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### NEW STRAITSTIMES March 2, 2019

1. Pas: Give evidence on 'RM1.4mil payment' to MACC



#### Deputy Pas president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said party leaders are prepared to cooperate as well as be probed by the MACC on the allegation

MARANG: Pas has urged political leaders and individuals possessing evidence on the alleged RM1.4 million payment to Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown to lodge a report at the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC).

Deputy Pas president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said party leaders are prepared to cooperate as well as be probed by the MACC on the allegation.

"If anyone has evidence, please submit (it) to the MACC. All quarters, including the rakyat, are hoping for the truth.

"Pas and its leaders are prepared to extend the necessary cooperation," he said.

Tuan Ibrahim was speaking to reporters after a ceramah session at Pasar Binjai Rendah here last night.

Present was Bukit Payong state assemblyman Mohd Nor Hamzah.

Tuan Ibrahim, who is also Kubang Kerian member of parliament, however declined to elaborate further on the matter.

Tuan Ibrahim said at present, the allegation and information on the matter was only derived from media reports.

He added that Pas was unaware of the identity of the account holder who made the supposed payment.

"I am sorry for not being able to elaborate further on the allegation. We do not have any information... only through media reports... we cannot comment... on whose account it is, wallahu wa'lam," he said.

He was commenting on <u>PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's claim</u> that Pas had paid Rewcastle-Brown RM1.4 million to end both parties' legal proceeding at the London High Court recently.

Pas filed the lawsuit, with party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang as its lead plaintiff, over Rewcastle-Brown's article which claimed the former had received RM90 million from Umno, in exchange for political endorsement.

Pas had earlier <u>refuted claims</u> that it had paid Rewcastle-Brown over the case, and claimed Anwar had committed slander.

Rewcastle-Brown later claimed that <u>Hadi</u> had to foot Sarawak Report's RM1.4 million in legal bills in order to exit the defamation suit which he filed against the portal.

### NEW STRAITSTIMES March 4, 2019

2. Penang Undersea Tunnel blog postings nefarious, fiction: Zenith



#### Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd (Zenith) hits out at Raja Petra Kamarudin for publishing nefarious posts on the development.

KUALA LUMPUR: Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd (Zenith) which is involved in the construction of the Penang Undersea Tunnel and Road project has blasted Raja Petra Kamarudin for publishing nefarious posts on the development.

Zenith's senior executive director Datuk Zarul Ahmad Mohd Zulkifli described the postings at the Malaysia Today blog as nothing more than pure fiction.

"These blog posts are pure fiction and clearly concocted to deceive and defame me, my company and the Penang state government.

"Even Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said it is a lie," he said in a statement here, today.

Zarul said lest anyone forgets, he was once remanded for 11 days by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for what was billed as an extensive investigation into the project.

"Besides me, my entire company was called up for questioning, spending a total of 40 days in and out of the MACC office, cooperating with every single aspect that was being investigated. This includes close scrutiny of our accounts.

"The MACC had even hired external consultants to see if we were fair in our pricing. And clearly, given the magnitude of our project, our prices were fair, justified and above board," Zarul said.

He reminded sceptics that the case was thoroughly investigated way before the change of government had taken place.

"Today, my primary goal is to put all of my resources into this project as soon as possible, so we can kick off with what will ultimately be useful for the people of Penang in the long run.

"It has been very challenging for me over the years to counter every single allegation, but yet the truth has always prevailed. I pray that God gives me the strength to persevere and complete the task as I am tasked to do," Zarul added.

In a recent entry in his portal <u>www.malaysia-today.net</u>, Raja Petra alleged that Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng and four other Penang state executive councillors were involved in corrupt practices involving the project.

He claimed to have been given a 200-page document by an individual at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC), and that he will produce extracts of its contents in several online instalments to expose the matter.

The MACC has since launched a probe into the project as well as a separate investigation into Raja Petra's claims.

In <u>response</u> to the allegations, Lim, who is former Penang Chief Minister, pointed out that the previous Barisan Nasional government had investigated the project for corruption and no action was taken.

"There was (even) a suit by me against Pas's Nasrudin (Hassan Tantawi who made) a similar allegation, and you know, he withdrew his statement, expressed regret and even paid me legal fees of RM10,000," he said.

In 2014, Pas information chief Nasrudin told the Penang High Court that he regretted making a "baseless" statement on his Facebook account against the then Penang Chief Minister.

Lim had taken Nasrudin to court over the latter's Facebook posting titled 'Apa Beza Kidex dan Penang Tunnel' (What is the difference between Kidex and the Penang Tunnel?).

In his post, Nasrudin claimed that the project was awarded through direct negotiation and not open tender as publicised.

The RM6.3 billion development has long been a subject of controversy, especially over the high cost of its RM305 million feasibility studies, as well as the nearly two year-long delay in its completion.



#### 3. Nik Azman appointed new Auditor General



#### Former secretary general of the Economic Affairs Ministry, Datuk Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid, has been appointed the new Auditor General

PUTRAJAYA: Former secretary general of the Economic Affairs Ministry, Datuk Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid, has been appointed the new Auditor General.

Chief Secretary to the government, Datuk Seri Ismail Bakar, said Nik Azman's new appointment came into effect on Feb 23.

"He replaces Tan Sri Dr Madinah Mohamad, whose service ended on Feb 22," he said in a statement today.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah had consented to Nik Azman's appointment, as provided by the Federal Constitution and after being advised by the Prime Minister as well as deliberation with the Rulers Council.

Nik Azman, who has a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Nebraska, will serve as the Auditor General for two terms, from Feb 23 to Feb 22, 2021.

Ismail said Nik Azman has vast experience in finance and economics with his previous posts in the Economic Affairs Ministry; the Economic Planning Unit; the World Bank in Washington DC; the Finance Ministry; and the Prime Minister's Department.

The Chief Secretary to the government also conveyed his appreciation to Madinah for all her contributions in transforming and restructuring the auditing system, as well as strengthening the government's financial management.



4. Two gov't department officers remanded over suspected graft



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today obtained a five-day remand order against two individuals, including an assistant director of a government department, to facilitate investigations into suspected power abuse

SEREMBAN: The state Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today obtained a five-day remand order against two individuals, including an assistant director of a government department, to facilitate investigations into suspected power abuse.

Magistrate Rahimah Rahim granted the state MACC's prosecuting officer, Mohd Khairi Abdul Karim, the remand application for both suspects, aged 42 and 38, effective today until Tuesday.

According to sources, the assistant director had allegedly confirmed receiving supply and services from a company to host a department programme on Nov 21 in Lenggeng last year, amounting to RM17,856.

However, an investigation revealed that the programme was never conducted and no supplies were delivered or received.

The first suspect was arrested at 5.50pm on March 7 at her office; while the second suspect, an officer from the same government department, was arrested on the same day at 6pm.

The case is being investigated under Section 18 of the MACC Act 2009.

Earlier, the suspects arrived at the court complex here at 10.40am, escorted by MACC officers

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 8, 2019

5. Petronas to pay RM54 billion dividend to govt



Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) president and group chief financial officer Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin said the group, which announced a revenue jump of 12 per cent to RM251.0 billion, had been paying the dividend in tranches since January.

KUALA LUMPUR: Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) will pay RM54 billion in dividend to the government this year, including a special dividend of RM30 billion.

Petronas president and group chief financial officer Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin said the group, which announced a revenue jump of 12 per cent to RM251.0 billion, had been paying the dividend in tranches since January.

"The group will be paying RM54 billion dividend in total (for 2019) comprising RM30 billion in special dividend and RM24 billion in normal dividend.

"We were confident of delivering this dividend before we declared this number," he said at a media briefing on Petronas' 2018 financial results here today.

In November last year, Petronas announced that it would be paying an additional RM30 billion in a special dividend in the 2019 Budget to help the government settle refunds of RM37 billion in goods and services tax and income tax.

Petronas, in a statement, said the special dividend payment would not impede its operations.

Earlier, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the government expected to receive RM261.8 billion in revenue next year, including a one-off special dividend of RM30 billion from Petronas.

The special dividend, he said, would be used towards repaying the GST and income tax refunds of RM37 billion.

Petronas announced a 12 per cent increase in revenue to RM251.0 billion from RM223.6 billion recorded in 2017, driven by higher average realised prices for all key products.

Petronas' net profit rose 22 per cent to RM55.3 billion from RM45.5 billion in 2017, on the back of higher revenue and supported by net write-back of impairment of assets.

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 15, 2019

#### 6. Rosmah's graft case transferred to High Court

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here today allowed the prosecution's application to transfer from the Sessions Court to the High Court the case involving two graft charges filed against Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is the wife of former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah made the ruling after hearing submissions from the prosecution, led by former Federal Court judge Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram, and Rosmah's lawyer, Datuk Jagjit Singh.

Earlier, Sri Ram said the prosecution had sought to transfer Rosmah's case to the High Court as they wanted the case to be jointly tried with the case involving Datuk Rizal Mansor as the charges involved the same subject matter.

He said the High Court had wider jurisdiction than the Sessions Court to hear the case.

Lawyer Jagjit Singh objected to the prosecution's application, saying that Rosmah's case should be heard in the Sessions Court as there were many courts here that specialised in corruption cases.

"Here, in KL court, we have three corruption specialised courts with highly experienced judges. So, why must transfer the case to High Court? Why do you want to conduct a joint trial, when they (Rosmah and Rizal) were charged separately at the Sessions Court," he said.

On Nov 15 last year, Rosmah, 67, pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court to two counts of soliciting RM187.5 million and receiving RM1.5 million for projects to provide solar energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

On the same day, Rizal, 46, pleaded not guilty to four counts of soliciting and accepting bribes for himself and Rosmah, amounting to RM5.5 million, involving the supply of equipment and installation of the solar hybrid system for rural schools in Sarawak.

They were charged under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC) 2009, and face imprisonment for up to 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the gratification or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.



The High Court here today allowed the prosecution's application to transfer from the Sessions Court to the High Court the case involving two graft charges filed against Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 18, 2019

7. MACC detains 4 people, including a principal assistant director



ALOR STAR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) remanded four people, including a principal assistant director of a government department, on suspicion of making false claims amounting to RM1.2 million.

Magistrate's Court Assistant Registrar Rashidah Azmi issued the remand order for the three male contractors aged between 34 and 43, and the female civil servant, 41, until this Thursday to assist in the investigations under Section 18 of the MACC Act 2009.

It is understood that all the suspects were detained between 5 to 5.30pm yesterday in their homes here after they were suspected to have made false claims relating to supplies and services to the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry amounting to RM1.2 million, in connection to a tourism programme in Langkawi.

Payment for the claims were allegedly made between 2014 and 2016, but the work was never done.

It was also understood that the civil servant had allegedly committed the offence while attached to a government department in the state.

Meanwhile, when contacted, state MACC director Datuk Shaharom Nizam Abd. Manap, confirmed the arrests.

### NEW STRAITSTIMES March 18, 2019

8. Malaysia to summons two Goldman Sachs units ahead of 1MDB case



Malaysia will issue summonses to units of US investment bank Goldman Sachs in London and Hong Kong.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian prosecutors on Monday said they would issue summonses to units of US investment bank Goldman Sachs in London and Hong Kong, requiring them to respond by June to criminal charges filed against them last year.

Soon after being elected in May, 2018, a new government charged three units of Goldman Sachs for misleading investors by making untrue statements and omitting key facts in relation to bond issues totaling US\$6.5 billion for state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

On Monday, only the Singapore unit of Goldman Sachs appeared at a pre-trial hearing in a Kuala Lumpur court as a respondent.

"Fresh summonses will be served on the United Kingdom and Hong Kong offices of Goldman Sachs ahead of the next court hearing on June 24," prosecutor Aaron Paul Chelliah told reporters.

The 1MDB scandal played a major role in the electoral defeat that ended Datuk Seri Najib Razak's near decade in power, and a new government led by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad promptly re-opened corruption investigations.

Najib, who has consistently denied wrongdoing, is facing multiple criminal charges, mostly linked to 1MDB, and has been barred from leaving the country.

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) has estimated that a total of US\$4.5 billion was misappropriated by high-level 1MDB fund officials and their associates between 2009 and 2014, including some of the funds that Goldman Sachs helped raise.

Malaysia has said it was seeking up to US\$7.5 billion in reparations from Goldman Sachs, including \$US600 million in fees paid to the bank for the bond issues.

Goldman Sachs has consistently denied wrongdoing and said certain members of the former Malaysian government and 1MDB lied to it about how proceeds from the bond sales would be used.

A separate Kuala Lumpur court also set April 15 for prosecutors to serve documents to the defence for former Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng.

Ng, a Malaysian, was charged on Dec. 19 last year with abetting the bank to provide misleading statements in the offering prospectus for the 1MDB bond sales.

Prosecutor Zaki Arsyad told the court he needed more time to obtain documents as most of them were overseas.

Ng was originally set to be extradited to the United States to face money laundering charges filed against him by the DoJ.

Malaysia, however, has said it may postpone the extradition until Ng can face a domestic trial first.

Tim Leissner, another former Goldman Sachs official, and Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho have also been charged in the United States over the alleged theft of billions of dollars from 1MDB. Leissner has pleaded guilty.

Low, whose whereabouts is unknown, has issued denials of any wrongdoing and has refused to return to Malaysia, saying that the case against him is politically motivated

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 21, 2019

9. MACC arrests senior officer over RM30 million graft scandal



The 48-year-old was arrested at 12.30pm at the MACC headquarters after giving his statemen

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) arrested a senior officer of a statutory body today to assist in investigations of a RM30 million graft case related to a project involving the statutory body.

According to sources, the 48-year-old was arrested at 12.30pm at the MACC headquarters after giving his statement.

"Initial investigations found that the suspect was involved with three other individuals who were remanded on Tuesday for obtaining approvals offering certified software certificate services without following regulations," a source said.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrest.

"Investigations will be carried out under Section 17 (a) of the MACC Act 2009. MACC will also obtain a remand order for the suspect tomorrow at the Putrajaya magistrate's court," he said.

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 23, 2019

10. PCB audit committee wants ex-Perak MB to explain MAP's ballooning cost



The Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS)

IPOH: Former Perak menteri besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir must explain and take responsibility for the ballooning of the development and construction cost of the Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS) from RM390 million to RM607 million, says Perak Corporation Bhd (PCB) audit committee chairman Chong Zhemin.

Chong said although the recent special internal audit on the project did not find any conclusive evidence of misconduct or fraud, there were questions on several decisions and lopsided agreements that could be raised.

"As the former chairman of Perak State Development Corporation, he (Zambry) had direct control over PCB, PCB Development Sdn Bhd (PCBD) and Animation Theme Park Sdn Bhd (ATP), and must explain and be fully responsible for the increase in the cost of MAPS.



Former Perak menteri besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

"This is most shocking and appalling as RM607 million represents 57.21 per cent of the 2019 Perak State budget which stood at RM1.06 billion," he told a press conference on the special audit on MAPS construction and development here today.

Chong also asked Zambry to explain why he allowed PCBD, which owns a 51 per cent stake in ATP, to be solely responsible for the additional funding of MAPS by approving three shareholder advance agreements totalling RM250 million.

"Of the RM250 million approved shareholder advance agreement, PCBD had advanced payments of RM198 million to ATP, with an additional RM6.2 million advance payment from PCB to ATP.

"However, RSG Maps Sdn Bhd (RSGM), which holds 49 per cent of ATP, only paid RM6.25 million to ATP while RM204 million was given to ATP by PCB and its subsidiary PCBD," he said.

Chong said the audit report also showed that RM413 million out of the RM607 million project cost was paid either directly, in the form of advances or payments, to Sanderson Design Group (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (SDGM), the main contractor of MAPS.

He said SDGM was currently in receivership and a creditor meeting called in May 2018 by the appointed liquidator revealed that the company only had RM1,500 left in its bank accounts.

"I agree with the internal audit opinion that a review on SDGM's accounts is needed and will raise this in the coming State Public Accounts Committee meeting next Tuesday and get to the bottom of this issue," he added

## NEW STRAITSTIMES March 23, 2019

11. Duo in RM30m project scandal probe released on bail



(Stock image for illustration purposes) Magistrate Md Bukhori Md Roslan issued the order for a senior officer of a statutory body to be released on Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) bail.

PUTRAJAYA: Two men remanded to facilitate investigations into an alleged RM30 million project scandal were released today.

Magistrate Md Bukhori Md Roslan issued the order for a senior officer of a statutory body to be released on Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) bail.

The other suspect, the director of an information technology (IT) company was released on a bail of RM30,000 in one surety.

Yesterday, another suspect, the director of an IT company, who was remanded to facilitate investigations into the same case was also released on MACC bail.

The three men, who were remanded for five days, beginning on Tuesday, were arrested at about 11am on Monday at their offices and homes in Petaling Jaya, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the senior officer had abetted the two other individuals to obtain approval to offer certified software services without following regulations stipulated under the purview of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

The investigations are being carried out under Section 17 of the MACC Act 2009.

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 24, 2019

12. Construction of RM2 billion Papar dam to begin next year



Sabah Infrastructure Development Minister Datuk Peter Anthony said 'The project, which is at the surveying and designing stage, will take about six months to complete and hopefully, we can start it next year,' after flagging-off the Water World Day Run at the Penampang Stadium here, today

PENAMPANG: Construction of the RM2 billion Papar dam will kick-off next year, said Sabah Infrastructure Development Minister Datuk Peter Anthony.

"The ministry has identified the area and rivers (for the dam).

"As for now, we are waiting reports from the Department of Environment as well as other relevant agencies.

"The project, which is at the surveying and designing stage, will take about six months to complete and hopefully, we can start it next year," he said after flagging-off the Water World Day Run at the Penampang Stadium here, today.

Last week, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal urged the ministry to speed up construction of the Papar and Ulu Padas dams in Tenom to ensure that the state has sufficient water supply.

Peter said that the Papar dam is crucial to help cope with increasing demand for water by a growing population here, as well as in Papar and Kota Kinabalu.

This is despite the existence of the Babagon dam and treatment plant in Tuaran, he said.

Meanwhile, the Ulu Padas dam project, which is also expected to begin soon, is expected to supply water to the interiors of Sabah as well as Sipitang and Beaufort.

"Although the annual rainfall in the state is high, it is inconsistent and there will be months when there is no precipitation.

"The state government is thinking of constructing water storage facilities in every district with water reserves enough for between three to four months," he added.

Peter also said that the state has considered projects involving desalinisation technology, but they are quite costly.

Meanwhile, on current water supply in the state amidst the ongoing heatwave and dry spell, he said six plants in Tawau and Semporna are now at the critical level due to dams drying-up up from lack of rain.

"The ministry is monitoring the situations and will send water supply if there are shortages. If the situation continues, we will consider cloud seeding," Peter added.

### NEW STRAITSTIMES March 25, 2019

#### 13. Notice of seizure on Jho Low's Penang mansion missing?

GEORGE TOWN: A notice of seizure posted last week on the wall of a luxurious mansion here, believed to be owned by the family of fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, has conspicuously gone 'missing'.

The New Straits Times was alerted to the matter this evening.

Checks showed that the notice, which was visibly posted on the right side wall at the entrance last Friday, had been removed.

Since Saturday, members of the public had been flocking to the mansion, named "El Nitsjo".

It is not immediately known who had removed the notice.

It is learnt that the mansion had been seized by authorities to assist investigations involving 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The notice was addressed to Goh Gaik Ewe, 66, Jho Low's mother.

The notice of seizure was issued under subsection 51(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

The notice, dated Jan 17, was signed by Deputy Public Prosecutor Syafinas Shabudin.

The notice read:

"Whereas I, Syafinas Shabudin being satisfied on the information given to me by Superintendent Foo Wei Min and Deputy Superintendent Albany Hamzah that the immovable property as set out in the Schedule to this notice is the subject matter of an offence under subsection 4(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (the Act) our evidence of commission of such offence or territory property or the proceeds of an unlawful activity or the instrumentalities of such offence.



Checks showed that the notice, which was visibly posted on the right side wall at the entrance last Friday, had been removed.

"Now pursuant to subsection 51(1A) of the Act, it is hereby ordered that such immovable property be seized by the investigating officer and all dealings in respect of such immovable property are prohibited.

"Take notice that failure to comply with this notice is an offence under the Act."

The matter is being handled by the relevant authorities in Putrajaya.

It was reported that Goh was the latest to be sought by police as Bukit Aman widened its investigation into 1MDB.

Prior to this, only her son Jho Low and her husband, Tan Sri Larry Low Hock Peng were wanted.

Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun had said that Goh, along with three persons of interest, were wanted to assist in the investigation under Section 4(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

Jho Low has been sought by the authorities for his role in the 1MDB saga.

Jho Low, who is being hunted by police, and wanted in Malaysia, Singapore and several other countries, is believed to be hiding either in China or Abu Dhabi, but to date, his actual whereabouts is not known.

He has been placed on Interpol's Red Notice since October 2016.

The Malaysian Immigration Department had revoked Low's passport upon the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) request. Meanwhile, a spokesman for Low, through his attorneys, had issued a statement regarding the seizure of the mansion.

The spokesman claimed that the public manner in which the notice was posted and disseminated to the media was "another example of the Mahathir regime's 'trial by media'."

The family property, said the spokesman, was built and completed around 20 years ago, more than a decade before 1MDB existed and when Low was still a teenager.

As such, the spokesman said the seizure of the property was only an attempt by Dr Mahathir's administration to score 'political wins'.

# NEW STRAITSTIMES March 28, 2019

#### 14. RM711 million needed to continue Felda next gen housing project



The Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) needs an injection of RM711 million to complete its New Generation Housing project, said Economic Affairs deputy minister Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) needs an injection of RM711 million to complete its New Generation Housing project, said Economic Affairs deputy minister Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin.

"(The) 30 sites with 6,816 units remain unresolved due to the impact of financial problems in 2016. If the remaining 6,816 units are to be completed, Felda needs an injection of RM711 million," Mohd Radzi told the Dewan Rakyat, here, today.

Mohd Radzi said that Felda's New Generation Housing project was announced during the 2013 Budget with an aim to construct 20,000 units within the period of five years.

A budget of RM1.5 billion for the project was also announced at the time.

Mohd Radzi however said that Felda had only received a sum of RM200 million as of 2017.

"Therefore, only 38 sites with 8,314 houses were able to proceed. Eight sites consisting of 1,498 units have been completed and will be occupied by 792 participants. The remaining 706 units will be handed over after the selection process is completed. Another, 19 sites with 5,082 housing units are still under construction due to slow work progress.

"Lastly, 11 sites with 1,734 units of houses were abandoned and have been discontinued," he explained.

Mohd Radzi was responding to a question by Mohd Shahar Abdullah (BN-Paya Besar) on the status of housing issues of the second generation of Felda settlers.

#### NEW STRAITSTIMES March 30, 2019

15. Mat Sabu: LTAT accounts do not reflect true state, thanks to previous govt



Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu said the board's accounts did not reflect the true state it was in, stopping short of coming out and saying that the previous government had "cooked the books"

LANGKAWI: Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu accused the previous government administration of misleading the people when making announcements on the financial status of the Armed Forces Superannuation Fund Board (LTAT).

He said the board's accounts did not reflect the true state it was in, stopping short of coming out and saying that the previous government had "cooked the books".

He said former auditor general Tan Sri Ambrin Buang and his team members were still combing through the accounts, adding that this may take some time.

Ambrin chairs the Governance, Procurement and Finance Investigating Committee set up by Putrajaya in May last year.

"We have to seriously audit the accounts. When we make the announcement, then you will see how the announcements made (by the previous government) before this did not tally with internal nor external audits," he told reporters on the final day of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition 2019, here.

Mohamad said this when asked to comment on rumblings from LTAT shareholders that the board had yet to announce dividends to be paid out this year.

He said there would be some delay on the announcement of dividends due to the investigation currently being carried out.

"We will need some time before we can present (the findings of the investigation)," he said.

The investigation committee was reported to have found irregularities in the LTAT accounts, allegedly indicating that the previous government had intefered with the accounts.

Among the issues was a RM550 million payment involving the Automated Enforcement System (AES) for speed traps when evaluation conducted on the system placed its value at just RM250 million.

Earlier this month, the Defence Ministry lodged a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) report regarding the matter.