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## Home Ministry's letter on Phua's criminal record normal procedure

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Home Ministry's (KDN) letter on the criminal record of an individual to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is a common procedure of verification.

Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak said the KDN had carried out its duty professionally when it informed the FBI about Paul Phua Wei Seng based on available records.

"The KDN only informed about the individual based on police records. The letter was merely to verify it," he said when contacted by Bernama yesterday.

On December 18, 2014, Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi wrote to the FBI deputy director Mark F. Giuliano stating that Phua was not a member of the 14k triad and that the triad did not exist in Malaysia.

Phua is facing charges related to delivering betting information and conducting illegal gambling activities in the United States.

On January 1, Phua's counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said he had collaborated with law firm Chesnoff & Schonfeld and urged Zahid to

issue a letter on Phua's involvement in the 14K triad in Malaysia.

Shafee explained that the letter was not to support Phua's case.

Mustafa questioned the action of certain parties who tried to link the KDN with Phua and to politicise the issue.

The KDN was aware of Phua's ongoing hearing and any action in his favour will lead to contempt of court, said Mustafa, who is also head of Politics, Security & International Affairs Cluster, National Council of Professors. – Bernama