

New Straits Times April 2019

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
1	April 1, 2019	Salahuddin confirms pol-sec detained by MACC	Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC)	3
2	April 2, 2019	Chronology of Najib's SRC case	criminal breach of trust (CBT)	5
3	April 2, 2019	100 passes to be given out to local and international media covering Najib's SRC trial	SRC International Sdn Bhd	8
4	April 2, 2019	Salahuddin's pol-sec remanded over RM28,000 luxury watch	Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC)	10
5	April 3, 2019	Vertice's unit bags RM218m sub-contract works	Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC)	12
6	April 5, 2019	Icon Offshore bags RM8m contract from Petronas Carigali	Petronas Carigali	14
7	April 8, 2019	Penang CM: No approval yet for LRT/PIL 1 projects	Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow	16
8	April 10, 2019	White Paper spells out RM6.23 billion financial aid boost for FELDA	Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali	18
9	April 16, 2019	UEM Edgenta's unit named PMC for Sarawak road projects	Managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Azmir Merican	20
10	April 17, 2019	MACC bus ferrying 24 RTD officers catches fire	Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC)	22
11	April 17, 2019	Penang Undersea Tunnel project not linked to graft case, says CM	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	24
12	April 19, 2019	CAP, SAM welcome Fed Govt clarification on Penang reclamation project	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	26
13	April 21, 2019	Former Johor exco member acquitted of corruption, money laundering	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	28

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
14	April 22, 2019	Time for Loke to restore RTD's battered image	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	30
15	April 22, 2019	Sabah Railway deputy director, two wives charged with money laundering	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	32
16	April 22, 2019	RTD has enough ammunition to battle graft	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	34
17	April 23, 2019	RTD protection racket scandal: More Penang officers grilled by MACC	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC)	35
18	April 29, 2019	NIOSH proposes yearly audit for buildings over 20 years old	National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye	37

1. Salahuddin confirms pol-sec detained by MACC



Datuk Salahuddin Ayub today confirmed that his political secretary was detained by the graftbusters

PUTRAJAYA: Agriculture and Agro-based Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub today confirmed that his political secretary was detained by the graftbusters.

"I have been informed that my political secretary was detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to assist in the commission's investigation," he said in a statement tonight.

The minister stressed he would not interfere with the MACC's investigation and would allow the law to run its course.

"He is also a Malaysian just like other Malaysians who are bound by the rules of law.

"I hold true to the rules of law and believe the MACC will conduct its investigation in a just and independent manner," said Salahuddin.

MACC today was reported to have detained a political secretary of a minister for allegedly receiving a luxury watch worth about RM28,000.

Sources said the 47-year-old man was detained about 5pm at its headquarters here where he was present to have his statement recorded.

Initial investigations revealed that the political secretary was believed to have received the luxury watch as an inducement to allow a development company to get projects under the ministry.

MACC deputy chief commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrest when contacted today.

He said the case was being investigated under Section 16(a)(A) of the MACC Act 2009 and the commission would apply for a remand against the said political secretary tomorrow (Tuesday).

2. Chronology of Najib's SRC case



Former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is facing three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), one charge with abusing his post and three counts of money laundering over SRC International Sdn Bhd's funds, totalling RM42 million

KUALA LUMPUR: Tomorrow, the High Court will hear the case of former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is facing three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), one charge with abusing his post and three counts of money laundering over SRC International Sdn Bhd's funds, totalling RM42 million.

The trial will be before Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

Najib, 66, who is also Pekan Member of Parliament, had pleaded not guilty to all the seven charges.

Following is the timeline of Najib's SRC case:

July 4, 2018 - Najib was charged for the first time in the Sessions Court here with three counts of CBT and one charge of abusing his post over SRC International Sdn Bhd's funds totalling RM42 million. The case was later transferred to the High Court.

Aug 8, 2018 - Najib was charged at the High Court with three counts of money laundering involving the same money (RM42 million of SRC's funds) in proceeds from unlawful activities.

Aug 10, 2018 - High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali dismissed Najib's application for a gag order restraining the media and public to publish statements on the merits of his criminal charges which would infer Najib's guilt pending the disposal of his case.

Aug 10, 2018 - Mohd Nazlan set 33 days from Feb 12 to 28 and March 4 to 29 for the trial of Najib's SRC case.

Aug 13, 2018 - Najib filed an appeal at the Court of Appeal against the High Court refusal to issue an order restraining the media and public from publishing statements on the merits of his case.

Dec 18, 2018 - High Court rejected Najib's request to get the letter of authorisation (fiat) on the appointment of lead prosecutor Datuk Sulaiman Abdullah and his application for discovery of documents pertaining to the case.

Jan 15, 2019 - Najib, through his legal firm, Messrs Shafee & Co, sent a letter to the High Court seeking the trial scheduled on Feb 12 to be vacated pending his three interlocutory appeals before the Court of Appeal.

Jan 17, 2019 - Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) prosecution division chief Manoj Kurup, in a letter dated

Jan 17, 2019 to High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali, objected to the defence's request for postponement of the trial, saying that the application is "frivolous and would cause an unreasonable delay to the scheduled trial".

Feb 11, 2019 - The Court of Appeal allowed Najib's application to temporarily postpone the trial pending the disposal of his appeal over the public prosecutor's withdrawal of the certificate of transfer on his seven charges.

Feb 14, 2019 - The Court of Appeal set March 11 and 12 to hear four appeals by Najib to reverse the High Court's ruling over the interlocutory applications in the seven charges on the SRC funds.

March 11, 12, 15 and 18, 2019 - The Court of Appeal heard the four appeals by Najib.

March 21, 2019 - The Court of Appeal granted a stay to Najib to temporarily stall the trial, pending disposal of his three appeals relating to interlocutory matters to the Federal Court which was earlier rejected by the Court of Appeal.

March 21, 2019 - The Court of Appeal dismissed Najib's three appeals, namely his appeals to obtain a gag order to prohibit the media and public from discussing the merits of his criminal case; access to investigation documents including witness statement at pre-trial stage; and on the Attorney-General's (AG) withdrawal of his transfer certificate.

March 21, 2019 - The Court of Appeal also allowed Najib's appeal to have Datuk Sulaiman Abdullah to produce his letter of appointment to lead the prosecution team in his case.

March 27, 2019 - The Federal Court seven-man panel allowed the prosecution's appeal to lift the stay of proceeding order granted by the Court of Appeal to Najib to temporarily stall the trial pending disposal of his appeals over his interlocutory matters.

March 28, 2019 - The High Court set April 3 at 2pm for the trial of Najib's SRC case.

April 1, 2019 - Najib filed another bid (a judicial review application) against the Federal Court's refusal to grant him an order to stay the trial of his SRC case

3. 100 passes to be given out to local and international media covering Najib's SRC trial



One hundred passes have been prepared for local and foreign media practitioners covering the case of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak involving the funds of SRC International Sdn Bhd in the High Court tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR: One hundred passes have been prepared for local and foreign media practitioners covering the case of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak involving the funds of SRC International Sdn Bhd in the High Court tomorrow.

An officer managing the registration of the media said 30 red passes were for local and foreign journalists to attend the proceedings in open court, 20 orange passes for proceedings in the video-link room and 50 blue passes for photographers and cameramen at the lobby of the Court Complex.

"The registration counter will be opened at 12.30pm for the media to obtain their respective passes," she said when contacted by Bernama.

She said the video room would be located at Criminal Sessions Court 2 and only one representative from one news agency was allowed to enter the room.

"Nonetheless, if there are too many journalists, we will consider adding another video display room with 20 more passes," she said.

A total of 16 local media journalists are allowed to enter the court itself and they comprise Bernama, RTM, TV3, Astro Awani, a representative from NSTP Group and Utusan Melayu, Sinar Harian, The Star, Oriental Daily, China Press, Malay Mail, Malaysiakini, Free Malaysia Today, Malaysia Gazette, The Edge and The Malaysian Insight.

Apart from that, 14 journalists from international media would be allowed. They are from AFP, AP, CNN, BBC, Reuters, Bloomberg, Asahi Shimbun, Nikkei, Dow Jones Newstimes, Fairfax Media, The Financial Times, The Guardian, Al-Jazeera and Kyodo News.

The case will be heard before High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Level 5.

Meanwhile, an observation found several tables had been placed at the corridor on Level 5 to prevent members of the public from passing through the area.

On July 4, 2018, Najib, who is also Pekan MP, was charged at the Sessions Court here on three counts of criminal breach of trust and one charge of abuse of power relating to SRC International amounting to RM42 million.

On Aug 2 2018, the former prime minister was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same amount from the same funds.

4. Salahuddin's pol-sec remanded over RM28,000 luxury watch



The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today obtained a four-day remand order against the political secretary of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister, Datuk Salahuddin Ayub.

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today obtained a four-day remand order against the political secretary of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister, Datuk Salahuddin Ayub.

The remand request was made to facilitate a probe into allegations of corruption by the 47-year-old suspect.

The remand order, effective today until April 5, was issued by magistrate Ahmad Asyraf Mohammad Kamal at the Magistrate's Court here.

The suspect arrived at the court at 9.10am, clad in an MACC lock-up t-shirt.

The political secretary was initially detained for allegedly receiving a bribe in the form of a luxury watch, said to be worth RM28,000.

Yesterday, an MACC source said that the suspect was arrested after having his statement recorded at the commission's headquarters here, at 5pm.

"Initial investigations revealed that the man received the luxury watch as a kickback from a development company to secure projects under a ministry," the source said.

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

The case is being investigated under Section 16 (a)(A) of the *MACC Act 2009*.

5. Vertice's unit bags RM218m sub-contract works



Vertice Bhd says the project is significant to the company due to its large contract value and which is a testament to its client's confidence in its ability to deliver.

KUALA LUMPUR: Vertice Bhd's wholly owned subsidiary, Vertice Construction Sdn Bhd (VCSB), has bagged a RM218.48 million sub-contract work from Kumpulan Liziz Sdn Bhd (KLSB) - its biggest win to date.

KLSB is the main sub-contractor for the road upgrading works from Gambang, Pahang to Segamat, Johor which was awarded by Malaysian Public Works Department (JKR).

In a filing to Bursa Malaysia, Vertice said the sub-contract is for the work coordination, inspection, testing, commissioning including obtaining final approval for works done for the proposed upgrading works.

Construction period shall be for approximately 13 months commencing April 9, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

The sub-contract work is expected to contribute positively towards the Group's earnings and net tangible assets for the period of the sub-contract.

Vertice said the project is significant to the company due to its large contract value and which is a testament to its client's confidence in its ability to deliver.

"The Group is certain that it will be able to complete the project according to its specification and schedule.

"This contract win is a huge leap in our new business strategic direction of diversifying into the construction industry.

"Our construction arm is at its growth stages and we are certain that it will continue to grow with our continuous precise execution and securing of new contracts in the near future," it said.

Last month, Vertice was awarded a road construction contract worth RM59.13 million from Tulane Sdn Bhd in Pengerang, Kota Tinggi, Johor.

The 14 month contract adheres to Package 20C4, which is the provision of engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) for the interconnecting road between the Rapid Site and the JKR Road.

Vertice is a shareholder of the much scrutinised Penang undersea tunnel project, whereby its 13.21 per cent associate company Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd was raided by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in January.

MACC has remanded two company directors for the probe that it says is on the RM305 million bill for the project's feasibility studies that remain incomplete after nearly two years.

However, Vertice said the current investigation by MACC on the project will not impact its progress.

6. Icon Offshore bags RM8m contract from Petronas Carigali



Icon Offshore, in a filing with Bursa Malaysia today, said the commencement date for the work order, for its Tanjung Pinang 2 vessel, will commence on March 7, 2019 for a period of 180 days with an extension option of 180 days

KUALA LUMPUR: Icon Offshore Bhd's wholly owned subsidiary Icon Offshore Group Sdn Bhd (IOGSB) has secured an RM8 million contract from Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd for the provision of straight supply vessel.

Icon Offshore, in a filing with Bursa Malaysia today, said the commencement date for the work order, for its Tanjung Pinang 2 vessel, will commence on March 7, 2019 for a period of 180 days with an extension option of 180 days.

In a separate filing, Icon Offshore said three Petroleum Arrangement Contractors (PACs) had also collectively awarded five contracts for the provision of offshore support vessels for PACs' Production Operations via five letters of award, all dated early September 2018.

Icon Offshore said it would be on a call out basis valid for a period of three years with an extension option of one year plus one year.

The company said the contracts are expected to contribute positively to the earnings, order book and net assets of the group for the financial year ending December 31, 2019 and beyond.

In June 2018, Icon Offshore announced that IOGSB, secured oil and gas (O&G) related contracts worth RM275 million in cumulative value.

One of the contracts is to provide offshore support vessels to O&G companies to support their production operations in Malaysian waters.

The contract valued at RM169 million was for a primary period of three years with an extension option of up to two years of one year each, it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia.

The other job worth RM106 million was to provide two platform supply vessels to ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Malaysia Inc for its production operations, the company said.

The contract has two optional extension periods.

7. Penang CM: No approval yet for LRT/PIL 1 projects



Penang government today brushed off news report that the mega light rail transit and the Pan Island Link 1 (LRT/PIL 1) projects are scheduled to begin in June next year

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang government today brushed off news report that the mega light rail transit and the Pan Island Link 1 (LRT/PIL 1) projects are scheduled to begin in June next year.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the projects are currently at the various stages of submission, and pending approval from the Federal Government.

"Claims that the two projects have been approved are misleading and uncalled for. We want to make the necessary clarification so as to clear the air of any confusion.

"The report is unsubstantiated as the Penang government has yet to obtain the approval," he said in a statement today.

It was reported that the RM9 billion LRT project and RM9.6 billion PIL 1 project would proceed despite objections from local conservation groups.

The report in a local daily today claimed that the LRT project would receive a conditional approval from the Transport Ministry next month, while the PIL 1 had received approval from the Department of Environment last month.

Both projects are components of the multi-billion ringgit Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP).

Former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, commenting in his Facebook account following the news report, said prior to the 14th General Election, the cost of the LRT was RM8.4 billion, while the PIL 1, measuring 19.5km, was RM7.5 billion.

"At that time, the DAP-led Penang government gave its assurance that the cost of the project would not increase after being repeatedly questioned.

"After Pakatan Harapan came into power, the cost of the LRT has increased to RM9 billion, and the PIL 1, RM9.6 billion," he added.

Najib said he had questioned the high cost of the PIL 1 project earlier this year at a cost of RM7.5 billion, which translates to a cost of RM385 million for each kilometre.

He said DAP had in 2014 attacked the cost of the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex) project at RM161 million for each kilometre, as the most expensive in the country's history.

"Now, the cost of PIL 1 has increased to RM9.6 billion, or RM92 million for each kilometre.

"DAP had criticised the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project cost of RM79.9 million for each kilometre, and even went to the extent of accusing China of abetting the Barisan Nasional government.

"Now, the cost of their highway project is almost RM500 million for each kilometre. What is the story?

"In actual fact, DAP is not bothered with the criticisms by the people or even the opposition. They have seized power. They will do what they want. If they want to increase the cost of the project by billions, they will just do it," he added.

8. White Paper spells out RM6.23 billion financial aid boost for FELDA



Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, in tabling a White Paper - Towards the Sustainability of FELDA - in the Dewan Rakyat, said the government has agreed to provide the money by way of grants, loans and government guarantees in stages in accordance with the needs of a new business model for the management of FELDA

KUALA LUMPUR: A RM6.23-billion financial aid boost for FELDA.

That's what the Pakatan Harapan (PH) government has worked out to ensure the sustainability of the Federal Land Development Authority.

Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, in tabling a White Paper - Towards the Sustainability of FELDA - in the Dewan Rakyat, said the government has agreed to provide the money by way of grants, loans and government guarantees in stages in accordance with the needs of a new business model for the management of FELDA.

He said the new model will see FELDA inject new manpower and optimise its potential to progress and modernise the agricultural industry.

"FELDA settlers, the Pakatan Harapan government has confidence in you. Let's rise together in unison and achieve progress for the glory of FELDA, the people and the country. I am confident that FELDA can bounce back," he said.

Mohamed Azmin said the injection of the RM6.23 billion will involve, among others, a new model of settler land management for a reasonable long-term period that will solve the issue of settler demography and the absence of economies of scale.

"The introduction of this new model will allow the settlers' land to be combined and worked on efficiently on a large scale with the economies of scale that can reduce the operating cost and increase productivity," he said.

He said FELDA is committed to producing new settlers who are skilled and innovative to increase their income through agricultural and livestock activities that use new technologies such as smart farming and precision agriculture.

This effort will help the settlers to reduce their reliance on oil palm yield and the settlers can generate a high-value new income through harvesting in a short period of time.

"In order to implement this new idea, the government agrees to allocate RM1 billion over a period of four years," he said.

9. UEM Edgenta's unit named PMC for Sarawak road projects



UEM Edgenta Bhd says in addition, Opus Consultants (M) Sdn Bhd would also be overseeing upgrading works of about 300 km of the existing 896 km of coastal roads, construction of 10 new bridges for the Coastal Road Network and construction of 232 km of the Second Trunk Roads project.

KUALA LUMPUR: UEM Edgenta Bhd's unit, Opus Consultants (M) Sdn Bhd, has been named the project management consultant (PMC) by the Sarawak government for its RM11 billion Coastal Road Network and Second Trunk Roads project.

Opus Consultants, which was recently awarded the first package of the project worth RM50 million, would be working with the Sarawak Public Works Department, in providing overall project management and technical expertise.

This includes overseeing key deliverables within the project work scope such as preliminary and detailed designs of 20 work packages ranging from the development of new roads and bridges, including four iconic cable-stayed bridges and pavement rehabilitation works.

UEM Edgenta in a statement today said, in addition, Opus Consultants would also be overseeing upgrading works of about 300 km of the existing 896 km of coastal roads, construction of 10 new bridges for the Coastal Road Network and construction of 232 km of the Second Trunk Roads project.

Managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Azmir Merican said to support the projects, local talent will make up 51 per cent of its total workforce in Sarawak, all of whom will be provided with intensive training, as well as knowledge transfer.

"Being awarded this mega project is a significant milestone for us. We're proud to be playing a key role in providing vital infrastructure for the state which could lead to positive socio- economic

development for the people, such as the ability to reduce travel time, as well as spur commercial activities in the local area specifically and the state, in general," he added.

The Coastal Road Network and Second Trunk Roads project, estimated to be completed in eight years, was launched by Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Zohari Tun Openg in Sarikei on April 6, 2019.

The Coastal Road Network is set to provide the state's coastal area with better access and seamless connectivity between towns, namely Kota Samarahan, Sadong Jaya, Sebuyau, Kabong, Tanjong Manis, Daro, Matu, Balingian and Bintulu with the Pan Borneo Highway network.

The Second Trunk Roads project on the other hand will link Kuching and Sibu to the Pan Borneo Highway network through Sebuyau, Seri Aman and the Betong link.

10. MACC bus ferrying 24 RTD officers catches fire

GEORGE TOWN: A bus ferrying 24 Road Transport Department (RTD) officers, who were detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission for alleged corruption, caught fire this morning.

The bus was heading to the Penang High Court building here at about 9am when the incident occurred.

It is understood that the engine caught fire at the Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu expressway here. No injuries were reported.

The detainees were later transported in 10 cars to the courthouse, where they arrived at about 10.40am.

The 24 RTD enforcement personnel and six other individuals were later remanded for seven days to assist in MACC's probe into an ongoing corruption case.

They arrived in orange MACC lock-up T-shirts and used their clothes to shield their faces from photographers.

The remand order was granted by Senior Assistant Registrar Nur Fadrina Zulkhairi. The proceedings lasted more than an hour.

"Three individuals who were detained yesterday, all women, have been released after having their statements recorded," sources said.

It was reported [yesterday](#) that the MACC arrested 33 individuals, including 24 RTD enforcement personnel, for their alleged involvement in corruption by protecting lorry drivers who committed various traffic offences, particularly driving overweight lorries, in various parts of the state.

Those detained included 28 men and three women, aged between 31 and 54.

They were detained at the state MACC headquarters here between 10am and 4pm today.

Sources had said the RTD enforcement personnel, based at the state RTD office here, were believed to have accepted monthly payments of between RM10,000 and RM32,000 as an inducement not to take action against the lorry drivers.

"They had also leaked information on operations carried out by the RTD. They were personnel between the Grades of 19 and 32.

"The money received is believed to be for entertainment purposes for senior RTD officers," sources added.

Sources had also said that no less than 75 RTD enforcement personnel were involved in receiving bribes from the owners of the lorry companies.

MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki, who confirmed the arrests, had said that yesterday's arrest was the beginning of more arrests to come as investigations into the matter progress.

The case is being investigated under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009.



A bus ferrying 24 Road Transport Department (RTD) officers, who were detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission for alleged corruption, caught fire this morning.

11. Penang Undersea Tunnel project not linked to graft case, says CM



Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said subsequent charges involving Gnanaraja were isolated and had nothing to do with the tunnel project .

GEORGE TOWN: The proposed Penang Undersea Tunnel and three paired roads projects have nothing to do with the graft case involving a former "Datuk Seri" businessman charged with cheating the contractor of the project, said Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow today.

He said the charge sheet against M. G. Gnanaraja suggested that he could have taken advantage of a particular situation to obtain money from the managing director of Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd Datuk Zarul Ahmad Mohd Zulkifli.

"This is not over the tender, not about how the government awarded tender to the company. It has nothing to do with the Penang government," he told a press conference, here, today.

He said subsequent charges involving Gnanaraja were isolated and had nothing to do with the tunnel project

He was responding to a statement by Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Centre), which had urged the state government to place a moratorium on its agreement with Consortium Zenith Sdn Bhd until the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had completed its investigation into the controversial undersea tunnel project.

It was reported that Gnanaraja was charged with three counts of cheating Zarul of RM19 million.

He was alleged to have cheated Zarul into believing that he was able to settle an MACC investigation into the RM6.3 billion mega tunnel project.

He was subsequently charged with 68 counts of money laundering involving RM11.4 million.

C4 Centre argued that the company awarded the tender for the project had lost its credibility to carry out the undersea tunnel and paired roads projects, as it was reportedly involved in unethical ways of conducting business.

Chow said no charges had been filed against Zarul and his company pertaining to the project.

"Zarul said two letters have been issued to his company and him, and that no action will be taken after MACC has completed its investigations.

"We consider the matter closed and we are working with the company to finalise the agreement so that work can begin on the project with the second paired road," he said.

12. CAP, SAM welcome Fed Govt clarification on Penang reclamation project

GEORGE TOWN: Two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have expressed relief over the clarification that the National Physical Planning Council (NPPC) had not approved the Penang South Reclamation (PSR) project.

The clarification was made by Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad.

Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) and Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) president S.M. Mohamed Idris, in welcoming the move, said he was also pleased that the NPPC had attached 18 conditions to the projects for approval.

He also welcomed the NPPC's call for the state to engage with local communities and ensure their needs are considered in regards to the project.

Idris had expressed dismay over Chow's statement on Thursday when he said that the NPPC had approved the project with 18 "advices".

The chief minister made the announcement after the NPPC meeting which was chaired by the prime minister.

"Now it seems the chief minister has jumped the gun and made a misleading statement about the approval by the Federal Government's NPPC.

"We very much welcome the clarification by the minister, that in fact 'the council did not give any approval or make any decision on the project and instead it gave the state government 18 conditions'.

"We also appreciate very much the minister's statement that 'the state government was also advised to continue engaging with the local community and ensure their needs are given due consideration'.

"CAP and SAM together with other NGOs had been very active in analysing the proposed reclamation project as well as other projects like the Pan Island Link 1 (PIL 1) highway project, the Penang Undersea Tunnel and three paired roads projects, which together form the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP)," he said.

Idris said CAP and SAM would continue to be active in getting their views known to the state and federal governments and agencies, and to engage with the authorities and the local communities.

"We reiterate our view that the reclamation and other projects of the PTMP are very damaging to Penang and Malaysia in the financial, environmental, cultural, heritage and local community aspects.

"There are much cheaper, better and environmentally sound ways of improving transport in Penang, instead of the RM46 billion monstrous project proposed by the state government," he added.

Idris said they could not understand why the projects were so over-priced, and at a time when the country was trying to save money.

He pointed out that the PIL 1 highway project, for example, at an estimated cost RM8 billion for 20km of road or RM400 million per km.

He added that this was far above the RM68 million per km cost of the revised East Coast Rail Line (ECRL) federal project and also much above many other highway and road projects in Malaysia.

"Obviously, the whole transport plan of the state government has to be reviewed from many aspects," he said.

In the meantime, Idris stressed that Chow should not to make any further statements about the projects that were misleading.

"In recent days, he announced the reclamation project was approved by the federal-level NPPC (when it was not), and that the Department of Environment (DOE) had approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the PIL 1 project (although later he admitted the EIA contained faulty information about hill-slopes with the mistakes caused by a computer), and that the MACC had closed a corruption probe against the main company involved in the undersea tunnel project.

"Surely it is for these agencies to make any announcements, and not the chief minister to appear to be a spokesman for the NPPC, the DOE and the MACC.

13. Former Johor exco member acquitted of corruption, money laundering



Former Johor state executive council member Datuk Abdul Latif Bandi, his son and a property consultant were today acquitted and discharged on 33 counts of corruption and four counts of money laundering involving RM35.7 million

JOHOR BARU: Former Johor state executive council member Datuk Abdul Latif Bandi, his son and a property consultant were today acquitted and discharged on 33 counts of corruption and four counts of money laundering involving RM35.7 million.

Judge Kamarudin Kamsun ordered their release after finding that the prosecution failed to prove a prima facie case against Abdul Latif, his son Ahmad Fauzan Hatim and Amir Shariffuddin Abd Raub.

In the judgment, Kamarudin said the court found there was no malicious intention by the three.

He said the credibility and intentions of the prosecution witnesses called to testify were questionable.

The prosecution also failed to produce other state executive council members as witnesses pertaining to a dispute on the approval in the change of land status, he added.

In April 2017, all three were charged with 33 offences under Section 28(1)(c) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act.

The legal provision prohibits abetting or engaging in a criminal conspiracy to commit any offence.

The trio was also slapped with four charges under Section 32(8)(c) and Section 89 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) 2001.

Latif was accused of conspiring with Amir to receive bribes from several individuals in order to obtain approval for the release of some Bumiputera housing lots to the public.

He was also accused of reducing payments in contribution to the Johor Housing Fund for the Pulau Eco Botanic project.

Amir was accused of obtaining bribes from several individuals for himself and for Latif for the same purpose.

In the process of its investigation, the MACC froze 45 bank accounts valued at RM15.5 million and seized 21 luxury cars, five high-powered motorcycles and RM500,000 in cash in various currencies.

During the 40-day trial proceedings, the prosecution called 63 witnesses and exhibited over 1,000 items of evidence.

MACC's Mohamad Fadhly Mohd Zamry and Tengku Amir Zaki Tengku Abdul Rahman prosecuted.

The defence was represented by Datuk Hasnal Rezua Merican, Datuk Sallehudin Saidin, Azrul Zulkifli Stork, Datuk Khairul Anwar Rahmat, Rahim Aidil, Nur Hafidzah Md Yusuff, Siti Sarah Khalil and Hafez Zalkapli.

14. Time for Loke to restore RTD's battered image



MACC officers escorting 24 RTD personnel and six civilians to the magistrate's court in George Town on Wednesday

I refer to the report "RTD won't interfere in MACC investigations" (NST, April 18) where 24 Road Transport Department (RTD) officers and six civilians were taken to court for allegedly protecting lorry drivers who committed road offences in Penang by receiving monthly protection money of between RM10,000 and RM32,000.

What makes this case different is that the 24 RTD personnel were hauled up at one go. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) later detained another 22 officers.

Is this just a one-off thing? Your guess is as good as mine.

KL RTD director Datuk Ismail Mohd Zawawi said there were a few bad apples and that although an integrity unit had been established, it was difficult to monitor all 337 personnel.

On the one hand, when enforcement is weak, the head of department will scream that it doesn't have enough manpower, but when the department is fully staffed, we get an explanation that it is difficult to monitor all staff.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke has done an incredible job, but not on corruption-related matters.

Now is the time for him to task himself with the responsibility of cleaning up RTD and restoring its image.

He has to send a strong message to the management on the importance of integrity and if a leader is corrupt, he loses the right to question his subordinates.

Loke must also revisit RTD's whistle-blowing policy, if there is one, to encourage whistle-blowing, and promote the reporting of corrupt activities. Standard operating procedures need to be tightened.

Although we have a new government, the structure and culture that shaped the previous government are in place. This has to be addressed.

They say it takes two to tango. Loke should not only investigate RTD officers, but also the givers, that is, lorry companies and operators.

Remind them of the Corporate Liability Provision (Section 17A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Act 2018, which criminalises companies that corruptly give or agree to give any gratification with intent to obtain/retain an advantage in the conduct of business for the commercial organisation.

In other words, if the commercial organisation is found liable under the corporate liability provision, a person — who is the director, controller, officer or partner of the organisation at the time of commission of an offence — is deemed to have committed that offence.

The government must implement the National Anti-Corruption Plan (2019-2023).

Also, could a similar provision (Section 17A) be enacted for government departments vulnerable to corrupt practices, such as the police, RTD and the Customs Department? The directors-general or inspector-general of police could be held responsible for corrupt practices of their staff if they have not done enough to police their officers.

15. Sabah Railway deputy director, two wives charged with money laundering



Sabah Railway Department deputy director and his two wives were charged with 23 counts of money laundering amounting to RM2.199 million among them at the Corruption Special Sessions Court

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Railway Department deputy director and his two wives were charged with 23 counts of money laundering amounting to RM2.199 million among them at the Corruption Special Sessions Court.

Ismail Ahmad, 58; his first wife Muhilim @ Masniah Buaya, 58; and second wife Runtiah Rais, 42, claimed trial to the charges framed under Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2001. They were arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on Sunday.

Ismail was slapped with eight charges, while Muhilim faces three and Runtiah claimed trial to seven counts of money laundering.

Ismail and Muhilim, who is a senior officer of a government agency, also face three joint charges, while the former and his second wife Runtiah, who worked as a clerk at the state Railway Department, face two joint charges.

The trio pleaded not guilty before judge Abu Bakar Manat and were released on bail. Abu Bakar allowed RM100,000 for Ismail and RM50,000 bail each for his wives.

The court also ordered the trio to surrender their passports and fixed June 19 for re-mention of the cases as well as for document submission.

Representing MACC was deputy public prosecutor Mahadi Abdul Jumaat while Wotti Junius represented the three accused.

According to the charge sheet, Ismail is accused of having RM766,807.12 in four bank accounts and a Amanah Sahan Wawasan (AWS) account as well as RM378,191.63 in three individual ASW accounts under his care.

For the joint charges with Muhilim, the couple is accused of having RM204,052.01 in three bank accounts. Ismail and his second wife Rutniah are also accused of having RM49,097.73 in two bank accounts.

Meanwhile, Muhilim is accused of having RM83,653.29 in three bank accounts, while Rutniah is accused of having RM162,068.72 in her two bank accounts and Tabung Haji account as well as RM302,721.53 in four individual ASW accounts under her care.

In February last year, MACC remanded Ismail, along with two officers of the state Railway Department, to facilitate investigations over alleged corrupt practices and abuse of power involving projects under the department.

16. RTD has enough ammunition to battle graft

THE Road Transport Department (RTD) has been in the limelight with 46 of its Penang officers arrested last week by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The RTD director-general announced that a task force would be established to do a "gap analysis" to streamline the department's work practices and procedures to battle corruption.

On Sept 13, Transport Minister Anthony Loke announced that 12 RTD staff had been arrested by MACC for alleged involvement in the sale of 14,000 "lesen terbang" or illegal driving licences.

They included a deputy director, two assistant enforcement officers, two assistant enforcement chiefs, six enforcement assistants, and one administrative assistant from Perlis, Perak, Negri Sembilan, Sabah and Sarawak.

RTD formed a committee to study the mechanism for driving licence applications.

Would it be more atoning to know that RTD is one of 10 government agencies that had been awarded the ISO 37001 Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) certification by Sirim QAS International in November 2017?

RTD is among the pioneers in Malaysia to implement the ABMS. Would RTD be able to sustain its effectiveness and efficiency in maintaining its ABMS while addressing the Malaysian National Anti-Corruption Plan (2019-2023)?

Moreover, RTD signed memorandums of understanding with MACC to combat corruption and abuse of power in 2000, 2010 and 2017.

The MoUs include the sharing of expertise in detection, information dissemination, consultancy, education and training, as well as efforts to boost integrity and strengthen capability of MACC and RTD officers in combating corruption.

Can RTD do better than such efforts to be a corruption-free agency

17. RTD protection racket scandal: More Penang officers grilled by MACC

GEORGE TOWN: Twenty-one more state Road Transport Department (RTD) enforcement officers were summoned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) today as part of its investigation into a lorry driver protection racket.

The Grades 19 to 29 officers arrived at the state MACC headquarters here at around 9am for questioning.

"Whether or not they will be arrested will be decided later," a source said.

This is the third batch of enforcement officers summoned to assist in the probe into the scandal.

On Saturday, 22 RTD enforcement officers were arrested over the case, while 24 were detained last Tuesday.

Some 75 enforcement officers, bearing ranks of between Grade 19 and 32, are believed to have received monthly payments of between RM10,000 and RM32,000 as inducement for not taking action against errant lorry drivers and for leaking information about RTD operations.

The lorries concerned were supplied with special stickers prepared by tontos, allowing them to be exempted from enforcement actions.

Out of 457 RTD staff in Penang, 139 are enforcement officers.

There are currently about 8,000 RTD personnel nationwide.



The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has brought five enforcement officers from the Road Transport Department (RTD) to seek remand order in the Georgetown Court. Five suspects from Grade 19 to Grade 32 and aged between 32 and 55 were the second group of enforcement personnel to assist in the investigation of corruption cases received from owners of lorries in the state.

18. NIOSH proposes yearly audit for buildings over 20 years old



National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (centre) at occupational health and safety campaign held at the Pembinaan Mitrajaya Sdn Bhd project site, Presint 5 Putrajaya today

PUTRAJAYA: The government has been urged to conduct a yearly audit for all old high-rise accommodation to ensure the safety of their tenants.

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said the audit should also be applied to old office buildings to identify possible risks.

He said conducting such safety inspection on old buildings could ensure any problems, weaknesses and risks could be identified fast so that repair works could be carried out.

"Safety concerns are something that we can put off and ignore which require the government to give priority on safety aspect to protect the people (those working or residing in such old buildings)," said Lee at an occupational health and safety campaign held at the Pembinaan Mitrajaya Sdn Bhd project site here in Presint 5.

Also present were Malaysian Occupational Safety and Health Practitioners' Association president Datuk Dr Kanagaraja Raman and Pembinaan Mitrajaya project director Andy See Wee Wah.

Lee said this in reference to Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin's recent statement, saying the government is empowered to repair and rebuild flats, which are 30 years and above under the National Housing Policy.

The minister said this following evacuation of 222 Taman Keramat Permai flat Block F residents due to safety concern when large cracks appeared at the building on Friday.

The structural concern of the old flat was reported to have become quite dire, as the entire block appeared to be tilted to one side.

The Niosh president also lauded Pembinaan Mitrajaya for its initiative to promote occupational safety and health, especially at its work sites, urging other stakeholders to do the same.