

New Straits Times June 2019

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1. Zelan's unit signs supplemental agreement with govt, IIUM



In a filing with Bursa Malaysia today, Zelan said wholly-owned subsidiary Konsesi Pusat Asasi Gambang Sdn Bhd (KPAG) entered into a supplemental agreement (SA) with the government and IIUM on May 31.

KUALA LUMPUR: Zelan Bhd, through its unit that holds the concession to develop the Centre for Foundation Studies (Phase 3) at the International Islamic University Malaysia's (IIUM) Gambang campus in Kuantan, Pahang, has agreed to the reduction in various costs associated with the project.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia today, Zelan said wholly-owned subsidiary Konsesi Pusat Asasi Gambang Sdn Bhd (KPAG) entered into a supplemental agreement (SA) with the government and IIUM on May 31.

The salient terms of the SA include the revision of the total availability charges (AC) down to RM715.49 million from RM835.61 million as stated in an earlier announcement to the stock exchange, dated July 5, 2012.

Total asset maintenance services charges (AMSC) have also been reduced to RM408.16 million from RM504.68 million earlier, while the total asset management programme was revised to RM113.71 million from RM132.80 million previously.

The concession cost, meanwhile, was revised to RM359.72 million.

Zelan said KPAG would also carry out minor defects works within six months from May 1, 2019.

With the execution of the SA, the monthly AC and the AMSC, including the arrears from Dec 1, 2018, would be paid to KPAG.

"The execution of the SA and the receipt of the AC and AMSC payments are expected to contribute positively towards the financial position of Zelan for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2019," it added.

It said the SA was in respect of the concession agreement signed between KPAG, the government and IIUM on July 5, 2012

2. Datasonic bags RM29m contract from Home Affairs Ministry



Datasonic said the RM29 million contract to maintain card personalisation centres is for two years to May 31, 2021, with an option to extend for another one year.

KUALA LUMPUR: Datasonic Group Bhd's wholly-owned unit Datasonic Technologies Sdn Bhd (DTSB), has bagged a maintenance services of card personalisation centres contract at the National Registration Department from the Ministry of Home Affairs worth RM28.79 million.

In a filing to Bursa Malaysia today, the company said the contract is for two years to May 31, 2021, with an option to extend the contract for another one year.

Datasonic said under the terms of the letter of award, DTSB is required to furnish a performance bond for the amount of RM719,642.16 to the government, with validity period commencing from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2022.

"The contract is expected to contribute positively towards the future earnings and net assets per share of Datasonic Group for the year ending March 31, 2020 and thereafter," it said.

3. 6, including 4 Datuks, remanded in Telekom Malaysia Cooperatives graft probe

PUTRAJAYA: Six people, including four Datuks, were remanded for five days to facilitate the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)'s graft probe into Telekom Malaysia Cooperatives (Kota Mas).

The six - Datuk Ismail Nordin, Datuk Mustapa Md Nasir, Datuk Ahmad Shamsuddin Ramli, Datuk K. Jayakumar, Syed Sadair Syed Omar and Syed Sadair's wife - arrived at the magistrate's court here at about 9.30am today.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman granted the remand to assist the MACC's investigation into two cases of graft which resulted in co-op members being cheated and losing money.

The suspects are believed to have conspired with a supplier by buying daily necessities in bulk under the cooperatives, and selling them back to the same supplier.

When co-op members wanted to purchase the goods, they would have had to take loans with the cooperatives before the supplier would deliver the items. The supplier would then issue an invoice seeking payment from the cooperatives.

The six are also suspected of having abused their power by signing up borrowers to a direct selling and multi-level marketing (MLM) company.

The suspects, aged between 44 and 66, were nabbed by the anti-graft body at several locations around the Klang Valley yesterday.

53 reads



Six people, including four Datuks arriving at the Putrajaya Magistrate's Court. The six has been remanded for five days to facilitate the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)'s graft probe into Telekom Malaysia Cooperatives (Kota Mas).

4. Bung Moktar, Zizie Izette corruption case re-mention fixed on July 4



The Sessions Court here today fixed July 4 for re-mention of the case of Kinabatangan member of parliament (MP) Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin and his wife, Datin Seri Zizie Izette A. Samad, for corruption charges involving RM2.8 million to obtain approval for Felcra Bhd to invest RM150 million in Public Mutual Berhad Unit Trust.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sessions Court here today fixed July 4 for re-mention of the case of Kinabatangan member of parliament (MP) Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin and his wife, Datin Seri Zizie Izette A. Samad, for corruption charges involving RM2.8 million to obtain approval for Felcra Bhd to invest RM150 million in Public Mutual Berhad Unit Trust.

Judge Rozina Ayob fixed the date after Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy public prosecutor Allan Suman Pillai told the court that some documents were still incomplete.

"Today the prosecution submitted a document under Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code to the defence team.

"However, the prosecution needs another date for the submission of further documents in this case," he said at the mention of the case today.

Lawyer Datuk K. Kumaraendran, representing Bung Moktar, 60, or his real name Mokhtar Radin, confirmed that he had received the document.

The prosecution also informed that they would make an application for the cases of Bung Moktar and Zizie Izette to be tried together and transferred to the High Court.

"The prosecution has submitted a document under Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code to the defence team today and we will also request that the case (Bung Mokhtar's) be tried together in the forthcoming mention," Allan said.

Kumarendran who was also representing Zizie Izette, 41, said his side needed time to examine the document.

On May 3, Bung Mokhtar pleaded not guilty at the Sessions Court on three counts of receiving a total of RM2.8 million in bribes for obtaining approval for Felcra Bhd to make a RM150 million investment in the unit trust products of Public Mutual Bhd.

According to the first charge, Bung Mokhtar, then the Felcra non-executive chairman, was accused of taking a bribe of RM2.2 million in cash from Public Mutual's investment agent, Madhi Abdul Hamid, 38, through the wife of the accused, Zizie Izette.

He was accused of committing the act as a reward for obtaining approval from the minister of finance II for Felcra to make a RM150 million investment in Public Mutual unit trust products.

The offence was allegedly committed at Public Bank Bhd, Taman Melawati Branch, No 262-265, Jalan Bandar 12, Taman Melawati here, between 12.30pm and 5pm, on June 12, 2015.

For the second charge, Bung Mokhtar was accused of taking for himself a bribe of RM262,500 in cash from the same individual, Madhi, through an account of the bank's investment product Public Islamic Treasures Growth Fund (PITGF) numbered 044797816 and registered under the name of Zizie Izette for the same purpose.

Bung Mokhtar was also accused of taking for himself a bribe of RM337,500 from Public Mutual's investment agent, Norhaili Ahmad Mokhtar, 42, through a Public Ittikal Sequel Fund (PITSEQ) account numbered 044797824 registered under the name of Zizie Izette for the same purpose.

Both offences were allegedly committed at the same location at 12.16pm and 12.28pm, on June 19, 2015.

The prosecution is filed in accordance with Subsection 17(a) of the MACC Act and punishable under Section 24(1) of the same Act, which provides for imprisonment of not more than 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Zizie Izette, a former actress, pleaded not guilty to three counts of abetting her husband on the same offences, at the same place, date and time under Section 28(1)(c) of the MACC Act and punishable under subsection 24(1), which provides for imprisonment of not more than 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000 whichever is higher, upon conviction.

5. 'Past attempts to resolve solar panel project problems fell on deaf ears'



Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik today claimed there were past attempts to resolve issues relating to a project of supplying solar panels and diesel to 369 schools in Sarawak.

PUTRAJAYA: Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik today claimed there were past attempts to resolve issues relating to a project of supplying solar panels and diesel to 369 schools in Sarawak.

But, according to him, the advice given by several Education Ministry officers seemed to have been ignored.

"I have been told there are problems regarding the award of contract of this project and there may be serious elements of non-compliance with procurement procedures," he told reporters at his office here.

Maszlee also said the Education Ministry had started its internal probe into the scandal, adding 51 per cent of the project was supposed to be completed on May 15 this year, but the percentage of completion was "very low."

He, however, declined to reveal too much details on the said scandal since it was being investigated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"I have instructed all (ministry) officers to give their full cooperation so that we can bring the culprits to justice."

The minister also urged his officers to take immediate measures in finding solutions for the said project to ensure it could be resolved in line with the agreement and law.

"We will ensure the electricity supply to these (369) schools are not disrupted especially when school reopens after the (two-week) holidays."

On the contract, he said, starting from Jan 1 last year it was given to Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd to supply solar hybrid system and diesel to all the 369 schools.

"The project duration is for three years, starting from Jan 1, 2017 until Dec 31, 2019. The project value is really huge, which is more than RM1 billion (including GST)."

Maszlee then summed up the issue by asking why such a big project did not go through an open tender.

It was reported that the project was awarded to the company by the former prime minister without open tender.

6. Telekom Malaysia Cooperatives graft case: Remand extended for 4 Datuks

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) obtained a remand extension on four individuals as part of ongoing investigations into the Telekom Malaysia (Kota Mas) Cooperatives graft case.

Two other individuals were released on bail.

The magistrate's court here extended remand by six days on Datuk Ismail Nordin, Datuk Mustapa Md Nasir, Datuk Ahmad Shamsuddin Ramli and Datuk K. Jayakumar, who comprise the chairman, secretary and treasurer of the Cooperative organisation. The fourth is a supply company owner.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman granted release on Syed Sadair Syed Omar, who is a Cooperative board member and his wife, Rosita Mat Zain. They were released on RM10,000 bail and two guarantors each.

The detainees are being investigated for alleged fraud and abuse of power which resulted in losses amounting to RM23 million.

They are also suspected of having abused their power by signing up borrowers to a direct selling and multi-level marketing (MLM) company.

The six were nabbed by the anti-graft body at several locations around the Klang Valley on Tuesday.



The suspects linked to the Telekom Malaysia Cooperatives graft probe arrive at the Putrajaya Magistrate's Court.

7. ECRL project draws huge interest from local construction firms



KUALA LUMPUR: More than 1,000 construction companies nationwide are eyeing the 40 per cent civil works portion of the RM44 billion East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project following a Pre-Qualification (Pre-Q) exercise to identify potential subcontractors.

A total of 1,321 submissions from CIDB-registered companies were received by ECRL's main contractor, China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC), during the Pre-Q exercise on May 29 and 30, 2019.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) and CCCC in a joint statement said participation from the G7 category of CIDB-rated companies topped the list with 859 submissions or 65 per cent.

"This was followed by the Grade G5 category with 134 submissions and Grade G4 category with 132 submissions. The remainder consisted of Grade G3 and Grade G6 with 104 submissions and 92 submissions respectively.

"Bumiputera participation was also very encouraging. The two-day ECRL Pre-Q exercise had recorded submissions of 994 Bumiputera engineering and construction companies representing 75.25 per cent of the overall registration," it said.

The companies said the number of submissions in the Pre-Q exercise is a further endorsement of the improved RM44 billion ECRL project as its rail network would traverse the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang as well as Negri Sembilan, Selangor, and the Federal Territory of Putrajaya.

"The level of enthusiasm shown by Malaysian construction companies in particular from the *G7 CIDB* rating companies augurs well with the increase in civil works participation for local contractors from 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the ECRL project as per the inking of the supplementary agreement between MRL and CCCC on April 12, 2019," it said.

MRL said the company, as the ECRL project owner, highly encourages local industry players especially local contractors to proactively seize any opportunities to participate in the ECRL project not just as contractors but also as suppliers, consultants and other relevant scopes.

MRL chief executive officer Datuk Seri Darwis Abdul Razak also expressed hope that the ECRL project would be an exemplary government project that demonstrates the capabilities of local contractors to work with an international contractor in carrying out and meeting the high standards of a large-scale infrastructure project.

"The participation of local contractors will not just act as a stimulus to the local construction sector but will also serve as a catalyst in the transfer of knowledge and technology in view of the ECRL project being among the most challenging engineering and construction projects in Malaysia," Darwis added.

Following the Pre-Q exercise, MRL will be working closely with CCCC in the evaluation and shortlisting process of 1,321 construction companies as potential tenderers of the ECRL's civil works packages.

Companies that are successful in the shortlisting will be notified in writing by CCCC, it said.

MRL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance Incorporated, is the project and asset owner of the ECRL.

The 640-km rail network is scheduled for completion by December 2026 and is expected to link Kota Bharu to Putrajaya in approximately four hours.

8. Witness accused of giving differing versions



Datuk Seri Najib Razak's (inset) corruption case was cut short today after his lawyers asked for an adjournment to go through the transcript of a prosecution witness.

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak's corruption case was cut short today after his lawyers asked for an adjournment to go through the transcript of a prosecution witness.

This happened after a disagreement broke out between Tan Sri Ismee Ismail, former chairman of SRC International, and counsel Harvinderjit Singh during cross-examination.

The lawyer accused Ismee of giving differing versions on how decisions in the company were made.

Ismee was asked to explain if the SRC International board of directors made decisions on their own, took directions from Najib or based it on the shareholders resolution.

The defence has been questioning Ismee on the issue since he was first called to the stand on Monday.

Lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah in his oral application for an adjournment of the proceedings said the defence needed to make use of the rest of the afternoon to look at the court proceedings transcript of Ismee and his statement with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Shafee said the defence needed time to examine whether there were possible contradictions between Ismee's witness statement and what he told the counsel in court during cross-examination.

"We have come to a crossroad in relation to certain issues which require us to look at certain documents, some of which have not been looked at or examined yet.

"To make up our mind in relation to the cross-examination whether further areas of contradiction are possible, we will have to look into this... there are quite a number of them (documents) and the transcript from the witness.

"We seek the court to grant us an adjournment to tomorrow morning and give us the whole afternoon to get to the transcript," he said.

Shafee added that the defence will need to take further instructions from their client and consult among themselves to look at the matter thoroughly.

Earlier, the witness testified in court that the decisions by SRC International's board was made based on the company's shareholders resolution.

Harvinderjit then pointed out that Ismee had in his witness statement stated that SRC International acted on the advice of the former Prime Minister as the company's advisor emeritus and that it was not stated in the witness statement that the board had to act upon the shareholders resolution.

Ismee however stood by his statement and disagreed with the counsel.

Harvinderjit: Your statement with the MACC does not carry what you are telling me today that the board only acted upon the shareholder resolution. Do you agree?

Ismee: I disagree, I did mention it in the witness statement.

Meanwhile, lead prosecutor Datuk V.Sithambaram agreed with the defence' application saying it was best to decide on the next course of action after looking at the transcripts since today's short adjournments in between the proceedings has taken quite a bit of time.

"We have to look at certain documents and perhaps possible contradictions... we feel that it is best to decide after looking at those transcripts... I support my learned friend's application," he said after the prosecution and defence counsel met the judge in his chambers during a five-minute break during the proceedings.

Earlier, Sithambaram also rebuked Harvinderjit when the latter kept badgering Ismee over his answers during the cross examination.

The lawyer insisted that Ismee stick to 'yes' or 'no' answers but the witness said he wouldn't do so as he needed to explain.

This led to some verbal jousting between the duo until the DPP got up and urged Harvinderjit to let the witness answer.

"You are asking him and then you are preventing him from answering.

"Maybe you are scared of hearing the answer," he said, before Harvinderjit finally relented.

High Court judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali then adjourned the proceedings.

Najib, 66, is facing seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money-laundering involving RM42 million of SRC International funds.

The Pekan MP was charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011, and Feb 10, 2015.

9. Najib's lawyer gives witness lesson on difference between PM and the govt



Datuk Seri Najib Razak's lawyer did this to drive home a point that whatever decisions made by the government had to go through the system and the prime minister could not act alone

KUALA LUMPUR: The former chairman of SRC International was today given a lesson on the difference between a prime minister and the government.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak's lawyer did this to drive home a point that whatever decisions made by the government had to go through the system and the prime minister could not act alone.

"It's not a one man show where all decisions are made by him.

"It's an entire system where there is a mechanism on how things are done," Harvinderjit Singh said during the cross-examination of Tan Sri Ismee Ismail.

He said this after Ismee consistently said that the board only acted on whatever was related to them by the company's CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, who claimed to be conveying instructions from the prime minister.

He has all the while said that the board acted on this as the prime minister was the ultimate shareholder of the company, with Najib also holding the post of adviser emeritus to SRC International.

Ismee had testified that as far as the SRC International's board of directors were concerned, when the word government was mentioned by Nik Faisal, it referred to the prime minister.



"It's an entire system where there is a mechanism on how things are done," Harvinderjit Singh said during the cross-examination of Tan Sri Ismee Ismail (Right).

However, Harvinderjit said while the visions and aspirations were those of the prime minister, the government was not a one man show.

"Those macro government decisions shouldn't have been interpreted as one man's decision.

"It was a thought out governmental decision backed by the entire machinery," he said, to which Ismee agreed.

Harvinderjit also put Ismee through a point which was listed in his witness statement concerning Najib's power to hire and fire the board of directors for SRC International.

He asked Ismee why the point had been highlighted and if the latter was implying that he was scared of being fired.

Ismee just replied that these were just his own words.

Najib, 66, is facing seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering involving RM42 million of SRC International funds.

He faces 20 years' jail and fine for the offences.

The Pekan member of parliament was charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011, and Feb 10, 2015.

10. Ismee denies being forced to implicate Najib



One of the main witnesses in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's corruption and abuse of power trial today denied that he was forced to implicate the former prime minister by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

KUALA LUMPUR: One of the main witnesses in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's corruption and abuse of power trial today denied that he was forced to implicate the former prime minister by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Former SRC International Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Ismee Ismail denied the suggestion by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah.

"There was no goading or attempts for you to do that?" he asked Ismee, to which the witness replied in the negative.

Ismee, who was cross examined for the seventh day running by the defence said he had been interrogated by the graft busters at length but they never forced him to do what was suggested by the defence counsel.

Asked if the MACC officers indicated that he (Ismee) had committed an offence when they were questioning him over the SRC International funds, Ismee said: "I don't think so. If anything it was me who kept asking myself if I had done anything wrong," he said.

Ismee also revealed that he was also previously questioned about the use of Tabung Haji funds for politically linked activities, and that he had misrepresented information to the Tabung Haji board pertaining to the sale of an oil palm estate in Indonesia in 2012 and 2013.

Ismee was the former CEO of the pilgrim fund.

To a question how he and the others, including the company CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil and three others were appointed to the board of SRC International, Ismee said he did not know.

Asked if he would have joined the company if he had known on hindsight what was going on, Ismee said he would not have accepted the post at all.

Later, during re-examination by deputy public prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram, Ismee said the way SRC International operated was 'unique' as the board just follow whatever was instructed by the Prime Minister.

To another question on the implications of the board not following directions of the ultimate shareholder which was the Ministry of Finance Incorporated, Ismee said they would either have to step down or face the sack.

Najib, 66, is facing seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering involving RM42 million of SRC International funds.

The Pekan MP was charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011 and Feb 10, 2015.

He faces 20 years' jail and fine for the offences.

The trial continues.

11. Cabinet did not even hold a discussion before govt became guarantor for RM2 billion loan



Datuk Seri Najib faces 20 years' jail and fine for the offences, if convicted.

KUALA LUMPUR: Cabinet members did not discuss anything after they were informed that the government should become guarantor for a RM2 billion loan which a Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) - linked company was applying for.

This was revealed by former cabinet deputy secretary-general Tan Sri Mazidah Abdul Majid today.

Mazidah said the cabinet meeting had taken place on Aug 17, 2011, and was chaired by then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak who was also the Finance Minister.

She said 29 ministers attended the meeting with the exception of foreign minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman.

She said apart from the ministers, chief secretary to the government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan was also there.

"Among the matters discussed was a memorandum from the Prime Minister for the government to guarantee a RM2 billion loan by SRC International Sdn Bhd.

"The memorandum was distributed to all the ministers. Among other things, it suggested that the ministers should consider and approve the government becoming a guarantor for the loan over a 10 year period," she said, adding it was also proposed that the company be given tax exemption.

Mazidah, who took down the minutes of the meeting, said the cabinet ministers did not discuss the proposal before a decision was made.

She said several other cabinet meetings were held over issues concerning SRC International but Najib never declared having any interest in the company.

She explained that the cabinet had in 1997 or 1998 approved a Code of Ethics for members of the administration which among, other things, spelled out the requirements for them to declare interest and leaving a meeting to prevent conflict of interest.

Asked by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah what would happen if a minister forgets to declare before a meeting was convened, Mazidah said she had never come across such a scenario in her entire career.

The 70-year-old retiree said she was not aware that Najib was the Advisor Emeritus to SRC International when he chaired the cabinet meeting.

Shafee will continue his cross-examination of Mazidah tomorrow.

Najib, 66, is facing seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering involving RM42 million of SRC International funds.

The Pekan MP was charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011 and Feb 10, 2015.

He faces 20 years' jail and fine for the offences, if convicted.

12. Najib may be called by MACC over armed forces land swap deals



The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) may call up former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in the course of investigations into swap deals involving land belonging to the Defence Ministry.

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) may call up former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in the course of investigations into swap deals involving land belonging to the Defence Ministry.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said, however, the commission would have to continue investigating and gathering evidence and statements first before determining if Najib would have to be called in to give his statement.

"We are not denying that he will be called up as he may be involved in the case. But for now, we will gather all evidence first and record other statements. Only then will we call him (Najib), when the time is right," he told reporters.

Azam also said former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had already given his statement to the graft busters yesterday on the same matter.

"And on Sunday, former defence minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein was asked to be present at MACC headquarters to have his statements recorded on the same case," he added.

It was previously reported that losses of more than RM500 million were incurred from 13 of 16 land swap deals carried out under the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

In revealing this, current Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu had said his immediate predecessor Hishammuddin and Najib should be held responsible.

Meanwhile, Azam said two persons had been remanded for six days to assist investigations into the purchase of six helicopters worth more than RM300 million in 2015 which had yet to be received by the armed forces.

"We have arrested two individuals from the companies involved in the project and they have been in remand for three days now," he said.

It was reported that two of the McDonnell Douglas MD530G light combat helicopters were supposed to have arrived in July 2017 and the remainder in December last year.

It was also reported that the terms of the purchase agreement did not safeguard the interests of the government.

13. High Court to hear Rosmah's Sarawak solar project case



Rosmah pleaded not guilty to 12 charges of money laundering amounting to RM7,097,750 and five charges of failing to declare her income to the Inland Revenue Board.

PUTRAJAYA: The corruption trial of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, over the Sarawak solar project case will be heard in the High Court.

This followed Rosmah's withdrawal of her appeal in the Court of Appeal yesterday against the High Court's March 15 decision to allow the prosecution to transfer her case from the Sessions Court

High Court judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan had allowed a prosecution application to jointly try Rosmah and Rizal Mansor, a former special officer to Najib, at the High Court for the case and set 32 days for the trial beginning Feb 3

Zaini had also ordered for Rosmah's money-laundering charges million, to be heard separately and fixed May 11 for the trial.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Farizul Hassan Bakri did not object to the withdrawal.

Rahman, who sat with Datuk Kamardin Hashim and Datuk Harmindar Singh Dhaliwal, then struck off the appeal.

Rosmah, 67, was not present.

She pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court last year to two counts of soliciting RM187.5 million and receiving RM1.5 million for projects to provide solar energy to 369 Sarawak schools

Rizal, 46, claimed trial on the same day to four counts of soliciting and accepting bribes for himself and Rosmah, amounting to RM5.5 million, for the project.

On Oct 4, Rosmah pleaded not guilty to 12 charges of money laundering amounting to RM7,097,750 and five charges of failing to declare her income to the Inland Revenue Board

14. Mukhriz not aware Kedah Umno received 1MDB money



Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir who was then Kedah Umno liaison chairman says he was not aware of the transaction of funds linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) into the account of Kedah Umno.

ALOR SETAR: Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir said he was not aware of the transaction of funds linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) into the account of Kedah Umno when he helmed the post of state Umno liaison chairman previously.

Mukhriz who held the post between 2013 and 2016 said matters pertaining to Kedah Umno funds were left completely in the hands of its then treasurer Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim.

Abdul Azeez, he said, handled the expenses and distribution of funds to the party's state divisions.

"I am unsure when it (receiving 1MDB funds) happened, yes we needed money for our divisions when I was state Umno chairman. I handed the matter over to the treasurer at the time which was Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim to handle," he said.

"I am not aware of the methods he employed, but we did get allocation to run activities in the divisions," he said at a press conference after launching the 2019 Kedah Youth Festival, here, today.

Mukhriz was asked to comment on the move by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to file civil forfeiture applications against 41 individuals and entities to recover money allegedly transferred from 1MDB.



Kedah Menteri Besar Kedah, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir presenting a certificate to a participant of the the 2019 Kedah Youth Festival at the Stadium Darul Aman. - NSTP/Noorazura Abdul Rahman

MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya said they identified the 41 individuals and local entities involved in the transaction, in which Kedah Umno was one of them.

Commenting further, Mukhriz who is also Kedah Menteri Besar said the allocation that Kedah Umno had asked for before did not reach millions and did not involve projects, contracts or others.

"If Umno accepted funds from sources that were illegal, I believe Umno would have to return the money it took and distributed to Kedah Umno and other states," he said.

Previously, when he was in Umno, Mukhriz was appointed as Menteri Besar in May 2013 after which he also held the position of state liaison chairman after Barisan Nasional (BN) managed to regain control of the state in the 13th General Election (GE13).

He stepped down as Menteri Besar in Feb 2016 after a majority of the state's assemblymen decided they had lost confidence in his leadership. He also resigned as state Umno chairman.

He returned to the post as a Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) member last year after Pakatan Harapan (PH) defeated BN in the 14th General Election.

15. Loopholes in VLN system to be reported immediately to Home Ministry



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was charged with seven counts of graft totalling SGD4.24 million involving the VLN system. NSTP/Mohamad Shahril Badri Saali

KUALA LUMPUR: Any loopholes found in the Overseas Visa (VLN) system procedure will be immediately escalated to the Home Ministry.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki said his officers will submit a report to the ministry if the commission finds any flaws in the system.

"The MACC Inspection and Consultancy Division will send a report as soon as possible to the Home Ministry.

"This is for the Ministry to take necessary action pertaining to whatever loopholes and disadvantages in the system and procedure, and how the system is being used in this case," he told reporters when met at the Kuala Lumpur Courts complex after attending the proceedings of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who was being charged with seven corruption charges related to the VLN system.

Azam said officials who are said to be involved in the case would be called as witnesses.

Earlier, Zahid was charged with seven counts of graft totalling SGD4.24 million involving the VLN system.

16. Malaysia economy to grow better in 2H



Malaysia's economy is expected to grow better in the second-half of this year, driven a steady pick-up in services, mining and construction sectors. NSTP picture by Asyraf Hamzah.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's economy is expected to grow better in the second-half of this year, driven a steady pick-up in services, mining and construction sectors.

MIDF Research said the overall business performance is projected to improve steadily for the next six months.

"Strong domestic demand and low inflationary pressure are fundamental factors supporting the services sectors," it said in a research note today.

The research house said the manufacturing sector, which is export-oriented is predicted to experience moderation following the global trade slowdown.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's leading economic index surged by 2.6 per cent month-on-month (MoM) in April as six out of seven components recorded increases.

The main gains derived from real imports of semi-conductors and real imports of other basic precious and non-ferrous metals.

On an annual basis, the index rebounded by 0.4 per cent from an upwardly revised 1.8 per cent fall in the previous month.

17. 'We want you to work but we're not paying you'



FGV chairman Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid said he does not know the basis for the major shareholders to reject the board of directors' remuneration package.

KUALA LUMPUR: FGV Holdings Bhd shareholders have today shown dissatisfaction towards their board of directors' performance when they voted to reject their pay packages.

Last year, FGV posted net losses of RM1.08 billion, dragged by falling palm oil prices as well as impairments and provisions totalling RM1.04 billion. This was on the back of RM3.23 billion revenue.

FGV chairman Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid said all directors had been re-elected but resolutions related to their pay packages had been rejected by major shareholders Federal Land Development Authority (Felda), Koperasi Permodalan Felda and Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera.

Azhar said FGV board members were currently discussing the most appropriate thing to do and looking at all options available.

"I, myself, don't know the basis for the major shareholders to reject the board of directors' remuneration package.

"It seems that the shareholders' message to the board of directors is 'we want you to work but we're not paying you' which I think is a little bit irrational," Azhar told reporters after a gruelling five-hour FGV shareholders' meeting here today.

According to FGV's 2018 annual report, its board of directors consists of Azhar, Mohd Hassan Ahmad, Datuk Dr. Othman Omar, Datuk Yusli Mohamed Yusoff, Datuk Mohamed Suffian Awang,

Datuk Dr. Salmiah Ahmad, Dr. Mohamed Nazeeb P. Alithambi, Datuk Mohd Anwar Yahya, Dr. Nesadurai Kalanithi and Datin Hoi Lai Ping.

Based on FGV's 2018 annual report, the fee payable to Azhar as chairman of the board was RM1.95 million, versus the total remuneration of RM5.74 million for the board, which consists of 10 members.

When asked if FGV directors would resign, Azhar said: "There is no immediate decision among directors, for now. We are considering all options."

He stressed that FGV directors were responsible and professional in executing their duties.

"We consider all factors carefully to put forward plans that would ensure sustainability of FGV. But today's vote gives the impression that our efforts for the past 18 months are not appreciated," Azhar said, dejectedly.

To another question if FGV directors would go on working without being paid, Azhar reiterated that the board had yet to collectively decide on their next move.

"What concerns us most is the interests of the company," he remarked.

Felda is FGV's biggest shareholder with a 33.7 per cent stake, while KPF and LTAT own 5.25 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively.

The rejected resolutions were specifically to approve the payment of 2018's directors' fees, payment of a portion of directors' fees payable from June 26, 2019 until the next annual general meeting (AGM), and the payment of benefits payable from June 26 until the next AGM.

Shareholders also rejected the resolution for directors to allot and issue shares pursuant to Section 75 of the Companies Act, 2016

18. RoS scrutinizes Umno documents for any breach of regulation



The Registrar of Societies (RoS) Malaysia is scrutinising the Umno documents at the state and divisional levels which were among the 41 respondents receiving money linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to see if there was any breach of the Societies Act 1966 and Societies Regulations 1984.

PUTRAJAYA: The Registrar of Societies (RoS) Malaysia is scrutinising the Umno documents at the state and divisional levels which were among the 41 respondents receiving money linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to see if there was any breach of the Societies Act 1966 and Societies Regulations 1984.

RoS Director-General Masyati Abang Ibrahim said the move was implemented following several memorandums received by the RoS including at the headquarters here urging for Umno to be banned for receiving money linked to 1MDB.

"RoS will study the memorandum based on the provision allocated under the powers of the RoS. At the same time, the RoS is also studying the documentation (on Umno). That's all for the time being, because this matter is also being heard in court," she told reporters after launching the National Organisation Synergy Gathering Tour (HiPER) 2019, here, today.

The Pakatan Harapan Youth sent a memorandum to the RoS on Monday to urge firm action to be taken against Umno which was alleged to have received money linked to 1MDB.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had filed an application to withdraw the rights of 41 individuals and entities to get back the money linked to 1MDB amounting to about RM270 million which had been abused. Among those named were Umno, political parties, foundations and companies.

Asked on the possibility of Umno being banned, Masyati said: "At the moment, it cannot be said that Umno will be banned. However, RoS will inform if there are things that breach the Act."

Asked if the RoS had specified a time frame for the process of studying the documents and memorandums received, Masyati said there was no time frame set because there were aspects to be looked into from time to time.

At the HIPER Tour event today, 30 cars from the Selangor Subaru Association and 20 motorcycles from the Kuala Lumpur Ducati Association were flagged off. -

19. Zahid slapped with another 33 graft charges

SHAH ALAM: Umno president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today was slapped with another 33 corruption charges totalling RM42.76 million involving a foreign visa system two years ago.

The former deputy prime minister and Home Minister, however, pleaded not guilty to all the offences when the charges were read to him before Sessions Court judge Rozilah Salleh.

Yesterday, the Bagan Datuk member of parliament claimed trial to seven counts of graft totalling S\$4.24 million (RM12.99 million) involving the same scandal.

The offences falls under Section 16 (a)(B) of the MACC Act 2009 and Section 165 of the Penal Code.

The court set RM500,000 bail in one surety and fixed July 29 for mention.



Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today was slapped with another 33 corruption charges totalling RM42.76 million involving a foreign visa system two years ago.

20. Rosmah's second solar hybrid project corruption case transferred to High Court



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's second corruption case involving RM5 million in kickbacks over the solar hybrid project for 369 rural schools in Sarawak has been transferred to the High Court. -

KUALA LUMPUR: Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's second corruption case involving RM5 million in kickbacks over the solar hybrid project for 369 rural schools in Sarawak has been transferred to the High Court.

Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali made the order after allowing an application by Deputy Public Prosecutor Ahmad Akram Gharib for the case which originated from the Sessions Court to be transferred to the High Court.

However, the date for case management at the High Court will be fixed later.

Counsel Datuk Akberdin Abdul Kader who represented Rosmah did not object to the application.

On May 10, Rosmah, the wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak pleaded not guilty to receiving a bribe of RM5 million from Saidi Abang Samsudin, 60, who is the managing director of Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd through her aide Datuk Rizal Mansor.

According to the charge sheet, Rosmah purportedly received the money as a reward to help the company obtain a RM1.25 billion project known as the Hybrid Photovoltaic Solar System Integrated Project and Maintenance and Operation of Genset/Deisel, a solar hybrid project for 396 rural schools in Sarawak through direct negotiation from the Education Ministry.

She allegedly committed the offence at her home in Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta here on Dec 20, 2016.

The charge framed under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 carries a maximum jail term of 20 years with a fine of up to five times the value of the graft or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

On Nov 15 last year, Rosmah was charged with two counts of soliciting RM187.5 million and receiving RM1.5 million for the same project.