

**New Straits Times October 2017**

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1. **MACC seized RM334.53 million worth of assets, opened 952 IPs since August 2016:**  
**Dzulkifli**



**Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad said MACC's performance is on an upward trajectory.**

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) performance is on an upward trajectory, its chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad said.

In announcing this today, he said things were improving especially in the operations aspect.

"Between August 2016 and August this year, we have seized RM334.53 million worth of assets compared to RM55.02 million the year before.

"This is an increase of 600 per cent," he said at the launch of the new MACC headquarters by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and its golden jubilee celebration.

For the same period, Dzulkifli said the anti-graft body had opened 952 investigation papers, an increase of 2.94 per cent; brought 405 cases to court (32.83 per cent increase); made 910 arrests (6.04 per cent increase) and received 6,419 tip-offs (2.63 per cent).

He said the MACC must portray an image that would bring fear to the corrupted.

"In this respect, we have been aggressive in our enforcements and operations with either arrests or indictment being made every week."

Dzulkifli said the MACC had entered a new era where it could be seen forging a closer tie with the people.

"The MACC is an agency that belongs to the people; an agency that is the voice and the strength of the people in efforts to uphold their rights and interests."

He vowed that the commission would always put the people's interest first.

On its newly launched headquarters, comprising three towers, Dzulkifli said it was the biggest in the world built on a 2.07ha plot at Presint 7 with the capacity of 1,800 staff.

Among the facilities available are a 1,000-capacity multi-purpose hall, a 300-capacity auditorium, officers' mess, a daycare centre, a gymnasium, a shooting simulation room, a library and a press conference room.

The complex is also being secured by 354 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and surrounded by anti-climb and anti-cutting fences.

**2. 48 security guards lodge reports with police and MACC over unpaid salaries**



A group of 48 security guards held a peaceful demonstration to protest against a company for failing to pay their outstanding salaries.

KOTA BARU: A group of 48 security guards held a peaceful demonstration to protest against a company for failing to pay their outstanding salaries.

The company had hired them to work as security guards in 12 schools in the district.

The group, led by Roslan Kamarulzaman, claimed that their employer did not pay them their salaries since August.

Roslan said the security company has been facing financial problems since it took a contract from the Education Ministry last September.

"We started to realise the employer was having financial problems when they began paying our salary in installments.

"We had also earlier approached the company owner to get an explanation on the matter but he told us that he has yet to receive any payment from the district education office.

"The total losses for all the 48 security guards amount to more than RM150,000," he said.

The 40-year-old later lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) at its office.

Speaking to reporters after lodging the report, Roslan said he then went to the district education office and was told that the company owner had already received the payment for the contract.

"Many of the guards are facing difficulties to support their lives especially in raising their families.

"We have also lodged a police report urging police to investigate the case," he said.

Roslan said he tried to contact the company owner after speaking to the district education officer, but failed to do so.

**3. Guan Eng tells Saddiq to lodge report over RM5mil bribery attempt**



Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has urged Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) youth chief Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman to lodge a report with Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on claims that he was offered RM5 million in bribe.

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has urged Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) youth chief Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman to lodge a report with Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on claims that he was offered RM5 million in bribe.

Lim, who is also the Pakatan Harapan's vice president and DAP secretary-general, told newsmen that it is in Saddiq's best interest to lodge the report as required by the law.

"I am not surprised (to hear of the bribery attempt), he should report MACC," he said at a press conference today.

Yesterday the 25-year-old claimed that he was offered RM5mil by an aide to a minister for him to leave the party (and the country) and further his studies at Oxford University.

Saddiq said he had proof of the alleged bribe and is now discussing with his lawyers before taking the matter to MACC.



**4. BNM: Investment banks should not focus on commercial gains alone**



KUALA LUMPUR: Investment banks demanding for the Broad Property Sector (BPS) guideline to be scrapped are taking a short-term view and should consider the long-term systemic implications of an over-exposure to the property sector and not just focus on their own commercial gains, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM).

"We should not be oblivious to the many lessons learnt from the Asian and global financial crises," it said in response to an article entitled 'IBs want property lending rule scrapped', published by a local daily recently.

In a statement today, BNM said, the BPS guideline was introduced in 1997 to avoid over-concentration of credit exposures to the property sector.

"The guideline therefore is still relevant in curbing excessive systemic exposures to the sector, complementing other existing regulations," it said.

Banking institutions should always be mindful of current property market conditions and not contribute to a situation where there was a mismatch between supply and demand, it said.

"There is currently an insufficient supply of affordable homes, and this situation could worsen if these supply-demand conditions persist.

"Banks and property developers should focus on supporting the affordable housing segment and development projects that generate multiplier effects to the economy," it said.



**5. 2 contractors ordered to enter defence on 3 counts of bribery**

ALOR STAR: Two contractors were today ordered by the Sessions Court here to enter their defence on three counts of bribery totalling RM135,000 two years ago.

Nor Azamuddin Ahmad, 48, and his co-accused Farid Idris Khan, 37, were both charged with accepting RM45,000 on May 4, June 6, and July 2, respectively, from entrepreneur Datuk Noridan Spee Yee, 56, at about 10pm at Persiaran KTC 4/3, Kulim Techno City Golf View, Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kulim .

The charge sheet stated that the money was an inducement for the accused to get a quota of 100 metric tonne of subsidised "Super Tempatan 15" rice from the Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Ministry for MNS Utara Entreprise and MFM Utara Entreprise for the month of May, June and July the same year.

Nor Azamuddin and Farid were charged under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009, which was read together with Section 28 of the Act.

They were liable to face a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the total sum of the bribery

Deputy public prosecutor A Hafiizh Abu Bakar prosecuted and both the accused were represented by counsel Ang Chun Pun.

Judge Zainol Rashid Hussain said the court made the order after ruling that the prosecution had proved a prima facie case against the two men.

The court fixed Oct 23, for the accused to enter their defence.

**6. Shafie Apdal's younger brother arrested over misappropriation of funds probe**



The commission's investigating officers raided his house at about 6pm after he presented himself at the MACC office here this morning to give statement.

KOTA KINABALU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has detained the younger brother of Parti Warisan Sabah president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal to assist in the probe into misappropriation of federal government funds for Sabah.

The commission's investigating officers raided his house at about 6pm after he presented himself at the MACC office here this morning to give statement.

A MACC source said Shafie's 52-year-old brother was detained at 9.30pm.

MACC officers had yesterday went to his house at Taman Bersatu Putatan here on Monday night, but no one was at home.

However, Hamid turned up at the Sabah MACC office on Tuesday morning to give his statement on the case.

On Monday, the MACC detained Parti Warisan Sabah Wira chief Datuk Mohd Azis Jamman; Tenom Umno Youth Chief Jamawi Jaafar; and Tawau Umno Youth Chief Ariffin Kassim as part of the investigation.

Their arrests came after Parti Warisan Sabah vice-president Datuk Peter Anthony and a businessman were detained on Oct 5.

The five individuals have since been remanded.

**7. Taman Melawati residents want MACC to probe why building of park cancelled**



Taman Melawati Residents Association (TMRA) Zone ABC chairman Razman Hakimi Abdullah said the residents sought the commission's intervention to investigate how and why the land status for recreational park was changed to commercial site for the building of a convention centre so quickly.

PUTRAJAYA: The residents of Taman Melawati, Ampang, in Kuala Lumpur lodged a report today to the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) on Selangor government's abrupt decision to build a convention centre instead of a centralised park which was promised initially.

Taman Melawati Residents Association (TMRA) Zone ABC chairman Razman Hakimi Abdullah said the residents sought the commission's intervention to investigate how and why the land status for recreational park was changed to commercial site for the building of a convention centre so quickly.

"The original plan of the project was approved in 2014 and we only found out the development of the park had been cancelled through a tender notice for building the convention center that was published in Utusan Malaysia on May 18. Our question is how can a mega project like this easily go through all the approval process within five months. Why weren't we informed?

"We believe there could be elements of power abuse and corruption in this issue as one-third of the funding of the convention centre comes from the developer which is Sime Darby, another one-third from the municipal council and final one-third from the state-government run by PKR," he told reporters after submitting the report to MACC here today.

Plans for the proposed recreational park known as Central Park was scrapped to pave way for a convention centre on a 1.48 hectare land at Jalan Bandar 12 in Taman Melawati. It is expected to cost about RM25 million.

The two-year project is set to begin between December 2017 and January 2018.

Razman said in exchange for the convention centre, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) said it would build the park on a smaller site about a kilometer away.

"Sime Darby Property had promised to build the park next to Melawati Mall five years ago as part of its Taman Melawati redevelopment plan including other high-rise residential buildings. This act is really uncalled for.

"We are disappointed as MPAJ also refused to have a public hearing with the residents in regard to the matter," he said.

Razman hoped the MACC's investigation will look into all aspects and all parties including MPAJ, the state government and the developer for the sake of some 30,000 residents in Taman Melawati.

"A total of 75 per cent of the residents here are retirees and old folks. We don't need a convention centre. We want some greenery around our neighbourhood, not a concrete jungle.

"I think it is ridiculous to build a convention centre as the area is jam-prone. Adding more buildings will only add on to the existing traffic congestion," he added.

## 8. Natural Resources and Environment Ministry launches RM855 million Environmental Quality Monitoring Programme



Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (front) said the EQMP, which is implemented through a concession agreement with environment expert Scieno TW Sdn Bhd, encompasses real-time based data collection for the purpose of air, river and marine monitoring as well as the establishment of the National Environmental Command Centre (NECC).

PUTRAJAYA: The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry has launched a state-of-the-art Environmental Quality Monitoring Programme (EQMP) aimed at improving the existing environmental quality monitoring system.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the EQMP, which is implemented through a concession agreement with environment expert Scieno TW Sdn Bhd, encompasses real-time based data collection for the purpose of air, river and marine monitoring as well as the establishment of the National Environmental Command Centre (NECC).

"If the old system took 30 to 40 minutes to send data to the Department of Environment, this sophisticated new system only takes 10 minutes to send us real-time data," Wan Junaidi told reporters during the launch of the EQMP in his ministry today.

The NECC is located at the Department of Environment headquarters and will serve as a platform to analyse air, river and marine data obtained from environmental quality stations nationwide before being channeled to end users on a real-time basis.

"The NECC will do modelling, forecasting, geospatial mapping, mobile apps, web-based application and live video streaming," he said.

The EQMP will be implemented by Scieno TW for a period of 14 and half years involving a cost of RM855 million.

Manual, automatic and mobile facilities have been set up for incidents of pollution and air quality status across the country.

Hailed as the most expensive project for his ministry, Wan Junaidi said the concession agreement was also signed as part of measures to improve the existing programme with regard to the country's development and current needs.

He said besides providing information on the current status of the country's air, river and marine quality, the programme could also be used as an early-warning system.

"EQMP will also help in developing policies and assist in making decisions for the welfare of the people and the country through the provision of enforcement activities, inputs and planning of development projects," he said.

#### **9. MACC focuses on cleaning up public sector corruption**

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will continue to emphasise on cleaning up public sector corruption, besides ensuring the people's rights are not compromised by irresponsible parties.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will continue to emphasise on cleaning up public sector corruption, besides ensuring the people's rights are not compromised by irresponsible parties.

Its community education division director, Datuk Abdul Samat Kasah said this was to enhance public confidence in the integrity of civil servants as well as ensure the people's interests.

On that basis, he said the MACC had never practiced favouritism in conducting corruption-related investigations, including high-profile cases.

"Our personnel always uphold the principles of freedom, transparency and professionalism, and are never influenced by the rank or position of an individual being or to be investigated.

"The MACC is also a 'colour blind' independent entity that is not tied to any political party, either from the government or the opposition," he added when met at Wisma Bernama after appearing on Bernama News Channel's (BNC) 'Nine 11' programme today

Abdul Samat said the basic principle in MACC's investigations was not who the perpetrator of the offence was but to focus on what the act was, and the offence committed.

He said this was evident from MACC's records showing offenders from both the government and opposition parties being brought to justice for various offences.

"However, it should be acknowledged that the MACC cannot investigate all the cases submitted, especially those dumped on social networking sites involving allegations of corruption or misconduct.

"In addition to the problem of lack of evidence and witnesses for the purpose of investigation and prosecution, we only have about 700 officers in the investigation division nationwide, and that is insufficient as this job requires a lot of time and workforce," he said



#### 10. Corruption ranking system for ministries to clean up public sector



Government personnel at a recent convention held in Putrajaya. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) move to announce a corruption ranking system for all the ministries is expected to help fight misconduct in the public sector. Pix by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) move to announce a corruption ranking system for all the ministries is expected to help fight misconduct in the public sector.

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Datuk Akhbar Satar said as MACC has set a three-year target to clean up the public sector, the move could curb corruption among civil servants and help the commission to achieve its goal.

"Every year without fail, the Auditor-General's Report still contained findings on power abuse, corruption and misconduct in the ministries.

"Therefore, the ranking system could help to identify which ministries are prone to corruption and help them to improve themselves.

"By doing so, the ministries will know where they stand and come out with plans, such as monitoring staff and conducting checks on anyone who lives beyond means, in order to combat corruption and improve their rankings.

"It will also further strengthen the existing Integrity Unit in the ministries," he said when contacted today.

Akhbar said the respective ministries could also seek help from MACC to prepare strategies to fight corruption.

Yesterday, MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad said the commission has come up with a corruption ranking system, which was modeled after the South Korea corruption integrity assessment system, for all ministries.

He said the list, containing the rankings of "Top 10 Most Problematic Ministries" and "The Best Top 5", would be announced to the public next month or in December.

Meanwhile, Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) director Cynthia Gabriel said 'naming and shaming' was an effective way of putting things in perspective.

"The fight against corruption, especially in the public administration has reached alarming levels.

"Although not all civil servants are bad, the (corruption) problem is systemic and deeply entrenched that even the good ones will find it hard to be honest and carry their work with integrity.

"Therefore, we need to give MACC more strength and above all more independence to crackdown on corruption without fear and without favour."

She said MACC too however, must show that it is not being selective with the cases and cannot be dictated by political directives.

"We need MACC be fair, strong and independent," she said adding the judgement (ranking system) should involve civic participation.

Cynthia also said that there was a need for a reward system to honour the good employees based on performance, honesty and integrity.

"This will clearly drive motivation to excel, be the best and ensure healthy competition amongst ministries."

**11. Shafie Apdal's younger brother detained in RM1.5b corruption probe**



Datuk Mohd Yusof Apdal (left), who is Lahad Datu assemblyman, was detained at the commission's office here about 8pm after he was called in to give his statement. NSTP file pic

KOTA KINABALU: Another brother of Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal has been detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over its probe into the mishandling of federal funds for Sabah.

Datuk Mohd Yusof Apdal, who is Lahad Datu assemblyman, was detained at the commission's office here about 8pm after he was called in to give his statement.

An MACC source, confirming the matter, said the commission is in the process of investigating Shafie's brother.

He is the ninth individual detained by MACC so far in its ongoing probe over the misappropriation of RM1.5 billion in federal funds under the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.

The allocation was meant for rural development projects in Sabah between 2009 and 2015.

The probe revolves around 70 projects pertaining roads as well as water and electricity supply in the Sabah interior.

More than 45 people have been questioned to date in the course of the investigation.

Yusof is expected to be remanded tomorrow.

Shafie's other younger brother, Hamid Apdal was detained last week and has been under MACC remand since.

**12. RM1b to boost net speed in Sarawak**



**Datuk Abang Johari Abang Openg**

KUCHING: Chief Minister Datuk Abang Johari Abang Openg is expected to announce a RM500 million fund to upgrade Internet speed in the state budget next year.

"I will table it (the allocation) in the state 2018 Budget next month at the state legislative assembly sitting.

"I'm committed to investing RM1 billion to build more communication towers and install fibre-optic cables to improve Internet speed in the state in the next two to three years.

"This (RM500 million allocation) will be the first phase to kickstart the project."

He said Sarawak was on the road to become a digital economy to stay relevant and competitive in the modern world.

"We want to become a developed state with a modern society, so there's no escape from digitalising our economy."

The state government had launched several initiatives to transform the economy, including upgrading Internet facilities in rural and urban areas, training youth in digital technology and rolling out the Big

Data centralised database system in April next year.

He said the system would open up the data of government, industries and private individuals, which could provide useful information to the public to identify future market needs and trends.

"We are creating an ecosystem for the future generation by equipping them with facilities, knowledge and even a database.

"The only challenge we are facing is whether the people can grasp it. We need people to contribute their creativity, innovation and ideas and become global players."

He was speaking at a forum organised by the youth wing of the Sarawak Bumiputera Technical Education Promotion Charitable Trust on "Transforming Sarawak through the Digital Economy" at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching here yesterday.

Abang Johari said Bank Negara Malaysia had approved the Sarawak Pay digital payment system last week.

"I will make an announcement once the public can use the system. We will start by allowing the public to pay for government-related services, such as quit rent."

In April, the state government engaged Huawei to help develop the system, including its hardware and software, to aid the state's efforts to move towards a digital economy.

**13. PFP accuses DAP assemblyman of billion-ringgit graft; lodges MACC report**



The Penang Front Party (PFP) president Datuk Patrick Ooi (centre) speaks to reporters after launching a report against a DAP state assemblyman at the state's Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) office in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, George Town.

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Front Party (PFP) has lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) against a DAP state assemblyman for alleged abuse of power to obtain billions of ringgit worth of projects for a company linked to him.

PFP president Datuk Patrick Ooi told newsmen today that he has evidence of interference by the assemblyman, who has also served as councillor in the local government, to obtain the projects.

He said that government servants have been supplying him with evidence, until today, on the alleged graft involving the assemblyman.

He, however, refused to identify the assemblyman involved.

"I have been collecting and compiling the evidence for the past six months. I strongly believe we have a case here. The alleged graft (occurred) between 2008 and 2015.

"The evidence I have with me includes proof of the man receiving allowances from said company. Property projects are also included in it, hence the reason for the whopping (amount of) money involved in this case," Ooi said, before lodging the report at Penang's MACC office on Friday.

Ooi added that he had six men who could serve as witness to the case, and ready to assist the MACC in its investigation.

A source has told the New Straits Times that the majority of the projects involved housing projects, where the assemblyman had allegedly interfered so that the deals go through to the company.

It is understood that the projects are worth about RM1.3 billion.

"This might just be one area. There is a possibility that the amount involved might be more, considering his years of service in the local government," the source said when contacted.

The source said there were a few people who had a hand in the deals, which made it difficult for the authorities to trace it, until today.

"The areas with alleged interference are in paper works and the appointment of lawyers for documentations," the source added.

It is learnt that the assemblyman had served as a Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) councillor since 2008 until 2013.

He contested in the 13th General Election for a mainland-base state seat and is currently serving as an assemblyman after winning the election.

On June 30 last year, Penang Chief Minister and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng claimed trial to a charge of alleged abuse of power with regards to the re-zoning of land from agriculture to commercial, and the purchase of his Jalan Pinhorn bungalow at below market price.

The joint trial for both cases is expected to begin later this year.

In August this year, state Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh was also detained in connection with the illegal carbon filter processing factory in Sungai Lembu.

Should the MACC finds evidence of possible graft in the report lodged by PFP, this will lead to the third person from DAP to be arrested and investigated for corruption in a space of two years.



**14. Report claims of corruption if you have proof, says Penang Island City Council mayor**



Mayor Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif visited the Tanjung bungah landslide site. The mayor has asked those who have claimed there was an element of corruption in the approval of the affordable housing project at Lengkok Lembah Permai in Tanjung Bunga here, to report the matter to the authorities.

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) has asked those who have claimed there was an element of corruption in the approval of the affordable housing project at Lengkok Lembah Permai in Tanjung Bunga here, to report the matter to the authorities.

Mayor Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif said they should report the matter if they have proof.

"I am not sure (to such claims of corruption) but I want to stress that approval was granted sincerely.

"We carry out our duties with integrity but you have proof otherwise, report the matter," she said when asked to comment on the claims.

Maimunah also denied claims that the MBPP approved hillslope development projects easily.

"Every approval goes through stringent and detailed processes. It will also be referred to no less than 22 technical departments.

"After that, it will be brought to the one-stop centre for consideration prior to approval," she added.

As such, Maimunah stressed that everything was done according to the stipulated laws.

Asked if the affordable housing project's Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) showed it was built on an unsafe hillslope, she said she would check the matter before commenting.

The project received its planning approval on Feb 10, 2015 and its building plan approval on May 19 the same year.

To another question on whether the developer would be fined, she said it would depend on the outcome of the Commission of Inquiry investigation.

**15. Arrest of ex-Rural and Regional Development Minister not politically motivated, says Ismail Sabri**



Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal's arrest was not politically motivated said Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Pix by Mohd Adam Arinin

KUALA LUMPUR: Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has denied claims that the arrest of Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal was politically motivated.

He said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), as an independent body, has the right to investigate or arrest anyone to facilitate their investigation.

Ismail Sabri also denied that MACC's operation in Sabah was intended to cripple Warisan's chance in the next general election.

He was commenting on an allegation made by Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was behind the Sabah politician's arrest on Oct 19.

Shafie was former Rural and Regional Development Minister.

"No one made a fuss about it when the Johor state exco was arrested and charged by the MACC. No one said it was unfair.

"But when an opposition leader is being held, they say there is an agenda to it," he said at the KL Courts Complex here after giving his testimony in a suit brought against him by Lembah Pantai Member of Parliament Nurul Izzah Anwar.

He said MACC is welcome to visit his ministry to take whatever files or computers to assist the investigation.

"The MACC has the right to take the files from the ministry or even question my officers who have worked there for a long time and know about the case. We will give our full support." he said.

**16. Pasir Puteh traders lodge report with MACC inadequate facilities at new market**



Pasir Puteh Petty Traders Association after lodging a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over inadequate facilities at the new RM6.1 million Siti Hajar market. Pix by Nik Abdullah Nik Omar

KOTA BARU: Pasir Puteh Petty Traders Association today lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over inadequate facilities at the new RM6.1 million Siti Hajar market.

The report was lodged by association's chairman Kamaruzaman Che Ngah at the state MACC office at Jalan Lundang here at about 3pm.

Speaking to reporters later, Kamaruzaman said the report would facilitate investigation into the real cost of the market in the Pasir Puteh new township.

"The market is supposed to house some 500 traders but many have chosen not to relocate and remained at the old market.

"They feel that the cost of the project does not match with the facilities at the market," he said.

Kamaruzaman claimed that the facilities were sub-par as there were only a few number of washrooms and water access, and that the market should have cost below RM2 million to build.

"The rental rates are also expensive. We need to pay between RM60 and RM350 per month for each business lot.

"This is unfair as many of us cannot afford it," he said.

After lodging the report, some 50 traders then held a peaceful demonstration in front of the *MACC* office over the issue.

**17. 1MDB calls on Tony Pua to stop misleading the people**



1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) today called on Petaling Jaya Utara Member of Parliament, Tony Pua, to stop misleading the people with his statements on the company and accept that the opposition's unpatriotic economic sabotage of 1MDB for their own political gain has failed. Pix by Salhani Ibrahim

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) today called on Petaling Jaya Utara Member of Parliament, Tony Pua, to stop misleading the people with his statements on the company and accept that the opposition's unpatriotic economic sabotage of 1MDB for their own political gain has failed.

1MDB said in Pua's attempt to deceive the people, he conveniently forgot to highlight that it was the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in which he is a member, that recommended for the vast majority of 1MDB assets to be transferred from 1MDB to Minister of Finance Incorporated (MoF Inc).

1MDB was referring to a press statement issued by Pua yesterday in which he had "made multiple wrong and misleading statements", claiming that 1MDB is currently an "empty shell" holding "RM40 billion" of debt.

In consideration for the transfer of, among others, Tun Razak Exchange, Bandar Malaysia, Pulau Indah land and Air Itam land, 1MDB would receive payments over time.

Those payments, along with asset monetisation proceeds, will be used to meet the principal and interest on the remaining obligations of 1MDB, which primarily comprise long-term bond and sukuk debt totalling approximately RM32.5 billion at present exchange rates and not the RM40 billion figure wrongly quoted by Pua.

Pua also raised the question on "How in the world is 1MDB on track to realise a profit?".



In this regard, 1MDB said the PAC Report on 1MDB dated April 7, 2016 provided details of projected future cash flows relating to the 1MDB rationalisation programme, which showed a surplus of approximately RM3.0 billion being generated over time. The information was presented to the PAC.

Accordingly, with appropriate stewardship and competent development of the real estate under MoF Inc. and monetisation of other assets, it is highly likely that over time, there will be a surplus generated, whether at the 1MDB level or at the level of its 100 per cent shareholder, MoF Inc.

1MDB said Pua had purposely deluded the public by stating 1MDB's RM12.1 billion investments in the power sector resulted in multi-billion ringgit losses when the company disposed of its energy interest to General Nuclear Power Corp (CGN) for RM9.3 billion.

"Not only are the figures quoted by Pua completely wrong, he conveniently fails to mention that, whilst the gross purchase consideration was RM12.05 billion, the companies acquired had RM1.63 billion of cash on balance sheet, which resulted in a net purchase consideration of approximately RM10.42 billion," it said.

Furthermore, over the period of ownership, about RM2.18 billion was generated in dividends, which were largely used to pay interest on the acquisition debt.

Accordingly, when the cash, dividends and other costs/impairments were taken into account upon the sale to CGN at RM9.83 billion in cash, 1MDB achieved near "breakeven" on its energy investments.

This achievement was all the more commendable, given the opposition's campaign of economic sabotage against 1MDB at that time, the company said.

Meanwhile, Pua also claimed that 1MDB did not help to solve the problem of power purchase agreements (PPAs) that were overly generous to independent power producers (IPPs) as there had been no reduction to electricity tariffs.

In this regard, 1MDB said Pua confused the PPA tariff, which 1MDB helped to reduce, with the electricity tariff.

The PPA tariff is only one component of the electricity tariff, with other components being fuel costs, transmission, distribution costs and others.

It is a fact that 1MDB generated competition during the PPA bidding for new power plants and renewal of PPA contracts for existing power plants.

As a result of 1MDB participation, the new plant and existing plant PPA tariffs were reduced by between one and two sen per kilowatt hour (kWh) and 1MDB was the lowest bidder in all tenders that it won.

"Based on an 85 per cent capacity factor, a one sen tariff per kWh reduction on a 2,000-megawatt power plant over 20 years can result in up to RM3.0 billion in cost savings over the life of a PPA, for one power plant.

"The savings are multiplied significantly across other PPAs. This in turn lowers the overall PPA tariff cost to TNB (Tenaga Nasional Bhd), which is the sole buyer under all PPAs, and contributes towards the electricity tariff," 1MDB said. -- Bernama

**18. RM245 million grant to boost innovation; facilitate Industrial Revolution 4.0**



The government will provide grants worth RM245 million under the Domestic Investment Strategic Fund to upgrade Smart Manufacturing services.

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will provide grants worth RM245 million under the Domestic Investment Strategic Fund to upgrade Smart Manufacturing services.

In tabling the 2018 budget in Parliament, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the move is to support investment and business activities under the Industrial Revolution 4.0.

"The Futurise Centre in Cyberjaya will be upgraded as a one-stop centre for corporate companies and universities to develop product prototypes as well as to boost innovation," he said.

Najib said the government will also extend incentive periods for Fast Capital Allowance by 200 per cent on automation appliances for assessment year of 2018 until 2020.

Incentives for the manufacturing and services sector for Fast Capital Allowance by 200 per cent will also be given.

For information communication technology appliances, capital allowances - including computer software expenditure - can be claimed from assessment year of 2018 until 2020

**19. RM27 billion to further enhance the quality of health services**



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his 2018 Budget announcement, said RM2.5 billion would be used to obtain the supply of medication and another RM1.6 billion for consumable and medical support.

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has allocated RM27 billion to further improve the quality of the country's health services.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his 2018 Budget announcement, said RM2.5 billion would be used to obtain the supply of medication and another RM1.6 billion for consumable and medical support.

Najib said another RM1.4 billion had been allocated to upgrade and maintain health facilities, medical equipment, and ambulance services and build modular operation theatres at the Muar, Banting and Balik Pulau Hospitals.

The government would also upgrade the Cardiology and Cardiothoracic facilities at Sultanah Nur Zahirah Hospital, Kuala Terengganu and Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Alor Star.

Najib said the government would also channel another RM100 million to upgrade hospitals and clinics which includes refurbishing wiring systems.

Each haemodialysis patient would be given a subsidy of RM100 from a total allocation of RM50 million.

"This means that starting from 2018, registered patients will only have to pay RM10 for each haemodialysis session.

"A sum of RM40 million will be allocated to the Medical Aid Fund. Both incentives are specifically for those who are less fortunate," he said.

Part of the allocation would also be channelled to build new hospitals and wards at a cost totalling RM2.3 billion.

Najib said the government had also allocated a total of RM10 million to accommodate the medical costs for rare diseases, which was on an upward trend.

Another RM30 million was channelled to the National Health Community programme which aims to raise awareness on the effects of contagious diseases.

Najib said a total of RM50 million would also be allocated to the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to empower the health sector.

The government would build new hospitals and wards to accommodate current needs.

This includes the setting up of two women and children's wards at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, and Putrajaya, the Cancer centre in Sungai Petani, Specialist clinic and new ward in Penang Hospital, and an International forensic medical service centre at Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

**20. 2018 Budget: Government is committed to providing affordable homes for M40 and B40 segments, says Rehda**



Rehda was grateful to the government for taking heed of their call to extend the Step Up Financing Scheme.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda) described the 2018 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak as positive and comprehensive for all especially those within the M40 and B40 groups.

Rehda president Datuk Seri FD Iskandar said this was reflected through the various incentives and measures announced by Najib where RM2.2 billion has been allocated to build homes to boost home ownership.

Najib had, among others, said there would be a construction of 17,300 Projek Perumahan Rakyat units; 3,000 units under the Rumah Mesra Rakyat under Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB); 210,000 under the 1Malaysia People's Housing Project (PR1MA) priced RM250,000 and below as well as 25,000 units that would be completed by the 1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Project (PPA1M) next year.

FD Iskandar called on state governments to emulate the federal government's move in providing homes priced between RM35,000 and RM42,000.

"I appeal to the state governments to follow the federal governments stance. We can see that the federal government is serious and taking various steps to provide homes for those in the B40 and M40 groups.

"As for affordable homes, private developers will come and assist in building. We are open to engaging with the relevant parties and we will give our feedback," he said in a press conference at Wisma Glomac Damansara today.

FD Iskandar also thanked the government for the incentives provided specifically for the industry and for also fulfilling three out of eight of Rehda's wishes which are the Step-Up Financing Scheme, the MyDeposit Scheme and the GST relief.

He said Rehda was grateful to the government for taking heed of their call to extend the Step Up Financing Scheme.

The scheme, was introduced to the 1Malaysia People's Housing Programme (PR1MA) last year, includes more than 1,400 private developers which will definitely assist home buyers at the initial stage of purchase, especially with the issue of deposit .

He had also commended the government for continuing to allocate funds for the MyDeposit Scheme which was first introduced in last year's budget.

"Although limited to 2,000 houses only, the scheme will help encourage the development of affordable housing among developers. We hope the government will consider providing further allocation to benefit more people.

"As for the GST relief on services provided by the local authorities, it will be of great help to developers especially in these trying times where compliance cost is on the rise. In addition, the management and maintenance of stratified residential buildings provided by developers will no longer be subjected to GST effective Jan 1, 2018. The extension of this treatment will benefit the industry," said FD Iskandar.

The removal of the toll collections at Batu Tiga in Shah Alam and Sungai Rasau in Klang along the Federal Highway, added FD Iskandar, would also assist in opening up new housing areas due to better connectivity.



**21. ECRL to further develop Port Klang**



(File pix) "Exporters, importers and commercial players hope that the new transportation system will revitalise the development of Port Klang and develop the surrounding areas," Datuk Nasarruddin Mohd Zin said

SHAH ALAM: The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), which will connect Port Klang to Pengkalan Kubor, Kelantan, has been welcomed as a project that can further develop Port Klang as a city and a major shipping gateway in Malaysia.

Barisan Nasional coordinator for the Pelabuhan Klang state constituency, Datuk Nasarruddin Mohd Zin, said Port Klang, which had two major ports, required an efficient transportation system.

"In the process of handling the export and import of goods, we have to have a fast and inexpensive system of transportation to compete in the handling of merchandise.

"In addition, a network of roads is indispensable for us to remain a competitive port and enhance our position from the 11th spot in the world," he said.

He was commenting on the announcement by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak when tabling Budget 2018 in Parliament yesterday that the construction of the ECRL project would begin in January 2018 and that the ECRL had the capacity to transport cargo and passengers within four hours.

Nasarruddin, who is Klang UMNO Division chief, said the people anticipated a spillover of economic opportunities along the alignment.

"Exporters, importers and commercial players hope that the new transportation system will revitalise the development of Port Klang and develop the surrounding areas," he said.

He also said that the Light Rail Transit 3 line between Bandar Utama and Johan Setia, Klang, would also raise the socio-economic status of the people in the locality.

The LRT3 was expected to be completed in February 2021.

**22. 2018 Budget - Budget initiatives to spur economic growth**



KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) said the various programmes and incentives focused on the development of micro entrepreneurs, at the 2018 Budget will spur economic growth.

This includes an allocation of RM500 million to Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usahawan Niaga (TEKUN) and RM80 million to the Skim Pembiayaan Ekonomi Desa (SPED).

"All these programmes and additional funds allocated to the development of micro entrepreneurs are expected to boost the further development and growth of entrepreneurship going forward," said MIA Chief Executive Officer Dr Nurmazilah Datuk Mahzan.

"Nevertheless, micro enterprises generally lack in-house expertise and suffer from human resource deficiency. Various studies found that small business enterprises' growth is influenced by management abilities such as finance, marketing, human resource, and operations management," she explained.

"Financial mismanagement as one of the key contributors to small enterprises' failure, can impact enterprise performance," she said.



"All these programmes and additional funds allocated to the development of micro entrepreneurs are expected to boost the further development and growth of entrepreneurship going forward," said MIA Chief Executive Officer Dr Nurmazilah Datuk Mahzan. NSTP file pic

Nurmazilah explained that it is important to put start-ups and business advisors in touch with financial management at an early stage to bridge the skill and knowledge gap. This would help entrepreneurs to achieve their dreams.

"Accountants can play an important role as trusted business partners by providing financial management and relevant business support," she added.

She said the MIA trusts that the contributions by accountants can benefit small businesses throughout the various phases.

"The goal is not just improving the financial capability of business owners, but also increasing business formalisation and professionalism among small businesses, to generate a more resilient economic growth."

Nurmazilah added that the growth prospects arising from the implementation of various economic programmes and activities will increase the demand for qualified accountants.

She also commended the government's effort to encourage women who have been on a career break to return to the workforce.

"The announcement on the tax incentive for women returning to work after their two-year hiatus would encourage more female accountants to contribute to the accountancy profession and the economy."

Nurmazilah also applauded the government's allocation of RM90 million to the Program Peneraju Professional, Skil dan Tunas.

The MIA has and will continue to work with Peneraju to increase the number of Bumiputera accountants in Malaysia, she said.

"As the national accountancy body, the MIA welcomes the government's efforts to spur the country towards achieving the status of a high-income nation and we are committed to steer and support the accountancy profession in its contribution towards sustainable economic growth and societal well-being in Malaysia."

**23. Budget 2018 set to boost digital economy - MDEC**



**MDEC chief executive officer Datuk Yasmin Mahmood.**

KUALA LUMPUR: The RM100 million allocation for the eRezeki and eUsahawan programmes will ensure that Digital Economy continues to be inclusive for the well-being of the rakyat, in particular the B40 and M40 groups, according to Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC).

"With both programmes going into their third year, we estimate that 150,000 rakyat would be trained in 2018; resulting in 341,745 rakyat participating in both programmes with an estimated total income and revenue of RM544 million," said Chief Executive Officer Datuk Yasmin Mahmood.

Digital Economy continues to be a key driver of growth, contributing 18.2 per cent to Malaysia's gross domestic product this year and expected to exceed the projected target of 20 per cent earlier than 2020.

In a statement in response to Budget 2018 unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday, she said that MDEC was pleased to note that digital inclusivity has been extended to a new flagship initiative called eLadang to encourage farmers to leverage the latest smart farming technologies (such as IoT (Internet-of-Things) and BDA (Big Data Analytics) to improve yield and income.



KUALA LUMPUR 09 OCTOBER 2017. CEO of MDEC, Datuk Yasmin Mahmood at press conference the UK mega tech mission to Malaysia at The Verticals, Bangsar South.

As for the RM250 million allocation to develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) centres and improve Computer Science modules, including for Coding programmes, she said this would ensure Malaysian students gain exposure to the #mydigitalmaker education initiative launched last year.

Of the amount, RM190 million will be allocated to transform 2,000 classes into Smart Classrooms for 21st Century learning to increase creative and innovative learning.

MDEC also welcomes initiatives to encourage venture capital activities to assist startups in the form of income tax exemption being widened to include management fees and performance fees, reduce minimum investment limit in a venture company from 70 per cent to 50 per cent from 2018 to 2022 and other tax deductions.

As announced in the budget yesterday, the government would also provide grants worth RM245 million under the Domestic Investment Strategic Fund to upgrade Smart Manufacturing services, aimed at supporting investment and business activities under the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0).

Touching on the Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) which will be launched on Nov 3, Yasmin said 1,900 export-ready SMEs would be flagged off to begin their export journey from the original target of 1,500 SMEs.

For the first time, she said the world would see both physical and virtual zones with additional online and digital services to facilitate cross border eCommerce and invigorate internet based-innovation.



**24. Realistic RM2 billion allocation to boost education in Sabah and Sarawak**



PENAMPANG: The focus on upgrading or rebuilding dilapidated schools in Sabah and Sarawak will be a practical approach to bridge the education gap between rural and urban areas.

District Native Chief Brian Matasing said rural communities need all the help they can get to lift the standard of education but there are times when "big projects" will not provide the solution.

Brian was referring to the RM1 billion allocation proposed for each Sabah and Sarawak to upgrade or rebuild dilapidated schools in the 2018 Budget.

"This approach to reach out to the schools in need, most of which are located in far flung areas, is reasonable and practical because it can bring quick results," he explained.

Brian said to wait for big schools to come to rural areas will take years and moreover most rural schools are under-enrolled.

"This would mean there would be a need to consolidate the small schools and most of the time it would not be practical especially in rural areas where transportation is a hindrance."

"Here in Penampang for instance, we have four rural schools that are really hard to reach. They are Longkogungan, Buayan, Togudon and Terian.

"These schools could use some upgrades to its building, maybe hostels and internet connection. These involved minimal work that can be completed fast and allow for better environment for teaching and learning," he said.

There are about 800 schools that are categorised critically dilapidated in the two states and most are under-enrolled schools in rural areas.



Julian Simiun, from Ranau said, parents like him would normally volunteer to help do repairs in the school their children go to.

"Teachers would normally engage us and ask for our help. We would normally oblige and organise gotong-royong but it would be good with additional help from the department," he said.

In welcoming the allocation, Sabah Education director Datuk Maimunah Suhaibul said; "The RM1billion budget to do repair works for dilapidated schools will definitely improve the access for quality education."

**25. Further 1MDB investigations, as it lacks in certain areas, lack of evidence**



Attorney-General Tan Sri Apandi Ali today confirmed he had instructed the police for further investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

PUTRAJAYA: Attorney-General Tan Sri Apandi Ali today confirmed he had instructed the police for further investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

He said the instruction was issued, as 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the investigation paper (IP) submitted to the AG Chambers had to be reviewed.

"IPs are constantly referred to the AG's Chambers. When we go through them and find there are lacking in certain areas, we give instruction they should pursue or investigate these areas, which I cannot disclose.

"But, the investigation is still on-going. I cannot tell you the details what more have to be investigated.

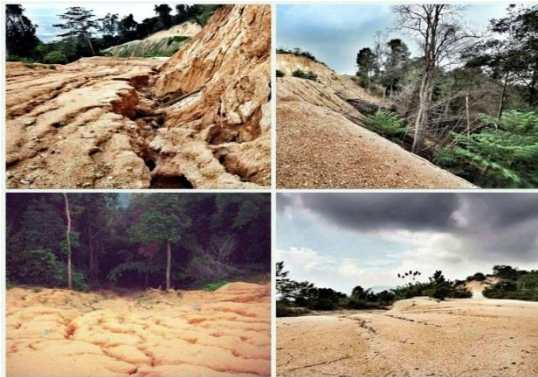
"There is lack of evidence, so we want to pursue that area of evidence," he said after presenting contributions to the families of victims who perished in a fire at the Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah Centre last September.

It was reported that Apandi had instructed for further investigations into 1MDB on Oct 24, although police had concluded its investigations in September.

On Sept 20, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun was reported saying the police had concluded their investigations into 1MDB and there was no need to investigate the case further.

However, he had said the police would act if there were new instructions issued by the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) or the federal cabinet.

**26. Chant questions why Penang PAC report on clearing of Bukit Botak not tabled at state assembly sitting**



The Penang government has been slammed for failing to table the state Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report on the controversial clearing of Bukit Gambir, popularly known as Bukit Botak.

GEORGETOWN: The Penang government has been slammed for failing to table the state Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report on the controversial clearing of Bukit Gambir, popularly known as Bukit Botak.

Citizens Awareness Chant Group (Chant) adviser Yan Lee said the failure of the DAP-led Penang government to table the report at the last state legislative assembly sitting showed the administration does not "walk the talk" in efforts to preserve the area.

He said the action could be described as "eating one's words" when the DAP had previously questioned the failure by the Barisan Nasional federal government to table the PAC report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) at the Dewan Rakyat.

"Is the Penang government trying to hide something from the people, more so when the report had already been completed in May? In fact, the state government has also failed to implement many of the recommendations in the report, which was distributed to all state assemblymen during the last sitting," he told newsmen here today.

The recommendations included replanting, the use of geotextiles and preservation of the cleared site, among others.

(Geotextiles are permeable fabrics which, when used in association with soil, have the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect, or drain.)

Between February and May 2013, a football field-sized portion (0.8ha) of Bukit Botak facing the Penang Bridge was cleared.

After a public outcry over the hill top being cleared without Penang Island City Council approval, the landowner was fined.

The Penang Sessions Court found that General Accomplishment Sdn Bhd had failed to submit an earthworks plan as required by Section 70A of the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974.

It was slapped with a RM30,000 fine. The amount was later raised to RM50,000.

The landowners were told to adhere to special mitigation steps recommended by the state's Hillside Geotechnical Advisory Panel to reverse the damage on the site.

Until today, the hill appears to be "bald" despite work to replant trees in the area. Today, the barren hilltop remains an eyesore and is visible from the Penang Bridge.

Meanwhile, Lee urged the Penang government to debate the matter at the coming state legislative assembly sitting which begins on Thursday.

"We also demand the council explain the latest status of replanting efforts atop the hill," he added.

When contacted, PKR's Penanti assemblyman Dr Norlela Ariffin, a state PAC member, confirmed that the report was not tabled at the state legislative assembly sitting.

"This is a waste, especially since a lot of hard work had been put into preparing the report," she added.