

Swiss should not have disclosed 1MDB probe, says Zahid
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By KC Nazari

The Swiss attorney-general should not have made public his request for Malaysia's help with its investigations into 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said such details should have been kept private between the two governments.

"I had hoped that information like that would be conveyed through official government channels because it is on a G-to-G (government to government) basis.

"By making a public statement, in my opinion, it is not good because it not only strains ties between the two countries, but also creates bias in media reports," Zahid told reporters in Kuala Lumpur today.

Switzerland's chief prosecutor released a statement saying he had asked Malaysia for help with his probe into possible violations of Swiss law by 1MDB, saying suspected misappropriations amounted to about US\$4 billion (RM16.8 billion).

Some of the money was found transferred into Swiss bank accounts held by former public officials from Malaysia, and both former and current public officials from the United Arab Emirates.

Swiss prosecutors also said they had asked help from Malaysian authorities through international mutual legal assistance.

Zahid said today Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali would be meeting his Swiss counterpart to obtain more information.

"We will hand over the task of getting more of the aforementioned details to our attorney-general, who will meet with the Swiss attorney-general," Zahid said when met at the closing of the Malaysian Inbound Tourism Association Fair in Kuala Lumpur.

Yesterday, Apandi said he was willing to cooperate with the Swiss on the investigation, but would first need to review their findings, along with findings of other relevant authorities and internal investigations to determine the appropriate course of action.

Apandi had earlier this week decided not to charge Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who chairs the 1MDB advisory board, of any criminal wrongdoing over the US\$681 million (RM2.6 billion) deposited into his personal bank accounts in early 2013.

Investigations into 1MDB were separate from probes into the bank deposits, Apandi

said in his statement. – January 31, 2016.

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