

**Just ask Najib, Gobind tells Nancy on RM1,000 payment to Shafee**  
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**Opposition MP says Nancy Shukri's response that RM1,000 was the official answer is 'not acceptable'.**

PETALING JAYA: Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo says Nancy Shukri should take the initiative to confirm the facts of her statement in Parliament that lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah has only been paid RM1,000 for his role as prosecutor in the Sodomy 2 case.

He said her defence that the official answer given to her was RM1,000 was “not acceptable”.

Yesterday, Nancy told news portal Malaysiakini that her answer in 2015 was based on information given to her by the AG’s Chambers.

“As far as I remember, whatever response was given to me to reply in Parliament, that was the official one,” the minister in the Prime Minister’s Department was quoted as saying.

In the report, she added that she could neither confirm nor refute claims that Shafee had received two payments totalling RM9.5 million directly from Prime Minister Najib Razak.

“I do not know. I mean all those allegations ... I cannot confirm nor refute them because as far as I’m concerned, officially, the answer given to me was RM1,000,” she had said.

Gobind said when Nancy addressed Parliament, “there were no lurking concerns about the said payments. Now there are”.

“It is quite simple actually. Just ask the prime minister. Were such payments made or not?”

“That would to my mind be a reasonable step to take,” he said in a Facebook post today.

Gobind said in such cases where responses in Parliament might not be accurate or complete, the ministers concerned should make inquiries instead of pleading ignorance when questions arose.

“I would have thought it their duty to take reasonable steps to verify the facts in such circumstances and to make the necessary corrections or clarifications if need be.”

The DAP legal bureau chief added that it would be best for Najib himself to respond publicly as he was also the finance minister.

“One would expect that he would have said something by now and produced documents to support his position, if need be.”

He said he would raise the issue in Parliament, where Najib could choose to respond in full.

The government had enlisted Shafee’s services to lead the prosecution team at the Court of Appeal and later the Federal Court in the Sodomy 2 trial, instead of the conventional practice of relying on public prosecutors.

The Court of Appeal sentenced Anwar to five years’ imprisonment on March 7, 2014, overturning his previous acquittal by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on the charge that he sodomised his former aide, Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

On appeal, the Federal Court on Feb 10, 2015, upheld the decision to convict Anwar.

Following the allegation in the Sarawak Report, Anwar’s lawyers filed a legal challenge seeking to overturn his conviction.

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