

**1. Health Ministry reminds govt doctors to adhere to ethics**

MALACCA: The Health Ministry has issued a reminder to all doctors serving in government hospitals to adhere to their ethics as medical practitioners, said its deputy minister Datuk Seri Dr. Hilmi Yahaya.

He said it was also to ensure government doctors exerted self-discipline and not do something that could humiliate their patients.

"A doctor should protect the ethics and confidentiality of their patients," he told reporters after visiting the Krubong 1Malaysia clinic here today, which began operation on Aug 3 and is the 19th such clinic in the state.

He was asked to comment on the action of a female doctor who took a 'selfie' photo of a patient at a hospital in Johor Baru, Johor recently.

On disciplinary action to be taken on the doctor concerned, he said it would be based on the findings of the Health Ministry Disciplinary Committee and Johor Health Department. - BERNAMA

**2. Plans to take MACC out of civil service**

PUTRAJAYA: Plans are being considered to take the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) out of the civil service and Prime Minister's Department, and make it answerable to Parliament. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan said a special committee had been set up to look into the plans. "Making the MACC a separate service will require an amendment to the constitution for which two-thirds majority support in Parliament is necessary," he told reporters after opening the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) 2015, here, today. Earlier, when addressing the conference, Low said the MACC would be made a separate service commission to allow it to improve the capacity and professionalism of its staff and to have control over its employment terms and conditions. He said the appointment and tenure of the Chief Commissioner must be made more secure. He added that what was also being planned was for the Office of the Auditor-General to report to a bi-partisan special committee in Parliament, and the power and scope of audit to be enlarged. "Malaysia is committed to protecting the sanctity and independence of its public institutions and we are currently in the process of strengthening the MACC and the Auditor-General's Office," he said. Low, formerly president of Transparency International-Malaysia, reaffirmed his commitment to protecting the MACC from any intervention. "I am not a politician, I will do what I promised," he said. The conference attended by about 1,000 representatives from 130 countries is being held for three days from today at the Putrajaya International Convention

### **3. Water vending machine to require licence from health ministry**

Water vending machine operators must have a licence from the Ministry of Health from Jan 1 next year, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam. He said this rule was due to the enforcement of the Regulation 360C (4), Food Regulations 1985 under the Food Act 1983. The cost of applying for a licence for one unit of water vending machine was RM150 for a period of two years. "When the owner of the water vending machine (selling) applies for a licence, his machine will be checked. After that random checks will be carried out from time to time," he told reporters at his office here today. Dr Subramaniam said the ministry will put a sticker on the machine which has been inspected and granted a licence for user reference. Dr Subramaniam said the regulation was gazetted on Sept 24, 2012, and the Ministry of Health had given the industry stakeholders time to comply. "Therefore, industry stakeholders are urged not to wait until the last minute to apply for licences. We want drinking water to be of sufficient standard," he said. He said to date 2,540 licence applications had been received and of these, 59 applications were approved and granted a licence, while 2,481 applications were still being processed. "If found guilty under the regulation, a person can be fined up to RM5,000 or two years' imprisonment," he said. Since August 2014 to date, a total of 630 water vending machines have been checked nationwide and 786 water samples have been collected from the affected machines. From the total, 22 water vending machines were confiscated of which four of them for not maintaining hygiene, 10 for containing bacteria and eight for claiming that the water sold can improve health such as recovering from blood pressure and curing diabetes, he said. In the meantime, Dr Subramaniam said no Malaysian pilgrims were detected with the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). - BERNAMA

### **4. 1MDB not aware of accounts being frozen**

PM Media statement by 1Malaysia Development Berhad We refer to recent media reports concerning certain bank accounts being frozen in Switzerland, in relation to a probe being conducted by the Swiss authorities. As far as 1MDB is aware, none of the company's bank accounts have been frozen. 1MDB is in the process of developing a better understanding of the on-going investigations in Switzerland so the company can cooperate to its fullest extent.

**5. Investigative agencies in Malaysia free to conduct probes: Paul Low**

Investigative agencies in Malaysia are free to conduct probes into any alleged wrongdoing without the consent of the country's leaders, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paul Low said today. He said agencies like the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Bank Negara Malaysia and the police should be independent bodies as enshrined in the Constitution. "If they were to investigate a crisis, they do not need the permission of the Prime Minister or anyone else. "They are not instructed by the Prime Minister or cabinet members. They will automatically carry out investigations themselves," Low said during a question and answer session at the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference here. Several participants had earlier asked regarding investigations on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and allegations involving Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak reported worldwide for the past few months. Low stressed that the problems faced in the probe involving 1MDB were related to leaked documents. "We take the Penal Code seriously. When you start investigations, information cannot be leaked. Therefore, when a leak occurs, it will affect the integrity of the investigation." He also said the public must wait for investigations to be concluded, as only then can those who are guilty of a crime be prosecuted. "Integrity is not only about fighting bribery but also to ensure you do not accuse anyone wrongly. Protection must also be given to the investigation and audit" he said.

**6. WSJ article sensational, lacks proof: 1MDB**

1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has discredited Wall Street Journal's "biased and sensationalist" report over the whereabouts of the US\$1.4 billion payments to Abu Dhabi investment fund, International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC). 1MDB said its audited financial statements had clearly described the amount and purpose of the payments. "We note that the Wall Street Journal does not name its source or provide any proof of the unproven allegations it is making, thereby seriously discrediting its sensationalist story. "1MDB cannot speak on behalf of (IPIC subsidiary) Aabar or IPIC nor can we comment on the accounting arrangements of third parties. What we can confirm is that the 1MDB audited financial statements clearly describe the amount and purpose of the payments, which for the avoidance of doubt, is structured as a deposit (i.e. a financial asset belonging to 1MDB and not an expense to 1MDB)," the strategic development fund said in a statement today. WSJ today alleged that IPIC's financials had shown no record of the payments from 1MDB and that IPIC's new managers were looking into what happened to the money. 1MDB pointed that based on the payments, it can confirm that IPIC did provide and continued to provide guarantees for the principal and interest of 2 x US\$1.75 billion bonds issued by it, with a total principal and interest amount of about US\$5.5 billion. 1MDB also confirmed that auditor Deloitte, had made specific and detailed enquiries on the payments prior to signing off its

audited accounts. The fund also strongly defended its methodology and audit process at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearings, a bipartisan select committee of the Parliament. "Accordingly, the Wall Street Journal is wrong to state 'it is clear what happened to the funds', at least not from a 1MDB perspective," it said. 1MDB was shocked that a hitherto reputable publisher such as WSJ would make use of clearly confidential information in its reporting. It said the WSJ actions were potentially a breach of the Malaysian laws and urged the authorities to investigate. "We refer specially to the WSJ confirming it has reviewed a 'transcript of the proceedings', from a parliamentary committee probing 1MDB, of which the only possible source is the PAC hearings on 1MDB. "The Standing Orders of the Malaysian Parliament very clearly states that 'the evidence taken before any Select Committee and any documents presented to such Committee shall not be published by any member of such Committee, or by any other person, before the Committee has presented its Report to the House'. "We are further concerned as to who involved in the PAC hearings may have leaked the transcript, which is clearly an attempt to prejudice the PAC investigations and deny 1MDB its right to due process as provided for by the laws of Malaysia," it added.

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Wednesday, 16 September, 2015

#### **7. 1MDB detects attempted email spoofing**

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) says it has thwarted an attempt to forged emails purportedly originating from the company.

In a statement today, 1MDB said the attempted email spoofing was detected through the company's Internet security measures at 6.30pm on Sept 15, 2015 before it could cause any harm.

1MDB said it has reported that single and isolated incident to the police and CyberSecurity Malaysia.

As an added precaution, 1MDB is advising anyone suspicious of emails from the company to verify the veracity of the sender's address or contact the corporate head office at +603-27308288.

1MDB is a strategic development company wholly-owned by the Government of Malaysia. --  
BERNAMA

**8. Locals to be trained to help with staff shortage in Sabah**

TUARAN: Health ministry will apply the concept of more locals to work in Sabah to address shortage of health personnel in the state.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had announced 90 per cent of teaching force would be filled by locals in Sarawak within the three years period. The concept will also be applied in Sabah.

Its minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said a system would be created to enable more people of Sabah to be trained in medicine or other allied health courses.

"The ministry will provide more opportunity for the people to be trained provided they achieve the minimum grade.

"We will help in terms of solving other problems such as scholarship and other issues," he said in a press conference after launching a new 76-bedding district hospital here.

Earlier in the opening speech, Dr Subramaniam also added the ministry was on discussion of the allowances for health personnel to be increased to enable those from peninsular Malaysia to work comfortably in Sabah and Sarawak.

**9. Dr Tan should demand probe into leaked PAC documents: 1MDB**

KUALA LUMPUR: Public Accounts Committee (PAC) deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw should demand a full and transparent enquiry on how confidential PAC documents on 1Malaysia Development Board (1MDB) landed in the hands of a foreign media publication, said 1MDB.

1MDB in a statement here today said Dr Tan at the same time should advise Tony Pua, his party member who is also a member of PAC, that one should not say things based on hearsay or without evidence.

"1MDB welcomes this profound advice of the eight-term MP for Kepong as timely and wise, to seek proof before making accusations and to uphold the rule of law, that one is innocent until proven guilty.

"We trust Dr Tan will prescribe the same advice to his junior Tony Pua," it said.

The statement added Pua's claim to fame is recycling unproven allegations on 1MBD, but when answers are given and facts shared, he was proven wrong.

However, he (Pua) would ignore the facts, change the topic and wait quietly for the next sensationalist and unproven allegation, it added.

The statement was issued in response to Dr Tan's advice that one "can't say things based on hearsay" pertaining to the leaks on PAC's confidential documents to the foreign media publication. His remarks were carried by a news portal yesterday.—BERNAMA

## **NEW STRAITS TIMES** Sunday, 27 September, 2015

### **10. Medicines prices in government hospitals and clinics remain unchanged**

**MALACCA:** Patients seeking treatment at government hospitals and clinics would not be charged more despite the depreciation of the ringgit which had caused a rise in prices of medicines and medical equipment.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said although the government had to bear higher costs due to this the government is not planning to pass on the burden to the people.

"I however cannot assure the same for private hospitals as those seeking treatment there may be charged more if the service provider does not absorb the cost increases," he said at a press conference on Saturday night at the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) annual dinner, here.

Dr Subramaniam said the rise in prices of medicines and medical equipment is beyond the control of the government because currency depreciation occurs almost anywhere in the world.

The rise in prices is likely to affect the drugs and equipment produced domestically.

"We cannot avoid this (price increase) because a lot of medical equipment and drugs are from abroad.

"Some medicines are made locally as a generic drugs but the raw material are still being imported," he said.

Dr Subramaniam however said the increase was expected to be temporary and unlikely to cause a shortage of medical supplies in the country.