

**New Straits Times June 2017**

<b>Bil.</b>	<b>Tarikh</b>	<b>Tajuk Berita</b>	<b>Catatan</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	6 June 2017	MACC to assess possible corruption, abuse of power within FGV	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki	3
2.	8 June 2017	MACC officers descend on FGV HQ, expected to seize documents	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	4
3.	8 June 2017	PM to launch 2nd phase of MRT 1 on special date of 17.7.17	Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak	5
4.	9 June 2017	FGV tussle: MACC expected to probe six areas	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	7
5.	9 June 2017	More witnesses, individuals to be questioned in FGV probe: MACC	MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki	10
6.	10 June 2017	MACC: No compromise for officer who allegedly solicited bribe from cop	Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC)	11
7.	10 June 2017	MACC officer arrested for allegedly demanding bribe from cop	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	12
8.	12 June 2017	MACC may call up Mohd Isa, Zakaria to assist with FGV probe	MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki	13
9.	13 June 2017	IRB audits 18 legal and architectural firms in Sandakan	-	15
10.	16 June 2017	1MDB: No contact made by US Department of Justice	Malaysian company 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	16
11.	19 June 2017	(Press statement) Prime Minister's Office on FGV issue	-	17
12.	20 June 2017	MACC probe into Sabah Education Dept officers almost complete	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	19
13.	20 June 2017	M'sia has other things to worry about than DoJ's rehashed 1MDB issue: Azalina	Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said	20
14.	21 June 2017	MACC questions Isa Samad and wife for four hours	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	21
15.	23 June 2017	If found not guilty, Zakaria should be reappointed to FGV posts: Rozali	Gabungan Wawasan Generasi Felda (GWGF) chairman Tan Seri Rozali Ismail	22

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Page
16.	22 June 2017	Guan Eng welcomes RCI on forex scandal, wants similar treatment for FGV, 1MDB	-	24
17.	23 June 2017	Concession company used Work Ministry's name over RM 6.34b Penang tunnel project	The Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof	25
18.	24 June 2017	Collaboration between MACC and EAIC, commitment against corruption	Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) senior vice-chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye	27
19.	27 June 2017	Plans for Pan Borneo Highway's 2nd phase to be finalised by year's end	Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof	28
20.	29 June 2017	Johor govt wants thorough probe into military equipment disappearance at PTP	Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin	29
21.	29 June 2017	What missing container? Customs refutes report on 'disappearing' military equipment	Customs director-general Datuk Subromaniam Tholasy	31
22.	30 June 2017	Bank Negara: Malaysia's headline inflation down to 3.9 pct	Bank Negara Malaysia	33

**1. MACC to assess possible corruption, abuse of power within FGV**

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said the commission had received information related to the Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) issue.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) looks set to launch an investigation into Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) to find out if there are any elements of corruption and abuse of power within the company.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki told Berita Harian Online that they had received information related to the issue.

He said MACC will investigate the information, which came from a certain party, before taking further action.

"We have received information regarding the matter and will begin investigating it," he said.

However, Azam declined to reveal when the probe would begin.

FGV president and chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad was earlier today subjected to forced leave by the company's board of directors.

Also on forced leave is group chief financial officer Ahmad Tifli Mohd Talha.

The action was meted out pending investigations of certain transactions under Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of FGV.

At a press conference today, Zakaria had urged MACC to probe the company's dealings.

He told NST and Berita Harian that the issue behind the boardroom tussle at the company should be solved amicably and suggested that the commission come to FGV and investigate himself and the company.

Zakaria also said that should the authorities conclude that he was involved in the late payment issue by Afghan company Safitex, which FGV subsidiary Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd had dealings with, he would concede and resign from both his positions at FGV.

**2. MACC officers descend on FGV HQ, expected to seize documents**

KUALA LUMPUR: Officers from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) have arrived in groups at the Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) headquarters here to seize documents pertaining to its investigation on the company.

The documents are believed to be linked to investigations over alleged irregular transactions involving the company.

Five MACC officers first arrived at 10am followed by groups of three, 10 and six people, all in uniform.

They were all escorted by auxiliary police to the FGV office on level 45.

MACC's involvement is believed to have been triggered by a meeting between FGV chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad and the anti-graft commission.

On Wednesday, Zakaria had spent four hours at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya to assist in the probe concerning irregularities over Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of FGV.

Earlier this week, Zakaria and several other senior FGV officers were instructed to go on forced leave following a boardroom tussle, allegedly triggered by a delayed payment to an Afghan company for Delima Oil products.

Datuk Seri Idris Jala has since been appointed as a third party to obtain the facts of the case concerning the issue.



**3. PM to launch 2nd phase of MRT 1 on special date of 17.7.17**



Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak flanked by Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar and Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk Halimah Mohd Sadique at the unveiling of the National Development Plan, which comprises three documents for Malaysia's spatial development - the 3rd National Physical Plan (NPP3); the 2nd National Urbanisation Plan (NUP2) and the National Rural Physical Planning Policy (NRPPP) 2030.

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has decided on a special date - July 17, 2017 (17.7.17) - to launch the second phase of the Klang Valley's Mass Rapid Transit 1 project.

He announced this at the unveiling of the National Development Plan, which comprises three documents for Malaysia's spatial development - the 3rd National Physical Plan (NPP3); the 2nd National Urbanisation Plan (NUP2) and the National Rural Physical Planning Policy (NRPPP) 2030.

"The MRT (1) phase 1, which began operations on Dec 16 last year, and the second phase, which will be launched in July, will complete the 51km Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line.

"Through both phases, the service is expected to benefit more than 500,000 passengers daily," said Najib.

He said other projects to boost the public transport system in the Klang Valley include the Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension, the High Speed Rail project and the East Coast Rail Link.

"A good public transport system can stimulate productivity and economic growth," he added.

On another note, the Prime Minister said that Malaysia is expected to become an ageing nation by 2040.

He said the Malaysian population aged 60 years and above will increase to almost 20 percent by 2040, compared to only 9.24 per cent in 2015.

"This situation shows that there is a need to build more health facilities and senior citizen-friendly infrastructure to ensure that this group is not left behind. This is also to give them the opportunity to live a better life.

"I was informed that the National Physical Plan has taken into account the need to provide complete, integrated and senior citizen-friendly facility services.

"This includes multi-generation housing so that the elderly can live near or with their children," he said.

Also present at the event was Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar.

Najib said the three documents of the National Development Plan are important, as they can be a main reference for various agencies in drafting national physical development programmes; an instrument to achieve high environment quality and sustainable development; and a guide to improving the people's standard of living, which includes providing affordable housing for B40 and M40 income earners.

The NPP3, which is the highest planning document in the national physical development planning framework, is designed to translate strategic policies and sectoral states into spatial and physical dimensions.

The NUP2 is a policy to drive and coordinate development planning and urban administration, with a focus on balanced social, economic and physical development.

The NRPPP is the first spatial rural development policy in Malaysia, aimed at producing a holistic planning for rural development.



4. **FGV tussle: MACC expected to probe six areas**



(File pix) Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission officers, escorted by auxiliary police officers, loading boxes of seized documents into a car following a raid at Menara Felda in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

KUALA LUMPUR: GRAFTBUSTERS looking into possible misconduct and abuse of power in Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) are expected to probe into at least six areas that would warrant their attention.

Sources from the government-linked company told the *New Straits Times* that it was clear at the end of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) eight-hour search in Menara Felda what the officers came for.

The graftbusters, they said, took with them papers that would shed light on several "clearly contentious" issues, which the sources said were linked to, among others, one of FGV's top officials.

The documents, the NST was told, included those dating back to 2013.

The NST was made to understand that one of MACC's focus areas was on alleged abuse of power by the top official who had allowed FGV to foot his wife's travels on first-class flights although she was not entitled to such benefits.

"The documents contain the cost that FGV had to fork out all these while to pay for the official's wife first-class overseas trips," one of the sources said.

Also in the commission's custody are documents related to a condominium renovation project that was said to have been awarded to the same official's crony.

This newspaper was also made to understand that the commission would also be looking into the expansion of FGV's agreements with Cambridge Nanosystems company, which involves about £100 million (RM551 million).

"The commission is obviously looking into allegations that the high-ranking officer had pressured FGV to continue the contract with the London-based company, despite losses that it recorded in the past few years.

"Investigations would also serve to establish if the officer involved benefited from cuts from this," the source said.

It is understood that the commission also seized documents that suggest that FGV had been footing bills for events that it had no business paying for.

"They also took away documents that provide the breakdown of the nonsensical payouts FGV have had to make that should not have been done in the first place as it had nothing to do with FGV's business.

"Among them were the dinners thrown that FGV had nothing to do with," the source said.

The source also suggested that MACC could also be dusting off "old files" dating back to 2011, before FGV chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad, who has been suspended, was appointed.

The source said the documents seized also included those relevant to dealings between FGV's subsidiary, Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd (DOP), and Afghan company Safitex.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki, when contacted, would not comment on the newly initiated probes, but said investigations into the FGV issue would be conducted in a manner similar to other corruption and abuse of power cases in the past.

"We began investigations after our meeting with Datuk Zakaria yesterday (Wednesday) and today (yesterday).

"There are several areas that the commission will look into, and we will be calling in witnesses to take their statements, depending on the outcome of our probe and what we find in the documents that we seized," he added.

Zakaria, who was appointed CEO in April last year, was forced to go on leave along with FGV group chief financial officer Ahmad Tifli Mohd Talha.

The move followed a boardroom tussle between Zakaria and FGV chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad that stemmed from late payment by Safitex to DOP.



It was reported that the Dubai-based company, which has long outstanding debts with DOP, has not made payments to the company since the financial year ending Dec 31, 2015.

The outstanding debt, which amounted to US\$8.3 million (RM35.3 million), was believed to have resulted in impairment exposure, and has been continuously reported in the company's subsequent quarterly review reports.

MACC officers who arrived at FGV's office at 10am yesterday reemerged at 6pm with four boxes and three briefcases.

It is understood that the operation covered three floors of the building.

On Wednesday, Zakaria had spent four hours at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya where he gave a statement and handed over some documents.

Zakaria and several senior FGV officers are serving time-out from the company after they were told to go on leave.

Since then, former minister Datuk Seri Idris Jala has been appointed as an independent third party to obtain the facts of the case.

Yesterday, Idris also visited FGV's headquarters for about an hour. He later told reporters that he would refrain from "making a statement at this juncture", as he was still establishing the facts.

"I am focusing on getting the facts right... While I am doing that, I do not want to make any statements because that will be very premature," he said as he was leaving Menara Felda.

He pulled up at the office at 2.33pm, a few hours after the arrival of 40 officers from MACC.

Idris is also tasked with recommending the way forward for FGV.

**5. More witnesses, individuals to be questioned in FGV probe: MACC**



(File pix) Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said MACC is expected to call more witnesses to assist a probe into the alleged financial discrepancies in Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd.

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is expected to call more witnesses and individuals to assist a probe into the alleged financial discrepancies in Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV).

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said the commission is in the process of studying the documents seized from Menara Felda and collect more evidence.

"Our investigation will focus on six issues involving FGV. We will look into these issues in detail to find out whether there are any elements of corruption or abuse of power before further action can be taken.

"We urge all parties to give some space and time to the investigating team and not to make any speculations because that may jeopardise the investigation," he said in a statement, today.

MACC had yesterday seized some documents during the eight-hour search at Menara Felda.

The New Straits Times today reported that MACC was expected to probe into at least six areas that would warrant their attention.

One of MACC's focus areas was on alleged abuse of power by the top official who had allowed FGV to foot his wife's travels on first-class flights although she was not entitled to such benefits

**6. MACC: No compromise for officer who allegedly solicited bribe from cop**

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) will fully cooperate with police in the case where one of its officers was arrested for allegedly demanding a bribe from a policeman.

In a statement Saturday, the MACC said it "will not compromise over the offence" and would not interfere in police investigations into the case.

"The officer's actions are not representative of the MACC, which always upholds the rule of law and the Constitution in discharging its duties.

"The MACC welcomes the swift action by police in making the arrest and will not interfere in its investigations," it said.

In the wake of the arrest, the MACC also said it would conduct stringent internal checks on all its officers to avoid a similar occurrence in future.

"The MACC's stand will not move even an inch if we find our own officers guilty of such crimes, and stern action will be taken against those who taint the reputation and good name of the MACC," it said.

Earlier today, an MACC assistant superintendent was remanded for three days until Monday for allegedly demanding a bribe from a policeman.

The suspect, attached to the Intelligence Unit (North Zone) at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya, was arrested at 10.20pm Friday.

It was reported that the suspect had allegedly asked the police officer to pay him RM3,000 monthly, or risk being arrested by the MACC.

The case is being investigated under Section 384 of the Penal Code for extortion.

**7. MACC officer arrested for allegedly demanding bribe from cop**

BUKIT MERTAJAM: A 38-year-old Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) assistant superintendent has been remanded for three days until Monday for allegedly demanding a bribe from a policeman.

The suspect, attached to the Intelligence Unit (North Zone) at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya, was arrested at 10.20pm Friday.

Central Seberang Prai OCPD Asstn Comm Nik Ros Azhan Nik Abdul Hamid said that the suspect had allegedly asked the police officer to pay him RM3,000 monthly, or risk being arrested by the MACC.

"The suspect told the police officer that he is in charge of reporting the development of illegal gambling activities," ACP Nik Ros Azhan said in a statement.

The case is being investigated under Section 384 of the Penal Code for extortion.

The suspect, wearing orange lock-up attire, hid his face when he arrived at the Bukit Mertajam magistrate's court at about 9.20am Friday.

Magistrate Nurulrasyidah Mohd Akit granted the remand order.

**8. MACC may call up Mohd Isa, Zakaria to assist with FGV probe**

KUALA LUMPUR: The two key figures at the centre of the Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) controversy may be called up to assist in the probe into alleged improprieties involving the company, said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said if there was a need, the commission would call up FGV chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad to give their statements.

Azam also said another 50 people would also be asked to assist in the investigation.

"With the statements we hope to get from these individuals, MACC will be able to complete the probe swiftly and gather the proper evidences," said Azam, in a statement.

He said MACC officers would make another visit to FGV to obtain more documents on issues that were raised during the investigation process in the past week.

Azam also said the timeframe needed to close the investigation would depend on the witnesses' level of cooperation with the graft busters.

He said MACC would investigate FGV in six areas for possible misconduct and abuse of power, and that it would gather "strong evidences" before taking further action.

"The questioning of all individuals will be recorded by the investigating officers in order to complete the probe," he added.

On June 6, Zakaria and several other senior FGV officers were instructed to go on forced leave following a boardroom tussle, allegedly triggered by a late payment from Afghan company Safitex Trading to FGV's subsidiary Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd.

The four were Zakaria Arshad, FGV chief financial officer Ahmad Tifli Mohd Talha, Delima Oil Products senior general manager Kamarzaman Abd Karim, and FGV Trading chief executive officer Ahmad Salman Omar.

Isa had said the decision was made to enable an internal audit to take place over alleged discrepancies within the company uncovered several months ago.

On June 8, officers from MACC went to FGV's headquarters to seize documents pertaining to its investigation on the company.

The documents are believed to be linked to investigations over alleged irregular transactions involving the company.

MACC's involvement was believed to have been triggered by a meeting between Zakaria Arshad and the anti-graft commission.

Since then, the government had appointed Pemandu Associates CEO, Datuk Seri Idris Jala as an independent third party to establish the facts of the case.

**9. IRB audits 18 legal and architectural firms in Sandakan**

KOTA KINABALU: Eighteen legal and architectural firms in Sabah's east coast Sandakan district are under the scrutiny of tax authorities.

The Inland Revenue Board is carrying out audits on six such firms and have up to 30 officers in various business premises.

"The audits are to ensure that the income reports these companies filed with us are accurate," said Sandakan IRB director Bacho Abdul Karim.

"If it is found that the companies have not submitted the correct reports, we will advise them to do so," he said Tuesday.

He said IRB has sent notices to 12 other legal and architectural firms that have failed to submit tax returns.



**10. 1MDB: No contact made by US Department of Justice**



(File pix) Traffic passes a 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) billboard at the Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian company 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) said it is not a party in the civil lawsuit filed by United States Department of Justice (DoJ).

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian company 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) said it is not a party in the civil lawsuit filed by United States Department of Justice (DoJ).

The civil lawsuit does not contain any appendices with documentary proof or witness statements to support the allegations made by the DoJ, according to 1MDB in a statement.

"1MDB highlights that it is not a party to the civil lawsuit nor has it been contacted by the DoJ in relation to this matter," the statement said.

"As previously stated, 1MDB will fully cooperate with any foreign lawful authority, subject to international protocols governing such matters and the advice of the relevant domestic lawful authorities," it added.

Earlier the Malaysian government expressed its concerns that the DoJ failed to seek its cooperation or that of 1MDB.

Press secretary to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Sariffuddin had said the Malaysian government was also concerned by the unnecessary and gratuitous naming of certain matters and individuals that are only relevant to domestic political manipulation and interference.

The Attorney General's Chambers had also expressed its frustration with the DoJ for failing to inform about its latest civil lawsuit.

**11. (Press statement) Prime Minister's Office on FGV issue**

The following is the full statement from the Prime Minister's Office on the Felda Global Ventures Holdings (FGV) Bhd issue, dated June 19, 2017

**PRESS STATEMENT**

1. The Government and FELDA Global Ventures (FGV) has received Dato' Sri Idris Jala's independent report on the FGV's Board's decision and action to suspend its CEO, CFO and two other senior management officials. This is pursuant to his appointment as an independent party on 7 June to establish the facts of the case and recommend the way forward.

2. Having reviewed the report, both the Government and FGV have today accepted the four key findings and way forward as follows:

There are sufficient facts and reasonable grounds warranting the FGV Board to initiate disciplinary proceedings against its CEO, CFO and two other senior management officials in relation to alleged breach of procedures in Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd (DOP), a subsidiary of FGV. As such, FGV should continue with its ongoing disciplinary proceedings. It should be highlighted that no one is guilty of any wrongdoing at this juncture unless proven by the impending domestic inquiries. During the domestic inquiries, the 4 management officials will be able to defend themselves in line the laws of natural justice.

The DOP case highlights the immediate need for FGV to radically improve its corporate governance and business controls at the Group and subsidiary levels. It is recommended that FGV sets up a "Governance quantum leap" team to ensure that this happens as a matter of urgency. Instead of making incremental improvements, with the help of this team, FGV should in the first instance, identify best practices, policies and procedures within or outside the industry and thereafter, adopt these for FGV. This way, FGV will make a quantum leap in terms of improvement in Corporate Governance.

The decline in the financial performance of FGV and FELDA in the last few years warrants a comprehensive business review. Indeed, such a review has already started late last year. Both FGV and FELDA should continue and complete this work with urgency. Once completed, it will put in place the right platform which will position both FGV and FELDA to become successful companies now and in the future. This platform includes the right leadership, strategies, business and operating model.

To uphold the integrity, spirit of impartiality of the ongoing inquiry and ensuring proper corporate governance of FGV and DOP, the Government has decided to appoint Tan Sri Isa Samad as Acting Chairman of Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD). The Government, in exercising its full

rights under the provision of article 80 of FGV's memorandum of articles and association, has appointed with immediate effect Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob as Acting Chairman of FGV. Apart from undertaking the normal roles and responsibilities of the Chairman, he will immediately take action to oversee the implementation of the above way forward.

3. The independent report by Dato' Sri Idris Jala and the above decisions made by the Government and FGV on the way forward is separate from the ongoing MACC investigation. Their investigation is still underway and the outcome will be revealed by them only after MACC has completed their work.

**12. MACC probe into Sabah Education Dept officers almost complete**



Sabah MACC deputy director (operations) Karunanithy Subbiah with Sabah education director Datuk Maimunah Suhaibul who led about 40 management staff to read and sign the corruption-free pledge before Karunanithy. Pix by Mohd Adam Arinin

KOTA KINABALU: The investigation into several state education department staff for their alleged involvement in corruption is in its final stages, said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today.

State MACC deputy director (operations) Karunanithy Subbiah also said about 10 people may be summoned for questioning to facilitate the ongoing probe.

"There are about 10 people who might be called up (for questioning) and (later) charged in court.

"The cases are still being studied by the prosecution," he said after attending a corruption-free pledge ceremony here, today.

Karunanithy said previous cases showed that school principals and headmasters were the ones usually involved in corrupt practices.

Among those offences, he said, include receiving bribes from suppliers or contractors, abusing their power by approving contracts for family members, or making false claims on projects.

Meanwhile, state education director Datuk Maimunah Suhaibul led about 40 management staff to read and sign the corruption-free pledge before Karunanithy.

**13. M'sia has other things to worry about than DoJ's rehashed 1MDB issue: Azalina**



Malaysians should not be quick to panic when put under the spotlight by other countries. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said this in response to the recent rehashing of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) issue by the United States' Department of Justice (DoJ). (File pix)

**BANGI:** Malaysians should not be quick to panic when put under the spotlight by other countries.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said this in response to the recent rehashing of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) issue by the United States' Department of Justice (DoJ).

"Every country has its law. If this is what the United States feels that they need to investigate, it is their right.

"We are an independent country and do not have to believe everything that they say," she said.

She added that Malaysia has more important issues to worry about, like Pulau Batu Putih and Islamic State, which concern the country's sovereignty.

"I am disappointed at how Malaysians believe everything said by foreign powers about our country, even without facts or evidence," Azalina said.

She spoke to reporters after launching the Malaysia Legal Aid Convention 2017 here today.

**14. MACC questions Isa Samad and wife for four hours**

PUTRAJAYA: Former Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) chairman Tan Sri Isa Samad and his wife Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid were questioned for four hours by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Isa said he was asked to explain certain issues relating to FGV, but declined to reveal details.

"I was asked to provide explanation on several issues. There were many issues but I will not reveal what they are.

"This is normal. When there are allegations, as (former) chairman, I have to explain.

"I gave my statement. Whether I'm wrong or not I don't know. Let MACC investigate and decide," said Isa to reporters as he exited the MACC headquarters.

Isa and his wife arrived at the building at 9.40am Wednesday and went into the MACC headquarters without addressing the media gathered there.

They were summoned by the MACC to have their statements recorded over issues involving FGV.

On Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the appointment of Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob as acting FGV chairman.

Isa, who relinquished his post on Monday, was appointed as acting chairman of the Land Public Transport Commission.

**15. If found not guilty, Zakaria should be reappointed to FGV posts: Rozali**



Chairman of Gabungan Wawasan Generasi Felda (GWGF) Tan Sri Rozali Ismail (right) after the breaking fast with the media and the local community at the Puncak Alam mosque here today.

SHAH ALAM: Suspended Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) group president and chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad should have his positions restored if he is cleared of any wrongdoings by the authorities.

Gabungan Wawasan Generasi Felda (GWGF) chairman Tan Seri Rozali Ismail said he felt there was no need for Zakaria to quit his posts if investigations by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission showed he did nothing wrong.

"Zakaria deserves to be reappointed to his posts if he is found not guilty. If he was found to have committed an offence, that will be another story altogether. We will wait for the results of the investigations," said Rozali.

Rozali was met after the breaking fast with the media and the local community at the Puncak Alam mosque here today.

On June 6, Zakaria was instructed to go on forced leave from his duties with immediate effect until further notice following an instruction by FGV's board of directors.

This was pending an investigation into the delayed payment by Afghan company Safitex to an FGV subsidiary, Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd.

FGV group financial officer Ahmad Tifli Mohd Talha, was also asked to go on forced leave.

Apart from Zakaria and Tifli, two more officials, FGV Trading chief executive officer Ahmad Salman Omar and Delima Oil Products senior general manager Kamarzaman Abd Karim were also



directed by the board to take a leave of absence until further notice, pending completion of an internal audit.

**16. Guan Eng welcomes RCI on forex scandal, wants similar treatment for FGV, 1MDB**

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has welcomed the formation of a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to investigate Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) foreign exchange (forex) market losses in the 1980's and 1990's.

He said although people would not object to the inquiry into the 25-year-old scandal, the investigation must be conducted fairly.

"Let the RCI be done fairly. Make sure all the cabinet ministers at that time were investigated as well.

"If there really is a collective leadership in our country, then everyone involved in the scandal must be investigated. This also include the Bank Negara's governor at that time," he said in a press conference at Komtar here today.

At the same time, Lim also called for the setting up of RCIs on other scandals plaguing the country including Felda Global Ventures Holdings Sdn Bhd (FGV) and 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"Why only form RCI for a 25-year-old scandal? Why not other scandals as well?

"The authorities must prove that the RCI on forex is not an act of revenge towards Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he added.

He also lamented that the initiation of RCI on the forex scandal was a desperate attempt to divert the attention of the public on the more recent scandals in the country.

**17. Concession company used Work Ministry's name over RM 6.34b Penang tunnel project**



The Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof has expressed regret that the concession company awarded the Penang tunnel and three main roads project costing RM6.34 billion has attempted to use the ministry's and his name to defend itself in the over-payment of consultant fees issue.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof has expressed regret that the concession company awarded the Penang tunnel and three main roads project costing RM6.34 billion has attempted to use the ministry's and his name to defend itself in the over-payment of consultant fees issue.

Fadillah in a statement today said he had in several statements over the past year reminded the concession company and raised that the total feasibility and design fees for the project which cost RM305 million is excessive, including in his statement issued on March 30.

According to Fadillah, the briefing given by the Penang State Government to the ministry in April was a project overview including an explanation on why the feasibility studies on the tunnel portion of the project long-promised to the ministry have been delayed.

"The detailed cost of the projects was not part of this discussion," he said as the company (The Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd) today reported to have dismissed suggestions that it overpaid the consultancy fee for the project which cost RM305 million," he said.

Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Zarul Ahmad Zulkifli also claimed that there were no adverse statements, remarks or comments raised by the minister, Works Department and the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) on the issue when they made a 'full-fledge' presentation on the feasibility study and detailed design (FSDD) and environment impact assessment (EIA) to the ministry in April.

Elaborating, Fadillah said the ministry stands by the professional opinion of the Board of Engineers which had calculated the maximum allowable fees based on the scale of rates to be RM41 million for the three main roads portion of the Penang project.

"The RM177.5 million fees already paid by the Penang State Government for this is more than four times the maximum fees as per the gazetted scale of rates.

"Please note that this RM177.5 million in fees do not include any fee for the actual tunnel itself as the studies for this has yet to be completed nor has it been paid for," Fadillah said.

The minister stressed for avoidance of doubt, the Board of Engineers is the sole statutory board that governs the gazetted scale of fees for civil works in the country. This is provided for under the Registration of Engineers Act 1967 (Act 138).

The construction of the undersea tunnel is part of Penang DAP government's Transport Master Plan to solve traffic congestion on the island.

**18. Collaboration between MACC and EAIC, commitment against corruption**



Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) senior vice-chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, the collaboration enabled both parties to share information, expertise and the results of their research; ensuring that the fight against corruption could be carried out more effectively.

KUALA LUMPUR: The collaboration between the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) proves that MACC is committed in its fight against corruption, abuse of power and misconduct among officers and staff of enforcement agencies.

Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) senior vice-chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, the collaboration enabled both parties to share information, expertise and the results of their research; ensuring that the fight against corruption could be carried out more effectively.

"This strategic cooperation should be supported so as to help MACC achieve its aim of freeing the civil service from elements of bribery and abuse of power by 2020.

"MACC's move to establish collaboration with various parties also shows that it is serious in its effort to eradicate bribery in the country," he said in a statement here today.

Lee said numerous parties including the federal and state government had also signed an oath to combat corruption in their organisations through their collaboration with MACC. He added this showed the growing realisation towards the importance of combating corruption for the well-being of the country and people. Currently, 21 federal enforcement agencies are listed under the supervision of EAIC.

**19. Plans for Pan Borneo Highway's 2nd phase to be finalised by year's end**



Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said details on the second phase's proposed routes, which run through Limbang and Lawas, have been presented to the government's technical committee for approval. PETRA JAYA: Construction plans and packages for the second phase of the Pan Borneo Highway in Sarawak will be finalised by the last quarter of this year.

Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said details on the second phase's proposed routes, which run through Limbang and Lawas, have been presented to the government's technical committee for approval.

"We have also provided a few options (for the second phase) to the technical committee.

"The ministry hopes that we can get approval from the technical committee in October.

"(Once approved), the proposal will be handed over to the Project Delivery Partner, which will in turn award and appoint contractors to carry out the project," he told reporters when met at his Hari Raya open house here today.

On the construction of the first phase of the highway in Sarawak, linking Telok Melano to Merapok, Fadillah said all 11 work packages are progressing accordingly.

"There are slight delays for two of the packages involving areas in Bintulu due to land issues, but the matter is being resolved.

"All work packages for the first phase of the highway recorded an average of 10 per cent in terms of progress," said the Petra Jaya MP.

Costing a whopping RM16 billion, the highway's first phase involves upgrade works and the construction of new roads along a 786km stretch in the state.

**20. Johor govt wants thorough probe into military equipment disappearance at PTP**



(FILE PIX) The Johor government wants authorities to conduct a detailed investigation over the disappearance of a consignment of military radar equipment worth millions of ringgit from the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP).

PASIR GUDANG: The Johor government wants the authorities to conduct a detailed investigation over the disappearance of a consignment of military radar equipment worth millions of ringgit from the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP).

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the detailed investigation is necessary to prevent the reputation of ports in Johor from being tarnished.

"We hope that the authorities will investigate because we need to know if this was something planned or if it was due to negligence.

"Or if it was a case of the item being placed at the wrong location and it could not be found. The police need to investigate.

"This matter can affect the reputation of our ports because there are three ports which contribute in our effort to become a regional logistics centre," said Khaled after the Permas state constituency-level Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house at the Pasir Gudang Municipal Council Indoor Stadium here today.

A consignment of military radar equipment arrived at the PTP from Australia last month, but it did not have the necessary permits from the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

The Customs department seized the items that was transported in a container en route to the Netherlands.



When an audit check was conducted, the consignment could not be traced at the port, which led to a police report being lodged.

**21. What missing container? Customs refutes report on 'disappearing' military equipment**



The Customs Department has shot down a news report that a container with military radar equipment had gone missing at the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP).

JOHOR BARU: The Customs Department has shot down a news report that a container with military radar equipment had gone missing at the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP).

In a three paragraph statement by Customs director-general Datuk Subromaniam Tholasy, the department said the said consignment reached its destination in Rotterdam Port, the Netherlands.

"The department wishes to refute the statement because the container containing high-tech military radar equipment which was reported missing has arrived at its destination at Rotterdam Port, the Netherlands.

"The Customs Department is in fact investigating the compliance level of the internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for releasing trade goods which require a special permit under the Strategic Trading Act 2010," he said.

He said the department wanted to clarify the media report on the missing container, which contained high-tech military radar equipment at the PTP.

The news report by an English daily said that the multi-million ringgit shipping consignment was detained by Customs officials shortly after the consignment arrived from Australia last month.

The items did not have the necessary permits. During a recent audit check, the items apparently could not be located at the port.

The case prompted the police and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Miti) to carry out an investigation.

A police report was lodged by the shipping company involved in the transshipment process on June 13.

**22. Bank Negara: Malaysia's headline inflation down to 3.9 pct**



Bank Negara Malaysia attributed this decrease in inflation to lower fuel prices in May.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's headline inflation declined to 3.9 per cent from April's 4.4 per cent.

In a statement today, Bank Negara Malaysia attributed this decrease in inflation to lower fuel prices in May, saying that prices of RON95 petrol averaged lower at RM2.09 per litre in May compared to RM2.21 per litre in April.

Additionally, it said that with global oil prices trending lower in June, domestic fuel prices also averaged lower in June.

On another note, the central bank also observed that continued inflows into the domestic financial market had led to the ringgit's appreciation.

"Non-resident inflows into the government bond market amounted to RM9 billion in May, a second consecutive month of inflows. The inflows reflect positive developments arising from measures to develop the domestic financial market.

"As a result, the 3-year, 5-year and 10-year MGS yields declined by 4, 13 and 17 basis points respectively," BNM wrote in its monthly highlights report for May 2017.

The equity market also continued to receive non-resident inflows in May, to the tune of RM2 billion, with sentiments supported by the stronger-than-expected GDP growth in 1Q 2017 and improved ringgit outlook.

"A sell-off towards the end of the month, however, led to the FBM KLCI declining marginally by 0.1 per cent," it said.

"The continued non-resident inflows totalling RM12.1 billion into the Malaysian financial market resulted in the ringgit remaining as the best performer in the region in May, appreciating by 1.7 per cent against the US dollar," BNM wrote.

The nation's banking system also has sufficient liquidity in the banking system.

"Liquidity in the banking system remains supportive of banks' financing activities. Aggregate surplus liquidity placed with Bank Negara Malaysia stands at RM179.2 billion.

"All banks also maintained Liquidity Coverage Ratios above the regulatory requirement to meet unexpected cash outflows or adverse liquidity shocks," the central bank reported.