



17 July 2024

PAC MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) refers to the media report dated 16 July 2024 titled “HRD Corp threatens to sue The Edge over reporting of PAC, AG reports” published on The Edge Malaysia's website.
2. According to the media report, a letter of demand was issued by HRD Corp's solicitors, Messrs Amrit & Company, against the owner of The Edge and another individual from HRD Corp. In this letter, HRD Corp demanded that The Edge, among other things, retract and delete several articles published on their website regarding the PAC report and the Auditor General's report. HRD Corp also demanded a public apology and, most shockingly, compensation to be paid to HRD Corp.
3. The PAC takes this matter seriously and considers this action as an attempt to pressure the media not to publish the PAC Report concerning HRD Corp. The PAC also views HRD Corp's action as an attempt to prevent The Edge from fulfilling its responsibilities as a media practitioner.
4. Most importantly, the PAC sees HRD Corp's action as an effort to undermine or tarnish the credibility of the PAC. The top management of HRD Corp should be reminded that the PAC has been established for 65 years since 1959, and all PAC reports have never been disputed as they are based on statements from witnesses called during PAC proceedings.

5. As a company governed under the Human Resource Development Act 2001 and regulated by the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), HRD Corp should openly accept the findings and recommendations of the PAC Report for improvement. HRD Corp's actions clearly contradict the principles of checks and balances and the Government's openness to accept constructive criticism to enhance national governance.

6. In conclusion, the PAC unanimously calls for HRD Corp to instruct their solicitors to withdraw the letter of demand.

Thank you.

Hon. Datuk Wira Mas Ermieyati binti Samsudin
Chairman of PAC