

1. Rahman Dahlan explains why DOJ didn't name 'Malaysian Official 1'

KUALA LUMPUR: The identity of "Malaysian Official 1" is not as important as why the official was not explicitly named in in US Department of Justice's (DoJ) civil complaint against assets allegedly linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) in the United States. Minister in Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan, in an interview with BBC published today, questioned why the DoJ did not mention 'MO1' by the person's proper name. "That tells you that the Department of Justice feels that whoever is supposed to be Mo1 is not involved in the 1MDB saga," he said. Rahman said 'MO1' was referenced in the civil complaint document for the purpose of clarity, and not an accusation of guilt; directly nor by association. When pressed by BBC interviewer Karishma Vaswani, on who Rahman thinks MO1 is, the federal minister responded, "I've said it openly and publicly, if you have read the documents, obviously people say that it is the prime minister. "But when I'm asked this question, I always ask back, why is it that the Department of Justice did not name him using his proper name? "And that reason is because he is not part of investigation and not a focus of this investigation." The civil complaint, he said, is about the three to four people whose names are detailed in the documents, and are accused of misappropriating funds related to 1MDB. He said these individuals will be brought to court and the judicial branch will decide on the matter. In July, the DoJ filed a civil complaint to seize assets in the United States allegedly acquired with misappropriated funds from 1MDB. The Malaysian government has since pledged full cooperation to all the investigating agencies and institutions.

2. Govt to continue monitoring GLCs

SEGAMAT: The government, through the Finance Ministry, will continue to monitor government linked companies (GLCs) and those owned by it, via the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MoF Inc) from time to time. Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani said it was necessary for the managements of the related companies to ensure that those under their charge are well managed. "If they fail to undertake their responsibilities in an efficient manner, we will not renew their contracts," he added. He told reporters this after officiating the UMNO Segamat Division delegates meeting here today. Johari said the managements must also ensure their companies turned in a benefit in terms of profit and job opportunities for the people. On the tabling of the Budget 2017, he said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak who is also the Finance Minister, will always prioritise the interest of the people, although Malaysia was facing the impact of the global economic downturn. He, however, declined to elaborate further on the budget. --Bernama

3. PAC recommends improvement of myIMMs immigration system

KUALA LUMPUR: The Immigration Department does not have to replace the myIMMs immigration system but must improve it to fulfil the rising need, the Public Accounts Committee said today. PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin said there must be improvements to make it easier for immigration officers and staff to better handle the system. He also said that it was important to have the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit directly involved in every planning and implementation aspect of the immigration information technology system. MAMPU should constantly monitor and provide inputs and suggestions to upgrade the myIMMs to keep it up to date and ensure national security, he said in a statement. Hasan issued the statement after the PAC heard clarifications today from the Home Ministry and Department of Immigration on issues raised on the myIMMs Immigration System in the first series of the 2015 Auditor-General's Report. He said Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Alwi Ibrahim, Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali and Immigration deputy director-general (management) Datuk Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman addressed the committee between 11am and 1.30pm. "The PAC is satisfied with the clarifications and information provided by the Home Ministry and the Department of Immigration. "However, the PAC wants the government, particularly the Home Ministry and the Department of Immigration, to ensure that all systems developed and used can be integrated as a whole," he said. Hasan said the myIMMs system was good and had won many awards in the country and abroad for performance. -- Bernama

4. Mental health of Malaysian students cause of worry: Health Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Ministry statistics reveal a worsening state of mental health problems among Malaysian students, from one in 10 individuals in 2011 to one in five in 2016. Experts cite anxiety and depression as the main causes of mental health problems among students although not ruling out the influence of drugs as a factor. One of them, Dr Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad, said a prolonged state of mental health problems could make students become withdrawn, suffer from schizophrenia and develop the inclination to commit suicide. The tendency to take one's own life could become more severe if the mental health problems were not addressed within a period of two years, he said, adding that this was a serious matter that was often neglected. Referring to the causes, Dr Mohd Suhaimi said anxiety developed from trauma, emotional disorders such as bulimia, developmental disorders such as hyperactivity, behavioural disorders and severe stress due to family problems. He said anxiety could be attributed to pressure of examinations that might instil

fear in students. "Low self-confidence as a result could cause a student to be in a state of worry and stress, coupled with the pressure from parents and teachers who drive them to be competitive. "Besides studies, the fear of embarrassment over any matter could push students towards extreme consternation," he told Bernama. In a state of restlessness, a student would normally experience heavy sweating at all times and a pounding heart, inability to sleep at night and insomnia that could take a toll on his or her health if these were to prolong, he said. "Depression, on the other hand, makes an individual isolate himself or herself from others," Dr Mohd Suhaimi said, adding that the signs of extreme depression were sudden mood changes that led to extreme anger. This could also occur due to heredity factors inherited from family members with mental health problems, he said. Dr Mohd Suhaimi did not rule out the possibility of mental health problems stemming from the pressure from parents for their children to excel in the academic field. "Parents should help their children live a normal life and not force them to study solely to meet their own expectations," he said. Dr Mohd Suhaimi said that once a child was diagnosed to have a mental health problem, treatment could be administered through the biopsychosocial way with an individual interacting with the patient so that the latter did not feel isolated and did not act aggressively. "Besides, the administration of medication regularly can control and prevent a person from sliding towards mental illness," he said. He also said that the individual should be given guidance and support by those around him or her, especially parents, to rebuild his or her confidence. "Parents should extend support and encouragement to children with mental health problems to prevent the condition from worsening," he said. -- Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday September 13 2016

5. Oct 26 court date to hear Azmin's bid to declassify 1MDB audit report

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court today set Oct 26 to hear Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Azmin Ali's leave application to proceed with his legal bid to declassify the Auditor General's (AG) final report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), currently placed under the Official Secrets Act 1972 (OSA). Counsel Michelle Kummar confirmed that deputy registrar Norazlin Othman decided on the hearing date during case management in her chambers this morning. "The leave application will be heard before judge Datuk Hanipah Farikullah," said Michelle. She said copies of the legal action would later be served on the three respondents, namely: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Auditor General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang and the Malaysian government. Through the judicial review application filed on Aug 15, Azmin had sought a court declaration that there was a conflict of interest on Najib's part, due to the PM's role as 1MDB adviser, when he directed Ambrin to classify the report under the OSA. Azmin, who is also PKR deputy president and Gombak MP, claimed the matter arose because Najib was purportedly linked to the 1MDB issue and it became his (Azmin's) responsibility as a member of parliament to "protect

the taxpayers and the citizens of Malaysia". He is seeking a court declaration that the OSA classification on the report was unlawful and violated the Federal Constitution, and an order to compel the three respondents to declassify the 1MDB final report and release it to the public. On Nov 18, Hanipah is also set to hear a similar leave application by former 'Tolak Individu Bernama Anwar Ibrahim' (a former non-governmental organisation) spiritual leader Muhammad Zahid Md Arip to mount a legal bid to make the 1MDB final report publicly accessible.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Tuesday September 13 2016

6. Not up to mark, Kedah PAC wants state to consider scrapping e-tutor programme

ALOR STAR: The state government should consider scrapping the Kedah e-Tutor programme (KeT) as it can save RM18 million a year, said Kedah Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today.

Its chairman Datuk Azmi Che Hussain said in a recent meeting, the state PAC discovered the portal had several weaknesses and could not be accessed by students in certain areas in the state.

He said the portal, costing RM18 million annually, would only caused a burden to the state finances if it failed to serve its purpose in helping students to excel in their studies.

"The committee have discussed the matter with the state Education Department and found that there were also weaknesses in terms of content and syllabus used in the programme," said Azmi in a statement.

He said the committee also found that the learning portal could not be accessed by students in certain locations due to limited internet connection.

Azmi said at the same time, students who used the portal did not show significant improvement in their studies.

"The committee urged the company behind the e-tutor programme to review and make some adjustments to the programme to ensure that the syllabus is up-to-date as well as making it easier for students to access it," he said.

He added that the state PAC would summoned Kedah Education Committee chairman Datuk Tajul Urus Mat Zain soon to discuss the matter.

The Kedah government launched the cyber learning portal in April 2015 to provide free online tuition to 280,000 schoolchildren in the state.

The portal, which was developed by the TH3 Holdings Sdn Bhd, provides easy learning and more than 4,000 high-definition videos in several languages.

7. 'Road repair budget inadequate'

KUALA LUMPUR: BUDGET limitations have been cited as being the main reason behind the poor conditions along the 17.7km Pulau Indah expressway, also known as FT 181.

A senior Public Works Department official said a monthly allocation of RM1,700 was given to maintain each kilometre of road, which amounted to near half a million ringgit, to maintain the expressway.

"Hauliers use the road frequently to transport goods to and from Port Klang. This takes a toll on the road. A large portion of the budget goes to patching potholes and cracks.

"The balance is used for other maintenance works, including paying for utility bills and grass cutting," he said, adding that the annual budget stood at RM15 million.

"Certain quarters believe that PWD has a huge budget, but the bulk of the budget is allocated to other projects and maintenance works.

"PWD cannot simply take money from other projects, as that goes against the rules," he said.

PWD, in a statement recently, said it was looking at upgrading the road from a four-lane carriageway to a six-lane carriageway, with a dedicated motorcycle lane, to ease traffic as well as ensure the safety of motorcyclists, especially those employed at Port Klang.

In the pipeline, the PWD official said, was a plan to convert all six junctions along the 17.7km stretch into flyovers.

"Currently, there are only two flyovers along the stretch, including a newly completed flyover, which will be opened soon. PWD is building another flyover, which is slated to be completed in 2018."

As an interim measure while waiting for the budget allocation from the government to build the dedicated motorcycle lane, the official said the department proposed paving the road shoulder along the expressway for motorcyclists.

"That way, we will be able to separate motorcyclists from heavy vehicles.

"But, we need the cooperation of enforcement agencies to monitor the road so that motorists will not abuse the road shoulder," he said.

"We are aware that the road is treacherous, but until we are given a budget increase, there is not much that we can do."

PWD came under fire recently when several associations, including the Association of Malaysian Hauliers and Selangor Container Drivers Association, complained that the expressway, which comes under the supervision of the department, was in poor condition and the site of too many fatal accidents, with the most recent involving a motorcycle and a trailer last week.



PWD director-general Datuk Dr Roslan Md Taha said that the cost of upgrading the 17.7km expressway stretch would be RM3 billion, which would be utilised for land acquisition as well as associated construction works.

"PWD has requested for the budget from the government, and will only begin the work when the budget is approved," he told the *New Sunday Times*.

Roslan refuted claims by certain quarters that his department had neglected maintenance of the expressway, adding that the department was swift to patch up any potholes.

"If we identify any potholes or cracks along the road, we will patch them up within 24 hours," he said.

Roslan said since 2010, PWD had spent RM46.1 million on fixing the expressway and other roads in Port Klang.

This includes restoring and strengthening the pavement structure, painting road lines, installing and repairing road barriers, and fixing streetlights and traffic lights.

"This year, the department spent RM950,000 to restore the North Port Highway, while restoration work on FT 181, which cost RM1.2 million, had already begun, and is expected to be completed this month," he said.

PWD had also spent RM13.4 million on routine maintenance from 2010 until last month. This included patching potholes and cracks, cleaning up drains, cutting grass and cleaning road signs.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Sunday September 18 2016

8. Cuepacs wants to maintain eight-hour working day

BAYAN LEPAS: Cuepacs wants the working hours for civil servants to be maintained at eight hours daily, as it is still relevant in the country.

Its president Datuk Azih Muda said there was no need to change the working hours to six, as proposed by the Malaysian Trade Unions Congress (MTUC) recently.

Instead, he proposed that the government look into other initiatives, such as increasing the salary of civil servants.

"I am suggesting that the salary of civil servants be increased for every hour of work rather than reducing the hours.

"This is a far better move," he told reporters here today.

Meanwhile, Azih said Cuepacs also submitted three proposals the government could consider for the 2017 Budget, which will be tabled next month.

MTUC secretary-general N. Gopal Kisham recently asked the government to consider reducing the current eight hours to just six hours for its workers.

In response, Chief Secretary Tan Sri Ali Hamsa had said that the government was willing to consider the proposal.

NEW STRAITS TIMES Sunday September 18 2016

9. Medical officer, clerks arrested over making RM900,000 in false claims

JOHOR BARU: A medical officer and two clerks with the district health office, were arrested by the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly making RM900,000 worth of false claims. The medical officer, 55, and two clerks, aged 30 and 31, were hauled to the Johor Baru magistrate's court today by the Johor MACC and remanded for seven days. Magistrate Noor Aisyah Ahmad granted the remand order. The women had allegedly issued 59 false claims in the form of payment vouchers amounting to RM900,000.