

'MACC setting dangerous precedent leaving 1MDB probe to police'

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Lawyer and MP Ramkarpal says MACC must not be influenced by any quarter in probing corruption allegations.

PETALING JAYA: Bukit Gelugor MP Ramkarpal Singh has cautioned that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is setting a dangerous precedent in failing to probe allegations surrounding 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) claiming police were doing so.

The DAP legislator said MACC chief commissioner Dzulkipli Ahmad needs to change his stand as it suggests that the agency is not independent.

He said Dzulkipli is not saying that initial investigations into the matter has revealed no offence related to corruption, "in which case, it would be understandable for no action to be taken by MACC".

"Instead, Dzulkipli is saying that he and other government agencies, presumably the police and the attorney-general's chambers, have decided among themselves that only the police will investigate the issue.

"In other words, it is quite obvious that MACC is not getting involved, not because of independent findings on its part, but because it has been influenced by such agencies that the matter ought to be handled only by the police," he said in a statement today.

Yesterday, Dzulkipli said MACC will not investigate allegations of financial impropriety in 1MDB as it does not want to overlap investigations started by police.

He said it had been decided among the relevant government agencies that investigations into the sovereign wealth fund would be done solely by the police.

"This is a most dangerous precedent which must be corrected immediately as failure to do so will certainly cast serious doubts on the independence of the MACC," Ramkarpal said.

"The MACC should not be influenced by any quarter when it comes to investigating corruption.

"It must investigate corruption without fear or favour and independently of any other agency, including the police and the AG's Chambers."

He said Dzul kifli's assertion amounts to an admission that his decision not to investigate 1MDB is not because of a lack of evidence of corruption, but because he has been influenced by other government agencies not to do so, Ramkarpal said.

Dzul kifli had also said the US Department of Justice (DoJ), which has initiated two lawsuits seeking to seize assets allegedly purchased with funds linked to 1MDB, had not sought any information or assistance from MACC for the latest suit filed on June 15.

Ramkarpal said Dzul kifli should know that it does not matter if the DoJ had contacted MACC to assist in investigations.

"What matters is whether there is reason to investigate 1MDB in the first place."

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