamaruddin in earlier proceedings, Pua said in a statement today.

"With all due respect to Lodin, why should the PAC investigate possible mismanagement and abuses within 1MDB, and accept his testimony hook, line and sinker?"

"Furthermore, Tan Sri Lodin is merely the chairman of the board, and not the chief executive officer who executed all the actions by the company."

He added that Hasan even argued that Bank Negara's problems with 1MDB's US\$1.83 billion (RM7.53 billion) of controversial fund transfers had already been explained in the media and in the attorney-general's own press statements.

Hasan said this in explaining the rationale not to call the central bank's governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz.

Hasan announced that only Shahrol and Bakke would be coming forward next week to give statements to PAC before it closes its hearing on 1MDB.

Pua (pic) asked if Hasan was asking members of the bi-partisan committee to accept mere press statements by 1MDB and other parties as wholesome explanations for the transgressions as alleged by Bank Negara.

He said PAC could just disband itself if this was the case, given that all alleged transgressions, including the irregular transfer of a massive US\$1.83 billion, can in the future be explained with a "press statement". – February 10, 2016.

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