

**New Straits Times March 2017**

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**1. MACC to probe Umno Supreme Council member's alleged fraud case**

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has received a report that an Umno Supreme Council member was allegedly involved in the misappropriation of funds in a software development project.

An MACC source said the project was believed to have been for the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

The source said police have handed over a report that they have received from the public.

"MACC will look into the report first before we open the investigation paper on this alleged misappropriation.

"If necessary, we will call the individuals involved to have their statements recorded to facilitate the investigation," the source said.

MACC will also work with the MCMC to gather more information.

## 2. Johor MACC lauded for probe into alleged real estate graft scandal



The Johor Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has been praised by the Johor palace and state government for conducting its investigation into the state's real estate corruption scandal with efficiency and professionalism.

KLUANG: The Johor Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has been praised by the Johor palace and state government for conducting its investigation into the state's real estate corruption scandal with efficiency and professionalism.

Johor MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias said this was conveyed to him recently when he was given an audience with the Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

"I nearly shed tears when I heard the palace, the Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and state secretary Azmi Rohani giving the MACC a pat on the back for the agency's efforts," Azmi said after an oath-taking ceremony by Kluang Municipal Council staff for an anti-graft campaign at Dewan Tunku Ibrahim Ismail here today.

On the ongoing investigation for which five people are still being detained for suspected involvement in real estate-related graft, Azmi said the MACC will take major action in a couple of days.

"In two days, more drastic action will be taken to correct all corruption, especially concerning the Johor real estate scandal.

"This is in accordance with the call by the Johor ruler and the state government," Azmi said.

Seven suspects, including the son and special officer of a state executive council member, have been detained since Feb 24 to facilitate the MACC's investigation. Two of the seven were released on bail on Friday.

The anti-graft body froze RM15.5 million in 45 accounts, and seized 21 luxury cars, five high-powered motorcycles and RM500,000 in local and foreign currencies during and following the arrests.

### 3. Malaysia has strong FDI prospects, says economist



Malaysia holds strong prospects for foreign direct investments (FDI), thanks to mega infrastructure plans like the High-Speed Rail, East Coast Rail Link, and China's One Belt One Road initiative.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia holds strong prospects for foreign direct investments (FDI), thanks to mega infrastructure plans like the High-Speed Rail, East Coast Rail Link, and China's One Belt One Road initiative.

The weaker ringgit has made Malaysia a more attractive investment destination, said UOB Bank economist Julia Goh.

"Expanding intra-regional trade and investments will drive more two-way flows, create new development opportunities, and expand high value-added activities that pave the way for higher-income jobs," she said in a report.

Goh described Malaysia's FDI, on a net basis, as stable, averaging RM9 billion per quarter since 2010.

Since 2010, FDIs entering Malaysia have racked up promising growth of 35 per cent per annum CAGR (compound annual growth rate) to a cumulative of RM253 billion.

"The positive news on Malaysia and China signing RM144 billion worth of agreements, and the Saudi Aramco and Petronas US\$7 billion deal in developing RAPID has been eye-catching in lifting sentiment."

Last week, the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) released its annual investment performance.

While the markets have been 'preoccupied' with President Donald Trump's policy proposals, the US central bank interest rate outlook and geopolitics, they led to the sale of RM36.4 billion worth of Malaysian bonds since November 2016.

"What has been overlooked is the cushioning effect from FDI which totalled RM41 billion in 2016 (from RM43 billion in 2015).

"Relative to portfolio investments which are more volatile, direct investment flows are more stable with a longer term investment horizon."

She noted that FDI continued on a general uptrend over the years with Singapore (RM115 billion), Japan (RM70 billion), China and Hong Kong (RM53 billion), the Netherlands (RM48 billion), and United States (RM36 billion).

"The bulk of FDI flows in recent years have been from Asia particularly China and Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and South Korea, and the sectors of interest are mining and quarrying (including oil and gas), manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail, information and communication, finance, and shared services."

She also noted that although the number of projects and investments rose last year, there was a 15 per cent decline in job creation which could be due to the low domestic content and high import intensity of the projects.

For capital intensive and highly specialised projects, the number of jobs created may also be fewer.

"However, we think that the High Speed Rail (HSR) will generate enhanced stimulus and growth effects via improved transportation and connectivity between Malaysia and Singapore."

There will be greater economic benefits from positive spill over effects to the other "second-tier" towns on the HSR route, which works to unlock and rebalance intercity growth while local residents will benefit in terms of education, jobs, wages, and wealth effects.

On the outlook for 2017, Goh said it is positive that although MIDA has set a lower approved investment target for 2017 with RM55 billion for manufacturing and RM75 billion for services excluding real estate, largely due to caution on external uncertainties.

"We think prospects for FDI remain positive particularly with the weaker ringgit."

**4. MACC pledges to fulfil King's decree on graft elimination**



The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad the agency also pledged to take those involved in graft to justice.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will continue intensifying efforts to fight corruption, misappropriation and power abuse as decreed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Muhammad V.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the agency also pledged to take those involved in graft to justice.

"As the only enforcement agency entrusted with the responsibility to fight corruption in the country, the MACC will ensure that His Majesty's decree will be fulfilled," he said in a statement yesterday.

Sultan Muhammad V, in his speech at the opening of the first meeting of the fifth term of the 13th Parliament at the Dewan Rakyat, expressed his disappointment over the fact that misappropriation, corruption and leakage of confidential information still persists, involving civil servants and former civil servants alike.

His Majesty said although only a few commit the offences, it still shakes public confidence in government.

Dzulkifli said the MACC accepts the King's decree as a challenge to be more committed in fighting corruption efficiently.

Hence, he hopes that all Malaysians, especially civil servants, will work closely with the MACC to fight corruption without any compromise.



**5. MACC: Half of civil servants found guilty of graft are under 40**

(File pix) The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today revealed that 54 percent of Malaysian government officers below the age of 40 are corrupt, reveals MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today revealed that half of Malaysian government officers found guilty of graft are under the age of 40.

MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil attributed the corruption among young civil servants to today's demanding lifestyle.

"We have cases where junior government officers and clerks can afford to buy the latest iPhone models and drive expensive cars. Their flashy lifestyle does not match their measly pay as young officers and administrative assistants under the government pay scale."

Shamsun Baharin was speaking at a joint-forum with the Rural and Regional Development Ministry here.

MACC figures state that between 2014 to 2016, 2,329 arrests were made for graft. From that figure, 54 per cent or 1,267 people were aged 40 and below.

From that amount, 635 or 50 per cent were civil servants.

Meanwhile, Shamsun Baharin's views were supported by MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner, Datuk Azam Baki.

"Corruption in this country is getting serious. Based on our statistics, 665 investigation papers were filed against government officers last year. And as of February 2017, we have detained 548 civil servants for graft.

"This is why MACC has been more aggressive in combating graft among the civil servants since last August."

Azam said MACC has set a three-year target to clean up the Malaysian public sector.

The MACC and the ministry's joint-forum was attended by Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Pledging to combat corruption, Ismail Sabri said 80 per cent of the ministry's officers in sensitive posts have been rotated.

"Integrity is our main agenda in the ministry. We have rotated our senior officers in sensitive posts such as Director-General, Undersecretary for Finance, Development and Facilities, who have been in the posts for a maximum of six years."

*EDIT: An earlier version of this article had stated that 54 percent of Malaysian government officers below the age of 40 are corrupt. The figure has since been amended.*

**6. Sabah Water Dept graft scandal: MACC probe yet to reach Shafie, says deputy minister**



Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim says the probe by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission into the Sabah Waters Dept graft probe has yet to reach the point where ex-Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal needs to be questioned.

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal has yet to be called in for questioning over the Sabah Water Department graft scandal.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim said this was because investigations by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) have not reached a point where Shafie needs to be questioned.

"Although there has been an offer to probe (Shafie), it has not reached the point where Shafie needs to be investigated.

"I would like to stress that the case being investigated is not politically motivated.

"I would like to ask for all quarters to give the MACC and the Attorney-General's Chamber room to probe the case thoroughly to ensure those responsible are brought to justice," he said during a question and answer session at the Dewan Rakyat this morning.

Shafie (Warisan-Semporna), in his supplementary question, had said he had no qualms to be probed over the scandal.

He had also questioned why the case was being investigated as money laundering and not corruption.

To this, Razali (BN-Muar) said the issue did not arise as the punishment provided for the money laundering offence was also stiff.

**7. Bank Negara, MACC, IRB join forces to combat financial crimes**

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRB) will join forces to combat financial crimes and strengthen the country's financial system.

"The tri-partite effort would also able to increase the national revenue and build a country that is free from corruption and abuse of power," they said in a joint-statement here today.

BNM Governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim said the collaboration would stem the channelling of illegal proceeds and illegal transactions through the financial system.

"This is key in preserving the integrity and public confidence in the Malaysian financial system," he said.

MACC Chief Commissioner, Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad, said the collaboration would also allow the exchange of information on investigation and reinforce the sharing of best practices between the three agencies as each has its own unique challenges in combating financial crimes, corruption and tax evasion.

IRB chief executive officer, Datuk Sabin Samitah, said this strategic alliance was a necessary step towards reducing tax leakages resulting from financial crimes

**8. Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index ranking still manageable**



**Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim said Malaysia, despite the position, occupied the upper one third of the 176 countries involved in the study, with a score of 49**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is still in good stead, despite being ranked 55th in last year's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim said Malaysia, despite the position, occupied the upper one third of the 176 countries involved in the study, with a score of 49.

"Malaysia is also placed third in the CPI, out of 10 Asean countries involved in the study," he said in reply to a question from Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Bagan).

Lim had asked on the approaches taken to improve the country's position in the CPI, to be ranked 30th by 2020.

Razali (BN-Muar) said the CPI for 2016 was calculated based on eight surveys carried out by various international agencies on 176 countries, compared to 168 countries in 2015.

He told the house that out of the eight surveys, Malaysia achieved an excellent score for the Global Insight Country Risk Rating, with an increase of 17 points from 42 in 2015, to 59 last year.

"This is due to an efficient and competitive delivery system in the country," he said, adding that the score has impacted Malaysia's position in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) by the World Economic Forum.

Razali stated that the government was always working towards improving the administrative structure of the country and its CPI position.

He however reminded that efforts to improve are long-term and that the results can only be seen in the long run.

**9. Petronas records higher net profit for FY16, to pay out RM13b in dividend to govt:  
CEO**



**Petronas plans to pay out RM13 billion in dividend this year to the government, says president and CEO Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin.**

KUALA LUMPUR: Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) plans to pay out RM13 billion in dividend this year to the government, said its president and chief executive officer Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin.

Wan Zulkiflee, speaking after the group's yearly financial results announcement today, said the national oil company was confident in meeting the payment amount as the government, as a stakeholder, had never disrupted the capex and opex allocations for the company.

"Yes, we are confident in meeting it despite a challenging industry outlook and we appreciate the fact that the government had never disrupted our budget allocations and we are thankful for that.

"We will be paying the amount for this year considering the current crude oil prices but for next year, we will have to re-analyse to determine how much we can pay as dividend," he said.

Earlier, Petronas announced a 12 per cent higher net profit of RM23.5 billion for its financial year 2016 compared to RM20.9 billion in 2015.

Its quarter-on-quarter net profit also saw a 85 per cent higher jump to RM11.3 billion compared to RM6.1 billion in the previous quarter.

The higher net profit was attributed mainly to lower operating expenditures and tax expenses partially offset by lower average prices.



The group's revenue for the year however dipped 17 per cent RM204.9 billion from RM247.7 billion in 2015, reflected by the lower average prices in line with the downward trend of key benchmark prices coupled with impact of lower sales volume.

**10. MACC remands former MITI director on suspicion of fraud claims**

KOTA BARU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) detained a former Kelantan International, Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) director for allegedly making fraudulent claims totalling to about RM600,000.

According to a source, the 35-year-old former director was detained at his office at the Public Services Department in Putrajaya on Tuesday afternoon by a Kelantan MACC team.

The source said MACC received reports on the alleged false claims made by the former director since holding the position in 2014. The reports were lodged recently.

According to the source, MACC had also found evidence of the alleged misconduct.

It was said that the former director has purportedly used several companies to make the claims.

"Several contractors have been called to have their statements recorded to facilitate investigation into the case. MACC believe that several individuals from the state's MITI were also involved in the fraud," said the source.

Kelantan MACC director Datuk Moh Shamsuddin Yusoff confirmed the arrest but declined to comment further as investigation was on-going.

Meanwhile, the agency yesterday obtained a seven-day remand order at the Kota Baru court on the ex-director to facilitate its investigation.

Kota Baru magistrate's court registrar Noraida Mohd Husin issued the remand order under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The remand order will end on March 21.

Meanwhile, MITI Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapha Mohamed had said the ministry will extend its full cooperation to MACC in their investigation on this case.

"The ministry believes that all investigation would be conducted fairly and transparently. MITI will provide full cooperation into the investigation," he said in a statement today.

**11. MACC nabs another Sarawak immigration officer for graft**



Another immigration officer here has been arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly taking bribes to protect illegal immigrants working in the state. Pix courtesy of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission

KUCHING: Another immigration officer here has been arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly taking bribes to protect illegal immigrants working in the state.

The officer, in his 40s, was picked up by the MACC from the Kuching International Airport (KIA) at about 10pm last night.

Sources told the New Straits Times that the officer had allegedly accepted bribes of more than RM5,000 as inducement against taking action on foreigners living and working in Sarawak without valid documents.

Earlier in the week, the MACC arrested 10 immigration officers from KIA, the Sarawak Immigration Department headquarters, the Department office in Pending, and the Department detention depot in Semuja, Serian.

It had also seized RM10,000 from one of the officers.

They were all nabbed during a special operation by the national graft busters to haul up corrupt enforcement personnel linked to a worrying influx of illegal immigrants in the state.

The 11 officers, aged between 33 and 53, will be brought to the Kuching Special Court for Corruption for remand this morning.

**12. Puchong sergeant charged with soliciting, receiving bribe**



A police sergeant was charged in two sessions courts today with soliciting and receiving a RM1,000 bribe from a housewife as an inducement against taking action on her husband who was suspected of abusing drugs.

KUALA LUMPUR: A police sergeant was charged in two sessions courts today with soliciting and receiving a RM1,000 bribe from a housewife as an inducement against taking action on her husband who was suspected of abusing drugs.

Tarmizi Ishak, 51, from the Narcotics Investigation Department attached to the Puchong police station pleaded not guilty to the offences before judges Allaudeen Ismail here and Rozilah Salleh in Shah Alam.

At the KL sessions court, he was accused of acquiring a RM1,000 bribe from Siti Baizura Rosli, 22, as an inducement not to take action against her husband, Usman Tanreng, who was arrested after testing positive for drug use.

Tarmizi was alleged to have committed the offence at a restaurant in Presint 18, Putrajaya, at 6.45pm on Jan 18, 2015.

In mitigating, the accused, who is the breadwinner of his family, said he has six children to support and his wife is unemployed.

"I plead for a bail amount of between RM3,000 and RM5,000 be imposed, as that is the most reasonable amount for me. I could not afford to pay more than that," said the unrepresented accused.

In Shah Alam, Tarmizi was charged with asking for the same amount of bribe from the same person for the same reason.

The offence was allegedly committed at a stall beside Angsana Apartment in USJ 1, Subang Jaya, at 6pm on Jan 17, the same year.

Tarmizi was allowed RM12,000 bail with two sureties, and was ordered to report to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)'s office every month.

His case will be up for mention on April 14.

Earlier, Allaudeen allowed MACC deputy public prosecutor Nor Diana Nor Azwa's application for Tarmizi's cases to be heard in Shah Alam.

**13.11 Sarawak immigration officers nabbed for suspected graft remanded for a week**

PETRA JAYA: Eleven immigration officers here, arrested for allegedly taking bribes to protect illegal immigrants in Sarawak, have been remanded for seven days until Mar 23.

Magistrate Zulhairi Sulaiman granted the remand application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) against all suspects, including six female officers, which takes effect today.

Clad in orange and purple prison attire, the officers, aged between 33 and 53, arrived at the magistrate's court here at about 9am.

They were nabbed yesterday by MACC from several locations in Kuching and Serian during an operation codenamed "Op Batas", aimed at apprehending corrupt enforcement officers linked to the alarming influx of illegal immigrants into the state.

The graft buster also seized RM10,000 from one of the suspects.

**14. Increase in FDI reflects investors' confidence in Msia economy, says Najib**

(File pix) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (centre) at Parliament yesterday. Najib in an audio clip posted on his website [www.NajibRazak.com](http://www.NajibRazak.com) today said based on data from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysia secured RM59 billion in foreign investment last year compared to RM36 billion in 2015. This brings total investments in the last year to RM207.9 billion.

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign investment in the country in 2016 increased by 63.4 percent compared to 2015, reflecting the confidence of foreign investors in the Malaysian economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said, based on data from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysia secured RM59 billion in foreign investment last year compared to RM36 billion in 2015. This brings total investments in the last year to RM207.9 billion.

"This impressive increase shows the confidence of foreign investors in the Malaysian economy. In fact, it shows that the government's policies in charting the country's economy is on the right track," said Najib in an audio clip posted on his website [www.NajibRazak.com](http://www.NajibRazak.com), today.

He noted that the economic strength of a country can be measured by many aspects, including through foreign direct investment as it reflects the confidence of foreign investors in the country's economy.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, also pointed out that it is not easy to attract foreign investors because of competition between countries.

He added that the figures indirectly debunked slanderous and malicious allegations that Malaysia will be bankrupt or become a failed state.

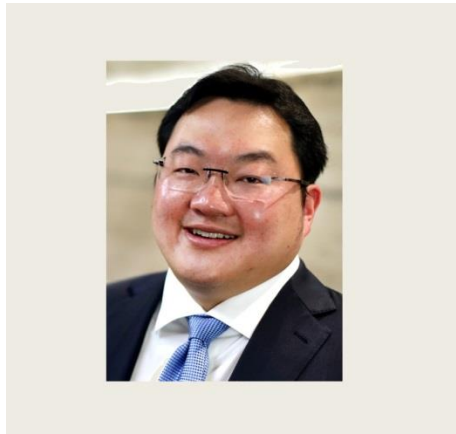
"If foreign investors demonstrate their faith in Malaysia's economy, do we, as Malaysians, have any excuse to refute this fact?"

"The government will ensure that the economy will continue to prosper and benefit all Malaysians.

"My hope is that Malaysians will continue to have their faith in the government's efforts as their support serves to boost our spirits in strengthening the nation's economy."



**15. US preparing charges against 1MDB financier Jho Low, says WSJ report**



(File pix) US authorities are planning to file criminal charges against Malaysian financier Jho Low (pix) in a money laundering investigation surrounding 1Malaysia Development Bhd., the Wall Street Journal reported.

US authorities are planning to file criminal charges against Malaysian financier Jho Low in a money laundering investigation surrounding 1Malaysia Development Bhd., the Wall Street Journal reported.

The charges would also include wire fraud against Low and some of his associates, the paper said, citing people it didn't identify. The report said the prosecution's plans could change or be dropped as the probe continues and there was no timing provided on when the charges could be filed.

The Malaysian investment fund is at the heart of multiple investigations across the globe, with US prosecutors previously characterizing Low as the controller of a scheme involving dozens of illicit payments draining billions from 1MDB. The US Department of Justice said in July that more than US\$3.5 billion was misappropriated from 1MDB, as the agency sought to seize about US\$1 billion of assets it claims was laundered through the US banking system.

Low, known for partying with Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton, directed funds from 1MDB to connected individuals and for the "personal gratification" of himself and his associates, US prosecutors had said. Low had described to newspapers his ties to 1MDB as informal consulting work that didn't break any laws.

The US Department of Justice didn't respond to a call for comment on the report. Low's Hong Kong-based company Jynwel Capital didn't respond immediately to an email request for comment on the potential charges. 1MDB, which has consistently denied any wrongdoing, didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

Singapore police in November identified Low as a "key person of interest" in its money laundering probe that it described as a complex and sophisticated investigation involving billions of dollars. Singapore is also building a potential criminal case against Low, the WSJ said, citing a person familiar with the probe that it didn't identify.

Malaysia's government has said it will cooperate with lawful investigations of local companies or its citizens in relation to the fund.

**16. Two ex-MPSJ enforcement staff slapped with bribery charge**



Two former Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) assistant enforcement personnel were today charged at the Sessions Court with agreeing to accept a bribe from the owner of a health and beauty centre two years ago.

SHAH ALAM: Two former Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) assistant enforcement personnel were today charged at the Sessions Court with agreeing to accept a bribe from the owner of a health and beauty centre two years ago.

Shah Fitri Abd Salim, 30, and Muah Pudali Shukor, 37, both pleaded not guilty to the offence before judge Rozilah Salleh.

The duo, who at that time were agents of MPSJ attached to the enforcement division for Puchong Zone, were jointly charged with agreeing to accept a RM800 bribe from the Shui Xian Beauty and Spa owner, known only as Chris, as an inducement to not take action against the centre that was operating without a licence.

The offence was allegedly committed at Jalan Puteri 5/2, Bandar Puteri Puchong in Petaling, Selangor at 7.15pm on July 30, 2015.

Meanwhile, Shah Fitri was charged with another three counts of agreeing to accept a RM3,000 bribe from the same person for the same reason on May 25, July 1 and Oct 16, 2015, at the same place.

Their charge under Section 17 (a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 carries a maximum sentence of 20 years jail and RM10,000 fine, or five times the value of the bribe, whichever is higher, if convicted.

Deputy public prosecutor Hazirah Azeman proposed RM8,000 bail for each accused for the joint charge and RM12,000 bail for Shah Fitri's three charges.

In granting bail, Rozilah reiterated how serious the offence was.

"Here, I would like to emphasize that corruption is a serious crime... the counsel could say that you are not going to abscond but it is not them posting bail for you... the surety needs to be responsible in making sure you are present in court for your case," she said.

Rozilah granted a RM15,000 bail to Shah Fitri for all four charges and RM8,000 bail to Muah Pudali with one surety for each accused and fixed April 24 for mention.

Shah Fitri was represented by counsel Nor Azri Mohd Arif while Muah Pudali was unrepresented.

In the same court, MPSJ assistant architectural officer Mohd Suffian Mahamad Idris, 37, pleaded not guilty to accepting a RM4,500 bribe from Yau Wai Yuen as an inducement to not take action against her for purportedly committing an offence under Section 72 of the Drainage and Building Act 1974 for putting up interior partitions walls in a premises.

Mohd Suffian who works at the MPSJ Building Department was alleged to have committed the offence in a meeting room at AHF Industries Sdn Bhd, No 5, Jalan USJ 1/31, Taman Subang Permai, Subang Jaya at 2.45pm on June 20, last year.

Rozilah granted RM8,000 bail with one surety and fixed April 17 for mention.

The accused was represented by counsel Mokhzani Harris Yusof.

**17. Health Ministry conducts fire safety audits at 46 hospitals to date**



(File pix) Sultanah Aminah Hospital (HSA) in Johor Baru. The Health Ministry has taken proactive measures to ensure the fire incident in HSA do not recur elsewhere

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has carried out fire safety audits at 46 hospitals over 50 years old, to identify fire risks, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

According to Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya, the audits also involved the Fire and Rescue Department, as well as the Public Works Department, to ensure everything was covered.

From the audits, Hilmi said, among several fire risks identified were ageing fire prevention systems, dilapidated electrical wiring and installation systems, the installation of medical gas systems which were not according to required standards, and other discoveries which needed engineering systems to be upgraded.

"The ministry also undertook a fire risk survey on the hospitals, and found a large number of the hospitals were fire hazards and in need of an overhaul, upgrade and repair to be carried out to ensure the hospitals are safe and did not affect its daily operations," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Rozman Islin (BN-Labuan).

Rozman had asked the ministry on the results of the detailed audits undertaken at hospitals aged between 50 and 100 years old, as well as proactive measures by the ministry to ensure the fire incidents in Sultanah Aminah Hospital (HSA) in Johor Baru do not recur elsewhere.

Hilmi (BN-Balik Pulau) had revealed that the fire at the Intensive Care Unit at the south wing of HSA was due to failure of the capacitor lamp component.

As for the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh, he said the fire was due to the parting arc on the light switch on the bedhead panel.

"Following these incidents, the ministry proceeded to immediately replace lamp components, especially in critical locations in hospitals," he added.

**18. RM2mil for Tan Sri title: MACC has identified individual**



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad seen leaving a condominium unit in Kuala Lumpur following a closed-door meeting with Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has identified the individual accused of Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar RM2 million in exchange for the ruler's endorsement of a Tan Sri title.

MACC, in a statement today, said they would conduct an investigation without prejudice to bring the culprit to justice.

"Sultan Ibrahim granted an audience to the MACC following his allegation that RM2 million was offered to him as a kickback to endorse an honorific title.

"Following the meeting with our Chief Commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad and several senior MACC officers, Sultan Ibrahim provided us with information related to the case.

"We are appreciative of the Sultan's commitment and support for us in fighting corruption and abuse of power in this country, especially in Johor," the statement said.

A closed-door discussion between Sultan Ibrahim and MACC was held at a luxury condominium here this morning.

However, both parties declined to comment when approached by pressmen afterwards.

The Johor ruler recently revealed that an individual had offered him RM2 million to propose to the Chief Secretary to the Government, names of candidates for the 'Tan Sri' title, which would be bestowed by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

Sultan Ibrahim declined to reveal the person's identity, saying only that the government is "clean in this issue", and that the person is a Kuala Lumpur local.



**19. Bumi contractors to get 45pct of LRT3 project: Najib**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak attended a closed-door meeting of the Bumiputera Economic Council earlier today.

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will award Bumiputera contractors with 45 per cent of the RM9 billion Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) project in the Klang Valley.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in announcing this said the move came under an initiative called "Carve Out and Compete."

He said business opportunities in the LRT3 project were made possible through co-operation of Prasarana Malaysia Bhd and George-Kent as "project delivery partner" and support from Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (Teraju) and agencies under the Works Ministry.

"I am proud with all quarters in implementing this 'Carve Out and Compete' initiative," he said at the RM5 million cheque presentation ceremony for additional education fund to Bumiputera Dealers' Representative Education Fund at the Parliament building today.

Earlier, Najib attended a closed-door meeting of the Bumiputera Economic Council.