

Name absent members, DAP tells PAC chairman
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Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin must name members who are not in the country and state the reason for their absence, which had resulted in postponement of the auditor-general's final report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), said DAP's Lim Kit Siang.

The Gelang Patah MP (pic, right) said it was unacceptable for the PAC meeting set for today and tomorrow to be postponed and that Hasan had justified it by stating that "most PAC members are overseas".

He said notice of the meeting had been sent to PAC members two weeks ago.

Lim added that the absent PAC members should be referred to the Committee of Rights and Privileges for disciplinary action unless they had a good reason for going overseas after the finalisation of the two PAC meetings for today and tomorrow.

"Let's have a headcount of the 14 members of PAC – who are overseas, why they are overseas, when they planned their overseas trip, or they should be condemned at the bar of public opinion even if they are not referred to the parliamentary Committee of Rights and Privileges for gross dereliction of duty.

"In the first place, why must all PAC members be present to hear the auditor-general's final report on 1MDB, when all PAC members had been given adequate notice of the meetings and the final audit report would be available in printed form, as it would have to be tabled in Parliament together with PAC's report?

"Secondly, why are 'most PAC members overseas' when the PAC meetings today and tomorrow were fixed a fortnight ago with their full knowledge and agreement?" Lim said in a statement today.

Lim asked if it was known at the last PAC meeting on February 11 that at least eight of the 14 PAC members would not be able to attend the PAC meetings as scheduled.

The 14 PAC members comprise chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin (Rompin), deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw (Kepong), Datuk Ahmad Hamzah (Jasin), Datuk Liag Teck Meng (Simpang Rengam), Datuk Abd Aziz Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim Bandar Baru), Datuk Wee Jeck Seng (Tanjong Piai), Datuk Koh Nai Kwong (Alor Gajah), Hasbi Habibollah (Limbang), Datuk Nawawi Ahmad (Langkawi), Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh (Putatan), Tony Pua (Petaling Jaya Utara), William Leong Jee Keng (Selayang), Datuk Kamarul Baharin Abas (Telok Kemang) and Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan (Kota Baru).

"Malaysians are entitled to know the identity of the eight PAC members who played truant and became parliamentary miscreants to sabotage PAC from meeting today and tomorrow.

"What could be more important to these eight PAC members than the presentation of the auditor-general's final audit report on 1MDB, when the postponement of the PAC meetings today and tomorrow has become international news?"

Lim said Hasan's capacity to lead the committee was in question and the latter should reveal whether he himself was abroad or in the country for the meetings.

He asked if performing the umrah could be considered a valid excuse for being absent from the PAC meetings if the umrah programme was fixed after knowing the dates of the meetings.

"Would Hasan resign as PAC chairman if the PAC meetings are again postponed for one reason or another and are not held before March 6 for the auditor-general to present his final audit report on 1MDB?"

Lim said voters in the constituencies represented by lawmakers who are also PAC members should demand that their defaulting MPs publicly apologise for their dereliction of duties and even resign from Parliament. – February 24, 2016.

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