

1. 1MDB denies WSJ's latest allegations

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd reiterated its claim that it had not paid any funds into the personal bank account of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The Wall Street Journal today reported that over US\$1 billion had been deposited into Najib's personal bank account, including the RM2.6 billion which Najib and Malaysian authorities had stated was a political donation from Saudi Arabia.

The US daily claimed that most of the US\$1 billion was from 1MDB and not from Saudi Arabia.

"1MDB has consistently maintained that it has not paid any funds to the personal accounts of the prime minister," 1MDB said in a press statement today.

It said the matter has been reiterated by multiple Malaysian authorities including the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Attorney-General's Chambers and various reputable international publications, who confirmed that the funds came from Saudi Arab.

"Despite all this, it is noted that WSJ continued to repeat the same disproven allegations.

"However, not once has the publication offered any conclusive evidence to support its claims, with the only justification for their continued attacks being information that they claim to have obtained from unnamed and anonymous sources," it added.

1MDB said the reliance on anonymous sources, who may or may not exist, betrays a lack of basic journalistic standards on the part of the Wall Street Journal and the fact that the publication has lost all semblance of balanced reporting.

2. Sultan of Johor donates RM2.3 million for new CT simulator at Sultan Ismail Hospital

KUALA LUMPUR: The oncology treatment centre in Sultan Ismail Hospital Johor Baru received a new CT simulator worth RM2.3 million from Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

The Permaisuri Johor Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah earlier handed over a mock cheque for the contribution to Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

Dr Subramaniam in his speech said the new simulator, a Siemens Somatom (Definition) AS, would help improve the services rendered by the centre and reduce waiting time as the current machine had been operating for 12 years.

He said the overall cost for installation and renovation of the centre was RM3.6 million, with the remaining cost paid for by the ministry, while Siemens waived the goods and services tax (GST) fee for the purchase.

"The number of cancer patients in need of scanning services at the hospital increased from 541 in 2008 to 1,306 people last year, and contributed to the wear-and-tear of the machine, which now occasionally breaks down.

"In 2010, a total of 1,235 cancer patients were registered at the Sultan Ismail Johor Baru Hospital and the number has increased to 1,690 patients last year," he said, thanking Sultan Ibrahim for the contribution.

He said according to a report by *Globocan*, there were 37,400 cancer patients in Malaysia in 2012 compared to 24,803 and 25,265 patients recorded in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Also present at the ceremony were the ministry's director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah and secretary general Datuk Dr Chen Chaw Min

NEW STRAITS TIMES Monday, 7 March, 2016

3. No OSA-status for 1MDB report after PAC tabling in Parliament

KUALA LUMPUR: The Auditor-General's (AG) report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) will no longer be classified under the Official Secrets Act 1972 once the Public Accounts Committee tables its report in parliament.

This was confirmed by Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang said this when tabling the report at a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting in parliament today.

The matter was reiterated by PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin in a statement following the meeting.

"PAC would like to stress that the audit report on 1MDB is only classified as an official secret until the PAC report on the 1MDB Fund Management (Kawalan Pengurusan Tadbir 1MDB) is tabled in parliament," said Hasan.

He was seeking to clear the following confusion over the status of the report after being tabled in Parliament on Friday.

He said that this was different from the Auditor General's final report that is tabled in parliament every year before it becomes a public document.

"The AG will then table the report to PAC and this committee will choose topics in the report to discuss in detail in proceeding meetings."

"The report is then tabled in parliament as a public document," he added.

4. In-house, local training for govt staff to cut costs

PUTRAJAYA: Government ministries and agencies are urged to hold internal training for staff or send them locally at any certified institution as part of cost cutting measures for the year.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa said this was part of the 7-day training for civil servants, whereby costs can be cut by avoiding overseas or outstation trips.

"However we leave it to the department heads or secretary-generals to implement more proactive measures for training.

"The ministries and agencies can carry out training internally or merge with others through the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) at a cheaper cost.

"Although the training is not mandatory, it is helpful in terms mind development and gaining experience in other fields for civil servants," he said.

Ali was responding to the Treasury Department circular titled "Government expenditure optimising measure guidelines" released on Tuesday.

He added the training would be included in the assessments of civil servants key performance index for improvement purposes or salary increment.

Ali also reiterated that government would retain the size of the civil service at 1.61 million to cater for the 30 million population in the country in line with the needs of developed nations.

He added they would also be redeploying civil servants to new agencies or departments instead of hiring new employees to fill positions.

Ali said 25,000 civil servants will be continuously filling positions to replace 25,000 retiring officers yearly.

Earlier Ali presented the Public Service Management Diploma to 785 graduates today.

The diploma is a mandatory course for Diplomatic and Management Officers (PTD) held at the National Institute of public Administration (INTAN), which was introduced in 1976.

Present at the event were Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yakob and INTAN director Datuk Dr Mazlan Yusoff.

5. Ministers and deputies laud government's move to cut cost

KUALA LUMPUR: Several ministers and deputies welcomed a cost-cutting move being introduced by the government.

The Treasury Department on Tuesday distributed a circular titled "Government expenditure optimising measure guidelines" as part of cost-cutting measures, which among others, involved carrying out staff training internally and reducing number of officers accompanying ministers on overseas trip to only one.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar when met at parliament lobby said the cost-cut measures would not affect the ongoing projects carried out by the ministry.

"We welcome the move and are already implementing it. Although there's a reduction of RM60 million to the ministry, it will not affect the projects like flood mitigation and slope (strengthening) projects, to name a few," he said.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Loga Bala Mohan said the ministries and agencies could play its part in reducing the burden on government coffers with such a move.

"It is not an issue for us. In fact, we have started reducing cost especially on refreshments at events since two years ago. We don't have that many overseas trips, so we are not particularly affected by the move to only allow an officer accompanying minister on trips aboard," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri said she was relieved that projects approved prior to the circular were not affected.

"Yes, we are happy to play our part in saving the government's money, which is the people's money, and at the same time train ourselves to be more thrifty and careful with our spending. More importantly, we are still able to carry out infrastructure projects for our constituents such as roads as the move does not involve allocations for members of parliament," she said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of overseeing the Innovation Unit (Unik), the Hindu Endowment Board, and the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology, Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong said: "I support the move because it is part of the government's efforts towards austerity and fiscal consolidation.

"Austerity is best when it's a conscious self-initiative. We must show our commitment to overcome tough situations with self-discipline and sternness. It is also part of the transformation of public sector, enhancing the competitiveness of the government, making us more efficient and accountable in future," he said.

The move was also well-received by several opposition leaders who said it was a good effort.

Bukit Katil member of parliament Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin said: "It was a good move but the government should also look into and take serious measures on issues raised in the Auditor-general's report."

Pokok Sena member of parliament and Pas parliamentary whip Datuk Mahfuz Omar said:

"To me, what the government is doing (to cut costs) is wise. However, what is important is that the implementation of ongoing development programmes and projects continues.

"Last time, you used to be able to travel first class but now, you travel using budget airlines. There is no problem with that, as long as you reach your destination," he said.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Saturday, 12 March, 2016

6. Health Ministry discusses with JPA on recruitment of more specialists: Dr Hilmi

BALIK PULAU: The Health Ministry will discuss with the Public Service Department (PSD) to increase the posts of specialist doctors to overcome the shortage in government hospitals.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said there were many medical graduates who had to wait a long time to get a place in government hospitals due to inadequate vacancies.

"The problem now is the shortage of posts. There are medical graduates who had to wait a long time to be accepted as medical officers after undergoing housemanship in government hospitals. There are doctors but there are not enough posts, so we cannot recruit them.

"At the moment, our ratio is one doctor for every 600 patients. We need twice the number of doctors by the year 2020. We are actively discussing with the PSD on this matter," he told reporters after flagging off 1,500 participants of the 2016 Balik Pulau Mountainbike Jamboree, at the Balik Pulau Polytechnic, here today.

He said this when commenting on the long-term measures by the Health Ministry to overcome the shortage of specialist doctors at government hospitals. --Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES Sunday, 13 March, 2016

7. Sunday Spotlight: Sufficiently trained?

EVERY year, the Public Service Commission appoints 3,500 to 5,000 medical graduates into government service.

Currently, there are 10,835 posts for housemen, which are distributed to 44 hospitals for housemanship training all over the country. But given the swelling number of medical graduates being churned out yearly, there are insufficient vacancies for housemanship.

While some are lucky to get their posting within months of graduating, there are others who wait for more than a year to get a placement.

To control the number of local medical graduates, the cabinet in 2011 imposed a five-year moratorium on new medical courses and the establishment of new medical schools.

The Malaysian Medical Council and Health Ministry have now proposed a five-year extension of the moratorium to further contain the problem.

However, while the moratorium will control the number of locally-produced medical graduates, it will have little impact on the number of medical graduates returning from overseas, says Director-General of Health Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

"This is because almost half of medical graduates are from overseas medical institutions."

Dr Noor Hisham says the moratorium is not a freeze on medical programmes altogether.

"It aims to control the number of local medical graduates by maintaining the existing intake quota of medical students. This means existing medical schools will not be given additional quota for student intake.

"Students who wish to enrol in medical schools will need to compete to pursue their careers as doctors."

Though the moratorium has been welcomed, in light of the large number of graduates still being produced, industry experts feel that the quality of the young doctors is being compromised due to insufficient practical training.

MAHSA University pro-chancellor and chairman Professor Tan Sri Dr Mohd Ismail Merican says there are just too many medical schools in Malaysia, each with varying standards and quality.

He says graduates who have to wait long for housemanship postings may lose their clinical skills.

"If the wait for housemanship posting is long, they should make an effort to apply for attachment to some hospitals or clinics to keep themselves relevant. Otherwise, they may lose their clinical skills and that would be disastrous.

"Just make sure that with quantity, there is quality. We need doctors who are safe, competent and responsible, who practise with ethics and integrity," says Dr Ismail, who was former director-general of Health.

Another former director-general of Health, Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, who is International Medical University president, says while there are adequate places for training doctors in local public and private universities to meet current needs, the quality of graduates must be good.

"The houseman training must be effective and fewer of them need to have their training extended.

"The doctors must be well trained and effectively deployed to meet the needs of the country.

"The existing healthcare system does not promote effective utilisation of health manpower. The public sector is overburdened, while in the private sector, some doctors do not have enough work."

Dr Abu Bakar says the Health Ministry and other relevant agencies must conduct a study on manpower planning and have more effective coordination in implementing training to meet national manpower needs.

While Dr Noor Hisham agrees that there can be a long wait for housemanship, he says the waiting period for housemanship appointments depends on various factors, including the number of local graduates and the number of overseas graduates returning to Malaysia.

"In addition, the housemen's choice of placement via the e-housemen online system also has an impact on the waiting time.

"Housemen who opt to be posted to less popular housemanship training hospitals, like those in Sabah, Sarawak and remote areas, do not have to wait long for employment." *Additional reporting by Minderjeet Kaur*

NEW STRAITS TIMES Monday, 14 March, 2016

8. RM20m procurement fraud

KUALA LUMPUR: MALAYSIAN graft busters are zeroing in on several major cases of procurement fraud which have cost the government millions of ringgit.

The Kuala Lumpur branch of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), which is in its final stage of an ongoing crackdown, had been gathering intelligence over the past few months. It is expected to haul in several high ranking staff from the public sector in their investigation soon.

Its director, Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahaya, said the commission had, from its investigations that began in January, uncovered five cases involving RM20 million.

Aside from senior government officers, those suspected of involvement in falsification of claims and fraud include individuals in private agencies and associations.

"We have recorded an increase in the number of cases involving false claim submissions and procurement fraud that goes back five years.

"In the first three months of this year, we uncovered cases which caused the government to lose RM20 million," Khusairi told the New Straits Times.

He said the commission had seen favourable response from the public who had come forward to lodge 114 reports involving false claims amounting to about RM31 million over the past five years.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday, 15 March, 2016

9. Govt loses RM10bil revenue as a result of GST exemption on certain goods

KUALA LUMPUR: The government lost RM10 billion in tax revenue as a result of exempting the Goods and Services Tax on several goods since its implementation on April 1, 2015, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong. He said this was a result of GST being exempted or zero GST on goods and services like basic food, education, health and public transportation. "There were suggestions to increase the number of products excluded and zero-rated items this year to include fruits, medicine and petroleum," he said in a supplementary question to Khoo Soo Seang (BN-Tebrau), in the Dewan Rakyat here today. Chua said between April 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016, a

total of 1,190 GST-related cases were investigated by the Royal Customs Department under the Goods and Services Tax Act. "Of the total, 16 cases were prosecuted in the sessions court involving fines of RM125,000," he said. Chua said the GST was estimated to contribute 18 per cent to government coffers this year. "We must understand that revenue derived from GST collection cannot offset the shortfall from oil revenue. "In 2014, the government derived a revenue of RM66 billion from petroleum and dividends from Petronas," he added. "We estimate revenue from crude oil to decline between RM25 billion and RM31 billion this year," he added. To a question from Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (PKR-Gombak), Chua said todate, RM10 billion were paid out in refunds to traders.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Friday, 18 March, 2016

10. Mara hands over documents to MACC

Mara Chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa has submitted latest information on Melbourne, Australia property purchase by Mara Incorporated Sdn Bhd (MARA Inc) to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission investigation to facilitate their investigation, here, today. He said it was best for the information pertaining to the investigation came from the source instead of third party. Annuar, who submitted the documents to MACC strategic communications director Datuk Rohaizad Yaakob said, it was his responsibility to submit any new information that could help with the investigation. "I want to see this matter taken seriously because Mara has its own limitations to carry out investigations, thus it is best to leave to the authorities to do a proper job," he said. Mara Inc property purchase was highlighted after an Australian newspaper, The Age alleged that a high-ranking Mara official, a senior official and a former politician had overspent government funds in buying a block of apartments in Melbourne. It was reported the group had overpaid by A\$4.75 million (RM13.8 million) for the apartment block in 2013.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Friday, 18 March, 2016

11. Govt servants in 'sensitive' positions given only five years in their posts

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants holding sensitive positions are only allowed to serve between three to five years in their positions, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ali Hamsa. Ali said the transfer of government officers was clearly stated in the Public Service Circular No 3, which was introduced in 2004 but did not see full implementation due to appeals by heads of department for officers to continue serving. He said sensitive positions defined in the circular were positions with direct involvement with customers when enforcing law, and with direct involvement with customers when processing an application with monetary returns or rewards. "Officers who are

required to make payments or collects payments from customers and make decisions whether or not someone qualifies or otherwise are considered holding sensitive position," he said, adding that the circular will be fully implemented from now on. Ali said that officers holding not sensitive positions will be allowed to work between three to eight years before their next transfer. His comments came in the light of the arrest of a 56-year-old official with the Youth and Sports Ministry last Friday. The official was suspected of embezzling RM100 million over the past six years. On the case, Ali said the official held by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission is suspended pending an investigation. The anti-graft authorities seized assets from the suspect worth about RM20 million, including 12 vehicles, designer handbags and fine jewellery, besides freezing 69 bank accounts containing RM8.3 million.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday, 22 March, 2016

12. Auditor General to identify weaknesses

The Auditor General will carry out an independent forensic audit on the Youth and Sports Ministry and its related agencies to identify weaknesses in their financial procedures and systems. The National Sports Council (NSC) will also be put through this audit process. Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa said this following a call by the minister Khairy Jamaluddin for one to be had. He said the audit would likely be completed within the first quarter of this year. The New Straits Times had last Monday exposed a story of senior government officials being on the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) radar for their involvement in the misappropriation of tens of millions of ringgit from the government. On Thursday, MACC arrested a 56-year-old official with the Youth and Sports Ministry whom they believed had masterminded the misappropriation of government funds since 2010. MACC also seized assets from the suspect worth about RM20 million, including 12 vehicles, designer handbags and expensive jewellery, besides freezing 69 bank accounts containing RM8.3 million. Ali reminded secretaries-general of their role as each ministry's gatekeepers who must be aware of the goings-on in their ministries including the approval of finances, adding that he was uncertain if the ministry's secretary-general was misled in the case of the Youth and Sports Ministry official. He also said similar independent forensic audits would be carried out in other ministries. "At present the procedures and systems in the civil service are good, if everyone goes by the book. "We cannot make conclusions now on this case. "However we must find out how the financial controller had missed this and how the vouchers were issued." He said civil servants holding sensitive positions should only serve between three and five years in their positions. Ali said the ministry official detained by MACC would be suspended from his position, pending an investigation. In a statement later, Ali said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had instructed ministries, government departments and agencies to exercise extra vigilance, transparency and accountability. "The prime minister has instructed there be an investigation into

this matter with immediate effect," he said in the statement. Meanwhile, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said the government would tighten procedures for expenditure to ensure that all secretaries-general could examine thoroughly monies used for projects or programmes. "As we all know, the ministries are screened by their internal audit departments and National Audit Department. "The audit report must state every detail of the spending and allocation." He said the Treasury had set clear financial procedures, but some officers failed to comply with them.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Wednesday, 23 March, 2016

13. PTPTN still owed RM5.4bln as of Dec 31 last year - Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 662,983 borrowers failed to pay back to the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) loans amounting to RM5.4 billion as of Dec 31 last year, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

The Higher Education Ministry, in a written reply to the house, said another RM2.79 billion was arrears because some of the borrowers repaid in amounts much less than those set by PTPTN.

A total of 1.22 million of the 1.88 million borrowers, or 64.72 per cent, had repaid RM7.14 billion of the total RM15.33 billion as of last Dec 31, the ministry said in the reply to Datuk Ahmad Fauzi Zahari (BN-Setiawangsa).

As for Ahmad Fauzi's question on how the ministry was coaxing the borrowers to repay their loans, it said briefings were held periodically at government and private institutions.

It also said that discounts of 20 per cent were given for settlement of loans in one lump sum between Oct 1, 2012, and Sept 30, 2013, and between Oct 10, 2014, and March 31, 2015. --
BERNAMA

NEW STRAITS TIMES Thursday, 24 March, 2016

14. 1MDB does not owe RM2.7b

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has denied a claim that 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) owes them RM2.7 billion over the Bandar Malaysia project.

Finance Ministry in a written reply to a question by Tony Pua (DAP-Petaling Jaya Utara) said out of the total cost of RM2.7 billion for relocation and upgrading for facilities that used to be located at Bandar Malaysia, only RM1.1 billion was to be borne by the government.

"The remainder had been deducted from the RM12.35 billion gained from the sale of Bandar Malaysia land to IWC and China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC).

"Therefore, there is no balance to be returned to any party," the Finance Ministry said.

It was reported that Bandar Malaysia land had been sold to IWC and CREC as part of efforts to cover 1MDB's RM42 billion debts.

Pua had asked the Finance Ministry why it had not sought RM1.6 billion for the sale of Bandar Malaysia land to 1MDB, and RM1.1 billion for the relocation and upgrade of the Royal Malaysian Airforce base in Sungai Besi.

Pua said 1MDB would have received the RM2.7 billion from Iskandar Waterfront (IWC), which bought a stake in Bandar Malaysia.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Saturday, 26 March, 2016

15. 1MDB to announce other debt payments in two to three weeks: Arul Kanda

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) will make announcements on its other debt payments in two to three weeks.

President and executive director Arul Kanda Kandasamy said at present the company is in a debt settlement phase and would not take in new debt.

"This morning, we have made an announcement that 1MDB had fully settled a RM700 million loan," he said in an interview on Business Plus programme on Astro Awani today.

Meanwhile, Arul Kanda also denied the involvement of Low Taek Jho (Jho Low), the individual said to have links with 1MDB in the company's activities.

"Before it becomes 1MDB, the Terengganu Investment Authority (TIA) had been established whereby its shareholder was the Terengganu government. At that time, Jho Low was appointed as the adviser to TIA," he said.

Nevertheless, Arul Kanda said Jho Low had resigned from the post in May 2009, before the TIA shares were taken over by the Finance Ministry, following which TIA was renamed 1MDB.

"Hence Jho Low has no role in the company... he is not paid by the company and is not given any function in the company," he said. --Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES Saturday, 26 March, 2016

16. Lessons to be learned from 1MDB story: Arul Kanda

KUALA LUMPUR: President and executive director of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) agreed that there are lessons that can be learned from the company's experience.

Arul Kanda Kandasamy concluded that all entities must be more transparent in their reporting, and should reduce excessive debt as well as high risk in the management of the company.

"Among the lessons to be learned from the 1MDB experience is in managing the capital structure and use of excessive debt should be reduced.

"Taking in a number of projects that are large and complex under one company may also need to be reviewed," he said in an interview on Business Plus programme on Astro Awani today.

He said government-owned companies like 1MDB must communicate on an ongoing basis, be transparent, open and have to answer from the outset, that is since 2009, and not from 2015.

"This is what we can learn from what has happened in 1MDB, and InshaAllah, with these lessons we can all move forward," he said.

The sale of Edra Global Energy Bhd had substantially reduced 1MDB's debt, and it now has a cash surplus of RM2.3 billion to carry on with the activities related to the infrastructure development for the Tun Razak Exchange and pay interest on the other debts, he said.

Arul Kanda said half of 1MDB's debt was in US dollars, and the debt amount would vary depending on the exchange rate of the ringgit against the currency.

He also cited a report by Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday that 1MDB was never a systemic risk issue to Malaysia's economy.

"After selling Edra Global Energy, the issue has decreased.

"1MDB is only a company facing business problems, which has been politicised, but it has undertaken rationalisation measures to reduce the debt burden and is now ready to move forward," he added. --
Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES Monday, 28 March, 2016

17. Attorney-General's Chambers to decide on action against 1MDB

The Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) will decide on the administrative action to be taken against 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani said the recommendations made by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) would be submitted to the AGC. During the debate session at the Parliament today, Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Bagan) had asked Johari (BN-Titiwangsa) on the action that would be taken against the state investment arm. Johari replied that the investigation by Bank Negara had been completed and the documents would be sent to the AGC as the final decision was subject to Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali's approval. "Bank Negara has said that administrative action will be taken against 1MDB and this could be in the form of penalty or compound, among the punishment imposed," he said. When Lim asked if it was a criminal

offence, Johari reiterated that it was not a criminal offence and the administrative action involved a sum of penalty or compound. "Bank Negara has no jurisdiction to determine the penalty or compound and therefore it has to be forwarded to the AGC for approval and a final decision," he said. Interjecting Johari, Lim had asked for an explanation if the penalty would be paid by 1MDB or the officer who made the mistake, especially in failure to comply with the rules and regulations. "If we follow the procedure... When an investigation was made against 1MDB, the penalty will be paid by the company and not the individual," Johari said. Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akthar Aziz had previously said administrative action would be pursued against the state investment arm for failure to comply with rules and regulations. She said 1MDB was not unique in this matter as rules and regulations should be adhered to by all companies doing businesses in Malaysia. The central bank had asked 1MDB to furnish documents to prove that the USD1.83 billion (RM7.39 billion) investment that was supposed to be repatriated to Malaysia from abroad had been used for its restructuring plans to pay off debts. However, 1MDB had failed to produce the documents to the financial institution since last October and Zeti said they have failed to comply with the bank's directive.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Thursday, 31 March, 2016

18. No 1MDB funds went into PM's personal accounts

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has reiterated it has not paid any funds to the personal accounts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In a statement today, 1MDB said, following extensive investigations, this has been corroborated by multiple lawful authorities, who had confirmed that these funds came from Saudi Arabia.

It said despite this, the Wall Street Journal continued to repeat the same allegations, without providing any concrete evidence to justify these claims.

"We question the timing of this new round of attacks, coming as it does just days after 1MDB announced it had successfully completed the share sale and purchase agreement for Edra Global Energy Bhd," it said.

Furthermore, 1MDB confirmed its intention to repay RM6 billion of its debt in the coming weeks, which will result in all short-term debt being removed from the company's balance sheet, it said.

"These actions reflected the significant success 1MDB has made with its rationalisation plan, and we remain committed to ensuring the conclusion of this process despite the repeated attacks against the company," it added.--BERNAMA

19. MACC never sought advice from Kevin Morais on 1MDB probe: Abu Kassim

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission had never sought advice from the late DPP Datuk Anthony Kevin Morais on investigations relating to 1Malaysia Development Bhd or Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, said MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

He said Kevin Morais was transferred out of the MACC in July 2014, one year before the investigations into 1MDB even began, and never attended any of the special task force meetings chaired by the former Attorney General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail.

"Therefore, Kevin could not be, and was not, involved in writing any charge sheet relating to 1MDB or the Prime Minister. Any statement to the contrary is completely false," he said in a statement here today.

He added that Attorney General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali and MACC investigations director Datuk Azam Baki publicly confirmed in September and December last year respectively that Kevin Morais was never involved in any investigation relating to 1MDB or the Prime Minister.

"Kevin's death was a tragedy. He should be allowed to rest in peace and not used like a political football," he said. --Bernama