

Press Statement by Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy on 17 March 2022 in Kuala Lumpur

When will the “permanent” mode of police probe on the death of Teoh Beng Hock ends?

The Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy criticises the Home Minister Hamzah Zainuddin, who has been repeating since 2020 that the probe into the death of Teoh Beng Hock “is still ongoing and I cannot reveal more to avoid interfering in the probe”

We urge the Home Minister to stop delaying the announcement of the investigation result, please tell the family of Teoh Beng Hock and members of the public when this "permanent" mode of investigation will end.

In the parliamentary reply dated 16 March 2022, Hamzah said the police had submitted the report to the Attorney-General Chamber in February 2020. He added that after the Attorney-General chamber returned the report and asked the police to re-investigate, the police continued to investigate the case until today in 2022.

We wish to remind Hamzah that the cabinet instructed the police to reopen the case as early as June 2018. The former Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said in January 2019 that the police had set up a special task force in 2018, and the investigation had been launched after receiving specific instructions from the former Attorney-General Tommy Thomas in December of the same year.

Although Hamzah took over the post of Home Minister after the Sheraton move in February 2020, the police, who are civil servants, were not affected by the regime change.

Therefore, Hamzah must explain, what kind of efficiency the police have to investigate a death in custody case at MACC? Which takes four years and almost one term of government? Or is a certain quarter trying to cover up the culprit who caused the death of Teoh Beng Hock?

The Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy has repeatedly emphasized that the police must invoke Section 302 (murder) or Section 304 (criminal killing) of the Penal Code to investigate the case, as the court of appeal had ruled in 2014 that "one or more unknown persons caused the death of Teoh Beng Hock".

We once again call on the Home Ministry to immediately announce the results of the investigation. The culprit who caused the death of Teoh Beng Hock must be arrested and punished in accordance with the law.

Ng Yap Hwa Chairperson Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy