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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE WONG KAH WOH, CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC) REGARDING HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF PAC FOR PARLIAMENT.

PAC: Efficient, Credible, Integrity – PAC will make up for lost time and ensure the Institutional Reform Agenda is continued and developed.

- 1) I am thankful for the mandate and trust given by the Members of the Dewan Rakyat for appointing me as the new Chairman for PAC unanimously.
- This appointment, demands a heavy responsibility in ensuring that all matters, procedures and financial procedures of the country are complied with so that people's money is really being spent prudently and efficiently. PAC will continue to play an effective role in providing a 'check and balance' mechanism in the democratic system to the Government with more transparency and accountability.
- I will use my experience as the former Deputy Chairman of this Committee for about two years to conduct each proceedings with the interest of the Country and People placed as the main factor. I will work closely with the Deputy Chairman, the Honourable Dato' Hajah Azizah binti Mohd Dun and members of PAC who will be elected to carry the responsibilities and mandates given. In this regard, I call on the Select Committee to appoint PAC members as soon as possible to enable the PAC to carry out the task entrusted.
- Therefore, I urge Members of PAC that will be chosen by the Select Committee to set aside their ideology and political stance when they attend PAC meetings, so that all proceedings can be conducted without fear or favour to any party. PAC will also continue our convention where all decisions that will be made will be agreed by Members of PAC. I want to ensure that PAC is applicated for its efficiency, credibility and integrity.
- The main focus of PAC after this is of course to resolve all outstanding proceedings and present all reports of proceedings in the Dewan Rakyat after not in session for almost 6 months since mid-March. We have lost the golden time during this 7 weeks of Parliamentary Session in which PAC should convene at the same time, and PAC needs to take further steps to make up for the lost time.
- I am adamant that all proceedings by PAC should be done openly, transparently and democratically, thus increasing the confidence in the democratic process of this country. I will ensure that the institutional reform agenda implemented since 2018 can be continued and developed. In line with that, I hope the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat will continue his efforts to amend the Standing Orders 85 of Dewan Rakyat which do not allow PAC proceedings to be held openly, to ensure all PAC proceedings will be conducted in a transparent, accountable and credible manners.

- 7) I also hope to ensure that PAC Report is debated in Dewan Rakyat by being given a specific time slot for this purpose.
- 8) Finally, I would like to thank two former PAC Chairmen after serving as a Deputy Chairman since 7 August 2018 to the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee and the Honourable Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad for all the guidance and experiences gained while serving with them.

Thank You

Hon. Wong Kah Woh Chairman of PAC 27 August 2020.