

New Straits Times May 2017

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Page
1.	3 May 2017	MACC nabs golf trainer acting as middleman in bribery case	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	3
2.	4 May 2017	Engineer claims trial to 16 graft charges, bail set at RM20,000	-	4
3.	7 May 2017	Alarming 16% of uni students willing to accept/offer bribes to avoid penalties: MACC study	MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad	5
4.	8 May 2017	5 Kelantan gov't officers nabbed for alleged graft this year: MACC	Kelantan MACC director, Datuk Moh Samsuddin Yusof	6
5.	12 May 2017	Former Shah Alam magistrate charged with offering bribes	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	7
6.	14 May 2017	MACC releases TNB project manager, contractor on RM20k bail	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	8
7.	14 May 2017	Zakat Penang corruption scandal: MACC releases six on bail	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	9
8.	18 May 2017	Najib allocates additional RM510mil budget for oil palm smallholders	-	10
9.	19 May 2017	M'sian economy grows a robust 5.6% in first quarter: BNM	Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim	12
10.	19 May 2017	Remand order issued against middleman whom collected bribes from Melaka massage joints	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	13
11.	23 May 2017	MACC guarantees protection for whistle-blowers	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (prevention) Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil	14
12.	23 May 2017	Former Putrajaya Holdings employee remanded for graft involving RM86,000	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	15
13.	23 May 2017	Melaka appeals to Bumiputera building contractors to steer clear of corruption	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	16
14.	25 May 2017	Kedah to open RM600 million tender to upgrade five water treatment plants this July	State Local Government, Housing, Water Supply and Water Resources Committee chairman Datuk Badrol Hisham Hashim	18

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Page
15.	26 May 2017	RM3.38 billion spent on welfare of veteran Armed Forces personnel in 2016	Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak	20
16.	29 May 2017	74 per cent of abandoned housing projects revived with RM250m govt funds	Urban well-being, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar	22
17.	29 May 2017	Penang's Education Department takes corruption-free pledge	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commi-ssion (MACC) director, Datuk Abdul Aziz Aban	24
18.	29 May 2017	8 Ministries achieve 100 pct KPI target under Bumiputera Economic Empowerment programme	Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak	25
19.	30 May 2017	NGO files MACC report on Proton; alleges misuse of RM18 billion grant	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	28
20.	31 May 2017	Najib announces Cyberjaya Innovation Fund for the Future	Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak	30

1. MACC nabs golf trainer acting as middleman in bribery case



Kedah MACC director Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohamad confirmed the arrest.

ALOR STAR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today obtained a four-day remand order against a golf trainer for acting as the middleman in an alleged bribery case between a drug pusher and a civil servant.

It was claimed that the drug pusher offered the officer a bribe of RM7,500 to reduce the weight of drugs seized in a case so that the pusher could be spared from being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries the mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

A source said the trainer, in his 50s, who works at one of the golf clubs here, was detained after giving his statement at the state MACC office at 11.30am yesterday.

Alor Star Courts deputy registrar Jamaludin Elias, granted MACC the four days remand order until Saturday for further investigation under Section 16a(A) of the MACC Act 2009.

The offence carries a sentence of not more than 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to RM10,000 upon conviction.

Kedah MACC director Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohamad confirmed the arrest.

2. Engineer claims trial to 16 graft charges, bail set at RM20,000



An engineer of a Kelantan government-linked company (GLC) was charged at the Kota Bharu Session's court today with 16 counts of corruption amounting more than RM40,000 last year.

KOTA BARU: An engineer of a Kelantan government-linked company (GLC) was charged at the Kota Bharu Session's court today with 16 counts of corruption amounting more than RM40,000 last year.

Mohd Asrul Setapa, however, pleaded not guilty and claimed trial to all the charges before Judge Adli Abdul Ghalib.

The 31-year-old father of two was alleged to have committed the offences at several areas in Kota Bharu between April and August last year.

The accused, hailed from Kampung Tok Ku, Sering, was alleged to have accepted some cash, a mobile phone, watches and construction materials all amounting to RM40,468.03 from two contractors for several projects between April and August.

He was charged under Section 27 (a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Act 2009.

Adli allowed the accused to be released on RM20,000 bail in one surety and ordered him to surrender his passport to the court.

3. Alarming 16% of uni students willing to accept/offer bribes to avoid penalties: MACC study



(File pix) Perception Study, conducted last year, showed that 16 per cent of 1,000 university students who participated in the study had admitted their willingness to accept or offer bribes if they had the opportunity or power.

LANGKAWI: An increasing number of Malaysian university students say they would be willing to accept or offer bribes were they in a position of power, a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) study has revealed.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the Corruption Prevention Action Effectiveness Perception Study, conducted last year, showed that 16 per cent of 1,000 university students who participated in the study had admitted their willingness to accept or offer bribes if they had the opportunity or power.

"The figure is worrying, as the same study in 2015 showed that only 10.7 per cent would accept or offer bribes, while in 2014, it was 11.3 per cent," he said when delivering a keynote address at a Holistic Graduate Seminar organised by Universiti Malaysia Perlis, the Higher Education Ministry and the MACC here.

According to the study, 18.2 per cent of the students are prepared to offer bribes to avoid penalties, compared to 17.4 per cent in 2015.

Dzulkifli said the younger generation, especially university students, should stand firm with the MACC to stamp out corruption in the country.

"University students should join forces with the MACC," he said, adding that 2,000 MACC officers will be going to the ground throughout the country under the Anti-Corruption Revolution Movement on Monday.

"The MACC will be the moving agent for the revolutionary movement to fight the abuse of power and corruption (and make it) the number one agenda of the country," Dzulkifli added

NEW STRAITS TIMES May 8, 2017

4. 5 Kelantan gov't officers nabbed for alleged graft this year: MACC



(File pix) The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded five cases of Kelantan government officers allegedly committing various offences related to graft and abuse of power.

KOTA BARU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded five cases of Kelantan government officers allegedly committing various offences related to graft and abuse of power.

Kelantan MACC director, Datuk Moh Samsuddin Yusof, said the officers, aged 30 and above, were detained in separate operations in the state since early this year.

He said the alleged offences include accepting bribe money and making false claims amounting to RM400,000.

"Between early this year and last month, (the state MACC) arrested five individuals alleged to have committed offences under the MACC Act. They are expected to be charged in court soon," he said.

Moh said this to reporters after attending a new anti-graft campaign called "Anti-Corruption Revolution Movement", or "Gerah", at Lembah Sireh here, today.

The Gerah campaign, which was launched nationwide today, is part of the commission's effort to ensure all Malaysians regard corruption as public enemy number one.

5. Former Shah Alam magistrate charged with offering bribes

SHAH ALAM: A former magistrate claimed trial today to charges of offering bribes to a deputy public prosecutor as an inducement to drop an attempted robbery case in Feb, this year.

Esther Tan Siew Choo, who is now a lawyer, pleaded "not guilty" when the charge was read to her before judge Rozilah Salleh at the sessions court here.

The mother of three is alleged to have offered RM1,000 in bribes to deputy public prosecutor, Mahmoodah V. M. Abd Latif, as an inducement to drop a case against Mohd Hairi Mohd Jani, who was charged under Section 393 of the Penal Code.

She allegedly committed the act at the Sungai Besar magistrate's court, Jalan Besar, Sungai Besar in Sabak Bernam, at about 12.30pm on Feb 2, 2017.

If convicted under Section 17(b) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, she may be jailed for up to 20 years, and fined five times the money involved, or RM10,000, whichever is higher.

Deputy public prosecutor Hazirah Azeman asked the court to set bail at RM10,000, with one surety, against the accused.

However, Esther's lawyer, Datuk Salehuddin Saidin, pleaded for a minimum bail, as RM10,000 was excessive if compared to the amount involved in the case.

The court set bail at RM7,000 with one surety, and ordered the accused to surrender her passport.

The court also set May 26 for a hearing.

Meanwhile, at the same court, two men - Muhammad Razif Mahadi, 27 and Foo Ah Lee, 69 - were charged with the same offence, allegedly committed three years ago.

Muhammad Razif, a contract worker, and Foo, who is unemployed, were charged with offering a RM1,000 bribe to the Selangor Immigration Department deputy assistant director, Othman Montil, in Feb 2014.

The money was an inducement for Othman not to take action against eight illegal immigrants who were allegedly committing an offence under the Immigration Act 1959.

Deputy public prosecutor Nor Diana Nor Azwa prosecuted, while both of the accused were unrepresented.

The court set bail at RM10,000 with one surety for the duo, and fixed May 26 for a hearing.

6. MACC releases TNB project manager, contractor on RM20k bail



The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today released a Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) project manager and a renovation contractor who were remanded for five days to facilitate investigations into alleged corruption.

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today released a Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) project manager and a renovation contractor who were remanded for five days to facilitate investigations into alleged corruption.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman allowed the duo, aged 55 and 51, to be released on bail amounting to RM20,000 with one surety each, at the Putrajaya magistrate's court here this morning.

The government-linked company (GLC) employee is believed to have accepted bribes from the contractor for a renovation project in Kuala Lumpur in 2014.

The 55-year-old man had allegedly accepted a BMW 5 Series sedan in exchange for the project.

The contractor, a 51-year-old woman, is the owner of a renovation firm.

Both were arrested by the MACC to assist in a probe into bribery allegations related to a tender to supply goods for renovation of TNB's offices in Kuala Lumpur.

According to an MACC spokesman, the suspects were detained by an MACC enforcement team in the Klang Valley on May 10.

In his capacity as a project manager, the man allegedly allocated the tender for the project to the contractor who is not under TNB's panel.

The renovation works are believed to have been carried out in 2014 at several TNB offices in Kuala Lumpur, said the spokesman.

1,015 reads

NEW STRAITS TIMES May 14, 2017

7. Zakat Penang corruption scandal: MACC releases six on bail



Several individuals detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) as part of an investigation into the Zakat Penang corruption scandal have been released on bail over the past two days.

GEORGE TOWN: Several individuals detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) as part of an investigation into the Zakat Penang corruption scandal have been released on bail over the past two days.

A spokesperson from MACC Penang said that four out of eight contractors arrested were released yesterday on RM5,000 MACC bond each.

"Two Zakat Penang officers were released earlier today on a RM10,000 MACC bond.

"The agency's chief executive officer (CEO) is still in our custody, with the rest of the detainees, for further investigation," the spokesperson stated in a text message.

He said the remaining detainees could be released on bail tomorrow.

On Monday and Tuesday, the MACC arrested four Zakat Penang officers, aged between 30 and 50; and eight contractors, aged between 41 and 52, in connection with the case.

The Zakat Penang officers are alleged to have accepted valuable items, cheques and cash from the contractors as incentives to award them projects or work-related programmes.

The chief executive officer of Zakat Penang, who has a 'Datuk' title, is believed to have also helped himself to education aid and scholarships for his child, without going through the Penang Islamic Affairs Department.

The case is being investigated under Section 17(a), 17(b) and 23 of the MACC Act 2009 which carries a sentence of up to 20 years in jail, or a fine five times the bribe.

NEW STRAITS TIMES May 18, 2017

8. Najib allocates additional RM510mil budget for oil palm smallholders



Smallholders have been urged to apply for the RM510 million oil palm replanting budget said Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

BESTARI JAYA: Smallholders have been urged to apply for the RM510 million oil palm replanting budget said Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

"This additional RM510 million oil palm replanting budget that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has announced is good news for some 600,000-odd smallholders. It is available for the next three years (from now) to 2020," he told reporters this after the prime minister launched the Malaysian Palm Oil Industry 100th Anniversary celebration.

"I would like to clarify the RM40 million oil palm replanting budget for 2017 is included in the RM510 million top up announced today," Mah explained, adding an existing RM1.75 billion budget was already in place since 2010.

The grand centennial celebration of commercial oil palm cultivation held at Sime Darby's Tennamaram Estate in Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor here earlier today saw the participation of 5,000 oil palm smallholders.

Also present at the celebration was Jeremie Fontaine, the great grandson of Frenchman Henri Fauconnier.

Fauconnier was the first planter in Malaysia who commercialised oil palm cultivation at the Tennamaram Estate in Kuala Selangor, a hundred years ago. Today, this estate belongs to Sime Darby Bhd.

Mah also stated that Malaysia will continue to appeal against the European Union's (EU) suggestion for a single Certified Sustainable Palm Oil scheme for Europe-bound palm oil shipment.

Leaders of other big exporters of palm oil, including Indonesia, Costa Rica and Ecuador, have reportedly also expressed concern over the EU discriminatory proposal that would hurt global palm oil trade.

9. M'sian economy grows a robust 5.6% in first quarter: BNM



The economy grew by a robust 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2017.

KUALA LUMPUR: The economy grew by a robust 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2017.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim said growth was driven by strong consumption activities and investment.

"The economy is poised for better performance with the support of exports," he told a media briefing today.

"Our diversified economy will help us withstand domestic and external challenges," he added.

Higher growth in the first three months was recorded in services (5.8 per cent), manufacturing (5.6 per cent), mining (1.6 per cent), agriculture (8.3 per cent) and construction (6.5 per cent).

Muhammad said headline inflation, which averaged 4.3 per cent, is expected to decrease from the second quarter onwards.

The current account remained in surplus due to a lower goods surplus and larger services deficit.

10. Remand order issued against middleman whom collected bribes from Melaka massage joints

PUTRAJAYA: The Magistrate's Court here today granted a six day remand order for a man who allegedly served as the middleman to collect bribes from massage parlours and illegal gambling centres operators in Melaka.

The remand order, issued by Magistrate Nadia Othman, takes effect today and expires on May 24.

The 32-year-old suspect is the 11th individual arrested by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to facilitate a probe into a protection racket for gambling dens and massage parlours in Melaka.

Since Wednesday, 10 individuals including two district police chiefs and five police officers of various ranks have been remanded to assist investigation into the case.

They are being investigated under Section 16 (a) (B) and 17 (a) of the MACC Act 2009, and Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

The suspect, clad in orange MACC lockup attire and handcuffed, arrived at the court at 9am.

He was seen covering his face with his hands and trying to avoid the pressmen.

11. MACC guarantees protection for whistle-blowers

ALOR STAR: The lack of awareness on the protection guaranteed for whistle-blowers is one of the reasons that less than 0.1 per cent of 1.6 million civil servants reported graft cases.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (prevention) Datuk Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil said the other contributing factor includes lack of awareness on the "ringgit to ringgit" incentive offered by the government for those who reported corruption.

Shamsun said this has resulted into only 214 or 0.0001 per cent of Malaysia's 1.6 million civil servants lodging reports on corruption in the 2011 to 2016 period.

He stressed that witnesses or informants of corruption cases is protected by all law enforcement agencies under the Witness Protection Act 2009 (Act 696) and the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 (Act 711).

"As for the incentive, the Federal government has introduced the reward since 2011 whereby any witnesses or informants are entitled to a minimum RM500 reward if they come forward to report a case to us (MACC).

"If the amount of corruption involves RM1 million, the government will pay the informer RM1 million," he told a press conference after witnessing the Corruption-Free Pledge involving Kedah Islamic Religious Department (JAIK) here today.

At the ceremony, JAIK director Datuk Abd Rahman Ismail led the department's 330 staff to pledge their support in rejecting corruption.

12. Former Putrajaya Holdings employee remanded for graft involving RM86,000

PUTRAJAYA: A former Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd (PJH) assistant clerk, who allegedly solicited and accepted RM86,000 in bribes, was remanded for five days by the magistrate's court here today.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Wan Ab Rahman issued the remand order after granting the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)'s application.

The 49-year-old man arrived at the court premises at 9.45am in an orange MACC lockup-shirt and was ushered into the courtroom by several MACC officers.

The remand expires on May 27.

It is learnt that the suspect, who worked at PJH's sales and marketing department, left his job last week after he received a tip-off that he was about to be arrested by the anti-graft body.

He was picked up at his house in Taman Kinrara, Puchong, at about 9.30am on Monday.

It was reported that the suspect had solicited and accepted more than RM80,000 from several legal firms since last year.

The money was inducement for him to secure the law firms' appointment to prepare loan agreements for purchase of properties under PJH.

The case is being investigated under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act.

13. Melaka appeals to Bumiputera building contractors to steer clear of corruption



Local Bumiputera contractors have been advised to steer clear of corruption following the arrest of several high-profile officials by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) here. (File pix)

MELAKA: Local Bumiputera contractors have been advised to steer clear of corruption following the arrest of several high-profile officials by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) here.

State Public Works and Public Utilities Committee chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Ghafaar Atan said corruption in the construction sector has reached a "miserable" level, a study by Transparency International has revealed.

"Transparency International (the leading anti-corruption organisation), has stressed that... corruption in the construction sector can cause a development project to be luxurious and expensive, (lead to) reckless spending and rising problems of abandoned projects," he said at the 'Kontraktor Bumiputera Zero Rasuah' seminar at the Melaka International Trade Centre (MITC) in Ayer Keroh, today.

A total of 150 contractors from 89 companies attended the seminar.

Ghafaar, who officiated the seminar, noted that the construction sector in the country is a lucrative industry full of opportunities and challenges, but reminded Bumiputera contractors to uphold integrity.

"There must be honesty, trust, appreciation, no malice, diligence, efficiency, creativity and innovativeness in preventing one from slipping into corruption.

"The value of integrity has been lifted by the state government, as one of the four complementary values in the administration of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his efforts to transform Malaysia into a developed nation.

14. Kedah to open RM600 million tender to upgrade five water treatment plants this July



State Local Government, Housing, Water Supply and Water Resources Committee chairman Datuk Badrol Hisham Hashim said the project is part of a masterplan to resolve water supply woes in certain areas in Kedah.

ALOR STAR: The Kedah government will open a RM600 million tender in July to upgrade five existing water treatment plants to resolve water supply disruption issues in the state.

State Local Government, Housing, Water Supply and Water Resources Committee chairman Datuk Badrol Hisham Hashim said the project is part of a masterplan to resolve water supply woes in certain areas in Kedah.

He said the tender would be opened once the Federal government approves the allocation by July.

Badrol said the plants were Pelubang in Jitra, Lubuk Buntar in Bandar Baharu, Jenun Baru in Pendang, as well as Bukit Selambau and Sungai Limau in Baling.

"From the five plants, the facility in Pelubang is the largest one as it provides water supply for Kuala Kedah, Kota Setar and Jitra, which have among the highest populations.

"We need to upgrade the plant from 120 million square metre to 227 million square metre/ We have set a target to resolve water supply disruptions by 2020," he said after distributing 1,000 water containers to Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblymen at Wisma Darulaman today.

State water utility company, Syarikat Air Darul Aman Bhd (Sada) has allocated RM200,000 for the water containers with a 900-litre capacity each.

The containers will be distributed to low-income families in areas suffering from low water pressure.

Badrol said the initiative was taken to help the affected households prepare for water disruptions especially during the upcoming Aidilfitri period as the number of users normally increase during the holiday period.

"Besides this initiative, the state government will discuss with Sada to look into solutions for critical areas such as in Sungai Tiang in Pendang and Merbok, Sungai Petani," he said.

Badrol also pledged that Sada would increase the frequency of lorries transporting water to the affected areas.

15. RM3.38 billion spent on welfare of veteran Armed Forces personnel in 2016



The government spent RM3.28 billion last year on the welfare of the country's veteran Armed Forces personnel. Pix by Nik Abdullah Nik Omar

KUALA LUMPUR: The government spent RM3.28 billion last year on the welfare of the country's veteran Armed Forces personnel, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

In a blog post today, Najib said the allocation encompassed pension, rewards, medical benefits, house construction and repairs, funeral rites and welfare assistance schemes, among others.

"The government also provided health and natural disasters aid of RM5,000. There's also aid in terms of children's admission to universities with RM1,000 for diplomas and RM1,500 for degrees.

"To ease the burden of veterans who are poor, sick, disabled or have chronic diseases, they are eligible to receive a RM300 monthly aid," he said.

The prime minister called on Malaysians to be more appreciative of Armed Forces personnel who had sacrificed themselves for the country's security.

He said the forces' contributions to the nation are endless and thus, it was important for Malaysians to recognise and respect them as national heroes.

"Have you ever wondered how we managed to carry out our daily activities safely?

"Whether we realise it or not, the armed forces takes care of our borders and public places, risking their lives to protect the country from internal and external threats," he added

16.74 per cent of abandoned housing projects revived with RM250m govt funds



One hundred and eighty-eight projects or 74 per cent of the 253 abandoned housing projects in peninsula Malaysia were revived between 2009 and April 30, with government funds amounting to RM250 million.

TEMERLOH: One hundred and eighty-eight projects or 74 per cent of the 253 abandoned housing projects in peninsula Malaysia were revived between 2009 and April 30, with government funds amounting to RM250 million.

Urban well-being, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said the 188 projects involved 50,883 housing units and 34,293 buyers while the remaining 17 projects (4,475 units; 3,162 buyers) were being revived.

He added that the ministry was also making preliminary plans to rehabilitate 48 other projects (8,932 housing units; 6,082 buyers) to ensure that all 253 projects would be fully completed.

"We need developers that are really capable of helping the government to save these abandoned projects because the payment method is not the same as that for new housing projects. "The government only makes the payment after the project has obtained the Certificate of Fitness for Occupation (CFO), which meant that the developer needs to first fork out their own capital. We received many offers from developers but some withdrew after viewing the project sites," he said.

Noh said this at a press conference after attending the handing over of house keys and CFO at a rehabilitated private housing project in Taman Desa Bongsu, Lanchang, here.

He said the government was committed to reviving all abandoned projects, particularly low and medium-cost to allow the people to have their own home.

In another development, Noh said the ministry had sent an application to build 30 People's Housing Projects (PPR) to the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department for consideration in the 2018 budget, including a project in Temerloh involving 500 units.

On the Taman Desa Bongsu project, he said it was scheduled to be completed in 2003 but confirmed as abandoned on Oct 27, 2014 due to financial problems faced by the original developer, Koperasi Melayu Nusantara Sdn Bhd (Komena), which was then deregistered by the Registrar of Cooperatives Malaysia on July 30, 2007.

"The government took the initiative to revive the project, which involved 96 houses using government allocation of RM14.7 million, including goods and services tax (GST), which is equivalent to RM153,125 per unit, compared to the original price of the house, which was between RM58,000 and RM78,000 per unit.

The appointment of developer, YYM Builders Sdn Bhd was made on 13 July, 2015 and the government paid special attention to the project as the majority of the buyers were former soldiers, in appreciation of their service," he said.

On the dispute with the Selangor state government on the takeover of the management of Sungai Lembah Subang 1 PPR, Noh said the Cabinet decided that the ministry should proceed with the acquisition.

He said based on the decision, his ministry was preparing a new lease agreement and all transactions were expected to continue in the near future.

17. Penang's Education Department takes corruption-free pledge



Over 400 officers and staff headed by their director, Shaari Os-man, signed the pledge in the presence of state Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commi-ssion (MACC) director, Datuk Abdul Aziz Aban (pic)

GEORGE TOWN: Penang's entire Education Department signed the Corrupti-on-free Pledge (CFP) here today in a bid to remain graft-free.

Over 400 officers and staff headed by their director, Shaari Os-man, signed the pledge in the presence of state Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commi-ssion (MACC) director, Datuk Abdul Aziz Aban.

"We have already est-ablished our own unit to conduct inves-tigations on reports and information rec-eived from various people (on corruption), including anon-ymous ones.

"(But) we want to take (our initiative) a step further by signi-ng this and to work clos-ely with the MACC to fig-ht corruption in our own department," sa-id Shaari after the ceremony held at the Department's office at Jalan Bukit Gambir.

The MACC has detained 45 people for graft so far in 2017, with 22 of those arrested being civil servants.

Abdul Aziz said that the majo-rity of the detainees were bribe recipients rather than givers

18.8 Ministries achieve 100 pct KPI target under Bumiputera Economic Empowerment programme



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak during a press conferece after chairing the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment council at the Perdana Putra today. Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

PUTRAJAYA: Eight ministries achieved the 100 per cent key performance indicator (KPI) target under the Ministry Bumiputera Economic Empowerment (PEB) programme last year (2016), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

They are the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry; Home Ministry; Foreign Ministry; Youth and Sports Ministry; Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry; Rural and Regional Development Ministry; Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry; and Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, announced the KPI achievements after chairing the Bumiputera Economic Council (MEB) meeting, the first since the launch of the Economic Transformation Roadmap 2.0 and the Bumiputera Wellbeing Transformation (TKB) Plan on April 19, here today.

He said 93 PEB KPIs, which were endorsed by the MEB, had high impact, mosly based on results with a higher target set for 25 ministries, including the Prime Minister's Department for last year.

"We took note that the 23 ministries had reached at least the 90 per cent KPI target set last year," he told reporters after chairing the meeting.

The Prime Minister said the main achievements of the PEB of ministries and agencies in 2016 were, among others, the awards of 63.8 per cent of the estimated value of annual works to Bumiputera

contractors in the construction of major highways such as the West Coast Expressway (WCE), the Duta-Ulu Klang Expressway 2 (DUKE2), the East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE), and Sungai Besi-Ulu Klang Expressway (SUKE).

He said the others were the awards of contracts worth RM1.48 billion to Bumiputera companies in the construction of the KL118 Tower (Warisan Merdeka); increased involvement of Bumiputera companies in the Vendor Development Programme; increased Bumiputera percentage in house ownership, and cumulatively, the increased total turnover of Bumiputera cooperatives of RM31 billion with an increase of RM2.44 billion last year.

Najib said the PEB KPI for Ministries this year was formulated in line with the strategy and objectives of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) and the Bumiputera Economic Transformation Roadmap 2.0.

He said 125 Bumiputera Economic Empowerment KPIs, which were high-impact in nature and result-based, were approved by the MEB for all ministries and the Prime Minister's Department.

"The Bumiputera Empowerment Agenda (BEA) KPI for 2017 will focus specifically in the areas of vendor development, Bumiputera supply chain in strategic sectors, the training programme under the 1Malaysia Training Scheme (SL1M), the construction of affordable housing, and the introduction and improvement of the police for the specific distribution, and Bumiputera procurement," he said.

On the 2016 KPI achievements of Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLICs) and selected Government-Linked Companies (G20), Najib said that five GLICs and 17 of G20 demonstrated a level of maturity with positive results and more robust growth since the programme was implemented in 2014.

Under the implementation of the BEA KPI of the GLICs and G20, he said seven key areas involved were vendor development programme, main companies dedicated to the specific supply chain distribution, human capital, ownership of non-financial assets, Bumiputera equity ownership in the corporate sector, and procurement, he said.

Najib said among major achievements registered last year were absorbing 72 new vendors into the Vendor Development Program from 49 in 2015, coaching eight national-champion category vendors and a regional-champion category vendor, and training 11,888 graduates under SL1M from 6,422 in 2015.

In addition, he said 3,476 affordable housing units were built from 213 in 2015 and the procurement of Bumiputera companies amounted to RM13.4 billion compared with RM11.8 billion in 2015.

The Prime Minister said overall, the value of the Bumiputera initiative last year surged to RM42.1 billion compared with RM30.0 billion in 2015, while GLICs and G20 achieved 95.3 per cent of the KPI target set last year.

He said the BEA KPI target for 2017, which was set higher than that of 2016, was designed to focus on the aspects of quality and results, as well as tailored in accordance with the core operations of each GLIC and G20.

The initiatives are aimed at, among others, absorbing 25 new vendors and producing 31 national champions and two regional champions, training 12,690 graduates under SL1M, developing 1,150 affordable housing units, and enhancing the small and medium enterprise (SME) procurement policy with the target value of RM11.1 billion.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said as the secretariat, Khazanah Nasional would continue to streamline the structure of the BEA delivery and implementation to ensure that its benefits and impact could be felt by the Bumiputera community.

19. NGO files MACC report on Proton; alleges misuse of RM18 billion grant



(File pxi) Non-governmental organisation Mind and Social Welfare Society has lodged a report against the national car maker at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters in Putrajaya regarding misuse of a Research and Development grant.

PUTRAJAYA: Amid concerns over Proton being sold to Chinese automobile giant Geely, the non-governmental organisation Mind and Social Welfare Society has lodged a report against the national car maker at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters here.

The group alleges that Proton's top management has misused RM18 billion of a Research and Development (R&D) grant.

"We would like the MACC to investigate the top management of Proton. We do not want the Chinese investors to accuse our national carmaker of corruption," said society president Ramesh Rao.

In his report, Ramesh claims that Proton has been misusing the RM18 billion R&D grant given to it by the Malaysian government since 1983.

"They spent RM600mil on R&D for Proton Iriz. I don't think Ferrarri spent that much money on their car," he told reporters at the MACC headquarters here.

He added that Proton has also suffered a huge loss since 2011.

"Proton used to have a cash reserve of RM4.8 billion before 2011. But (after) it was sold to DRB-Hicom, its cash reserve dipped to RM1.8 billion," Ramesh added.

DRB-Hicom Bhd posted net losses of RM991.90 million in the financial year ended March 31, 2016, mainly due to the poor performance of Proton, which is a stark contrast for the diversified group's earnings of RM300.19 million a year ago.

Ramesh also urged the MACC to conduct a forensic audit on Proton's corporate accounts, so as to clean up the government-linked company before its handing over to Chinese investors who own big brands like Volvo.

"If we want foreign investors to come in, we've got to clean up Proton and save ourselves from the embarrassment of being called a corrupt nation," he added.

20. Najib announces Cyberjaya Innovation Fund for the Future



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announcing the setting up of Cyberjaya Innovation Fund for the Future (CIFF). Pix by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

CYBERJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today announced the setting up of Cyberjaya Innovation Fund for the Future (CIFF).

The fund, aimed at supporting inventions and innovations towards developing Cyberjaya as a smart city, would be managed by Cyberview Sdn Bhd.

"This is a unique geo-centric fund for entrepreneurs, startups as well as local and international small-medium enterprises," he said at the 20th anniversary celebration of Cyberjaya.

With a commitment of the RM100 million by the Finance Ministry; to be disbursed by Cyberview over the 10 years beginning 2018, the fund will be channelled through a co-investment model for innovation and smart city related projects located in Cyberjaya and driven either by local or foreign partners.

Meanwhile, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah Irwan said the prime minister was excited by CIFF when it was brought to his attention last night and wanted it to be announced today.

"This initial fund of RM100 million will also help new inventions to reach the market and if needed, we can consider to add more into the fund." he said.