

New Straits Times July 2019

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1. Seremban teacher sobs after being charged with CBT

SEREMBAN: A teacher sobbed in the Sessions Court here today after being charged with criminal breach of trust (CBT).

Zulkifli Ibrahim, 47, who is also a part-time car dealer, pleaded not guilty to the charge, which was read before Judge Diana Md Razali.

He is alleged to have used proceeds from the sale of a Toyota Innova and the downpayment made by a customer, to purchase a Toyota Hilux for his own personal use.

Zulkifli was charged under Section 409 of the Penal Code which provides for up to 20 years' imprisonment and a liable fine, if convicted.

The accused also faces an alternative charge of misusing the Toyota Innova and a RM20,000 deposit provided by the same customer.

The offence was allegedly committed at CIMB Taman Semarak, Nilai, between Feb 19 and 21.

Zulkifli was charged under Section 403 of the Penal Code which carries a jail sentence of up to five years, or whipping and possible fine, upon conviction.

Earlier, deputy public prosecutor Nur Akmal Mohamad Azri offered bail of RM15,000 with additional conditions imposed on the accused.

In pleading for leniency, the accused, who was unrepresented, appealed to the court to reduce the bail amount as he has to support four children who are still in school and a paralysed mother.

Diana then allowed Zulkifli a bail of RM10,000 in one surety and ordered him to report to the Putra Heights police station on the first Saturday of each month until the case is completed.

The court then set Aug 5 for remention of the case, pending a forensic report and to allow the accused to appoint a lawyer.



Zulkifli Ibrahim is alleged to have used proceeds from the sale of a Toyota Innova and the downpayment made by a customer, to purchase a Toyota Hilux for his own personal use.

2. Witness: There were 'very scanty people' in SRC International



Datuk Suboh Md Yassin arrives at the High Court ahead of the tri

KUALA LUMPUR: A key prosecution witness in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's trial was today left trying to explain how things were done in SRC International Sdn Bhd, a 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)-linked company.

He was put through a barrage of questions by Najib's lawyers who managed to get the witness, Datuk Suboh Mohd Yassin, to agree that his signature was abused by the company chief executive officer, Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil.

Suboh agreed that Nik Faisal could have fraudulently lifted his signature and pasted it on scanned copies of letters to banks instructing the transfer of funds.

The former non-executive director of SRC International spent a great part of the morning sessions answering numerous questions about this.

Later, the defence also managed to get him to agree that he really did not know much about what was going on in the company apart from believing what Nik Faisal told him.

Suboh agreed that he had no clear understanding of Nik Faisal's duties and functions as well as those of other senior executives.

Referring to them as "very scanty people", the 68-year-old said he knew little of what they did in the company.

When lawyer Harvinderjit Singh shot off a few names who had served in the company, Suboh said: "I met them but I don't know what they were doing.

"They were very scanty people," he said.

Suboh, who is the 42nd prosecution witness, was also asked about his witness statement which had been prepared for the trial.

He was asked to explain the similarity in the wordings used in his statement and that of another witness, Tan Sri Ismee Ismail.

Ismee, who was the former chairman of SRC International, had taken the stand before Suboh was called last month.

"Can you see that one of the paragraphs in your statement is word for word identical with that of Ismee's statement.

"Can you explain this," Harvinderjit asked.

However, Suboh maintained that whatever he told the officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) who recorded his statement, were his own words.

"I dictated to him what I wanted to say and he put it in the computer. That is the truth," he said.

Suboh will continue to be cross examined by Najib's lawyers when the trial continues on Monday.



Datuk Seri Najib Razak seen using his mobile phone once the trial ended for the day at the High Court.

Earlier, Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah informed Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali that he intended to file a motion in the Court of Appeal on whether a member of parliament (MP) who is on trial can be excused to attend Dewan Rakyat sittings.

He said the defence wanted to get direction on whether an MP facing criminal charges could still be allowed to perform his statutory duties as an elected representative to attend the sittings.

He said the motion was being filed following Mohd Nazlan's decision to deny Najib's application to attend the Parliament sitting on Monday.

Najib had requested to be given an off day from his trial as he wanted to be in Parliament to take part in the voting on a bill making it compulsory for MPs to declare their assets.

However, the judge turned down the request following objections from Attorney-General Tommy Thomas, who argued that Najib could always attend Parliament after the trial ended at 5pm.

He said Najib would still be able to take part in the proceedings then as voting was usually done late in the evenings.

He also said there was no guarantee that voting would take place on the same day.

Today, Shafee produced a copy of the New Straits Times (NST) and waved it in front of everyone in court to show the front page report which indicated that the bill had been passed.

"Look here... it was passed on the same day," he said.

However, lead prosecutor Datuk V Sithambaram then stood up and pointed out that the voting only took place around 6.30pm and that Najib could still have made it to Parliament on Monday if he really wanted to.

Shafee then made another application for Najib to attend a briefing session for MPs which was held during lunch hour today.

The prosecution did not object, with Sithambaram saying "we are very reasonable people".

The judge then agreed to a longer lunch break and told Najib to be back in court by 2.45pm, which the former prime minister adhered to.

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 is charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011, and Feb 10, 2015.

He faces 20 years jail and a fine upon conviction.

3. Ex-KL mayor: Ku Nan instructed me to facilitate land sale to developer



Tan Sri Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz said Chai owned several companies, including Aset Kayamas. -

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor "instructed" former Kuala Lumpur mayor Tan Sri Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz to facilitate a developer in land deals during his tenure as the Federal Territories minister, the High Court was told.

Amin, who was the seventh prosecution witness in Tengku Adnan's corruption trial, revealed that there were instruction notes by Tengku Adnan in two letters from developer Aset Kayamas Sdn Bhd, dated Aug 26, 2015, and Feb 3, 2016.

He said the letters, which contained notes from the minister to him, were in relation to the sale of two plots of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) land, at Lot 53247 and Lot 53653, to Aset Kayamas.

He said before he was appointed mayor, Tengku Adnan, who was the Federal Territories minister at the time had approved the land sale.

Amin said in the letters, Aset Kayamas had appealed for a reduction in land prices and a postponement of payment of the first 10 per cent for the Federal Territories Affordable Housing (Rumawip) project, totalling RM2,356,240.00.

"The letter from Aset Kayamas contained a note from the minister to me which said "Ybhg Datuk Bandar, Sila tangguh bayaran 10 peratus selama tiga bulan" (please postpone payment of 10 per cent for three months)," he said.

He added that, following the note, DBKL agreed to extend the payment period of 10 per cent before or on Dec 1, 2015.

He said following another similar note on a letter dated Feb 3, 2016, DBKL agreed to reduce the sale price of 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

In his witness statement tendered in court, Amin said the Rumawip project was launched by the Federal Territories Ministry on April 8, 2013, targeting 50,000 affordable housing units in Kuala Lumpur until 2018.



Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor "instructed" former Kuala Lumpur mayor Tan Sri Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz to facilitate a developer in land deals during his tenure as the Federal Territories minister, the High Court was told.

He said the developer active in the development of Rumawip was Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong, whom he met when he became the mayor.

He said Chai had purchased several pieces of land with DBKL for the housing project.

Amin said Chai owned several companies, including Aset Kayamas.

Meanwhile, during the examination in chief conducted by deputy public prosecutor Lailawati Ali, Amin said the power to postpone the payment and reduce the price of land was in the minister's hands.

When cross-examined by lead counsel Datuk Tan Hock Chuan regarding the same issue, the witness said that as the mayor, he could adopt the order of the minister.

The trial continues before judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan.

Tengku Adnan was charged with accepting RM2 million from Chai, whom he knew had a connection with his official function, via a cheque belonging to Aset Kayamas Sdn Bhd, which was deposited into a bank account belonging to Tadmansori Holding Sdn Bhd, which the accused had interest in.

He allegedly committed the offence in his capacity as a public servant, which was the Federal Territories minister at the time, at CIMB Bank Bhd, Pusat Bandar Damansara branch, level 1, Lot A4, Block A, Pusat Bandar Damansara, here, on June 14, 2016.

Aset Kayamas was established by Chai in 2011, with a primary focus on delivering homes that are founded in quality and affordability.

Its expanding portfolio featured various luxury residential development projects such as Park Hill in Bukit Jalil, The Henge in Kepong and The Holmes in Bandar Tun Razak.

It has also worked on several affordable housing projects across the Klang Valley in collaboration with the government under the Perumahan Penjawat Awam 1Malaysia (PPA1M) and Rumawip schemes.

4. MACC probes alleged embezzlement of RM25mil from MCMC fund



The money was allegedly used for the 1Malaysia Negaraku projects but they were not implemented.

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has started its probe into an alleged RM25 million misappropriation involving the Malaysia Communications and Multimedia Commission fund.

The money was allegedly used for the 1Malaysia Negaraku projects but they were not implemented.

A source said a senior officer of the National Film Development Corporation (Finas) with the title of a 'Datuk' was believed to be involved.

The source said there were about 10 projects under the 1Malaysia Negaraku programme and the officer was said to be involved in nearly all the projects.

It was also learned that the senior officer had been instructed by the former Communication and Multimedia Minister to manage the revenue and payment of Finas regarding these projects and the officer had the authority to sign offer letters to companies appointed under the instruction of the minister.

"The senior officer was also said to be in cahoots with companies involved by approving all payments for projects that were not executed.

"The minister at that time had also instructed the said officer to use the MCMC fund for these projects," said the source.

To date, the MACC has gone to all companies which were awarded these projects to seize documentations, which will be used in its investigations.

The source also said the MACC had identified more than 70 people who could assist in its investigation into the case.

The graft buster had also recorded statements from four people including Finas director-general and MCMC officers to assist in the investigation.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki had confirmed that investigation had been carried out, but declined to elaborate.

5. Proceeds of super yacht Equanimity's sale to go to 1MDB's recovery account by August



The proceeds from the sale of 1Malaysia Development Bhd-linked super yacht Equanimity have been deposited into a bank account managed by a local law firm

KUALA LUMPUR: The proceeds from the sale of 1Malaysia Development Bhd-linked super yacht Equanimity have been deposited into a bank account managed by a local law firm.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the US\$126 million (RM527.4 million) profit gained from selling Equanimity to Genting Malaysia Bhd was being temporarily stored in a sheriff stakeholders account for three months.

"The proceeds from the sale were received in full on April 23, 2019, and are now being kept in a sheriff stakeholders account managed by a well-known local law firm for three months, for the purpose of settling the maintenance costs of the ship that will be decided by a court ruling," he said in reply to a question by Datuk Ahmad Jazlan Yakuub (BN-Machang).

The remainder, after deducting the related expenditure, would be placed in 1MDB's recovery account by August and would be used to repay 1MDB's debts.

To a supplementary question, Lim said the principal of 1MDB's debt was as much as RM26.65 billion.



Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the US\$126 million (RM527.4 million) profit gained from selling Equanimity to Genting Malaysia Bhd was being temporarily stored in a sheriff stakeholders account for three months. - NSTP/HAFIZ SOHAIMI

He said to date, the current government had repaid RM8.9 billion of the debt, with the total amount owed by the wealth fund being RM40.57 billion and interest amounting to RM10.44 billion, bringing the total amount of debt owed to RM51.01 billion.

"We hope to get back the losses and compensation from various parties including Goldman Sachs and if we look at assets, the value including real estate assets cannot be estimated as the legal matters have not been completed," he said.

He said one of 1MDB's assets, Tun Razak Exchange (TRX), had been "detoxified" and the earnings would be known when the project matures in seven years.

6. Ex-AG sues Kit Siang for RM10mil over 1MDB remarks



Former Attorney-General (AG) Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali.

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Attorney-General (AG) Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali had filed a lawsuit against DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang for allegedly linking the former with the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) financial scandal.

Apandi in his statement of claim, filed on July 5, is seeking RM10 million in general damages from the DAP senior leader for allegedly defaming him on his role in the scandal.

Apandi, who is now a solicitor, claimed that Lim in his article published by news portal Malaysiakini implied that the plaintiff had a major role to aid and abet in the 1MDB fiasco.

The article titled 'Dangerous fallacy to think Malaysia's on the road to integrity' was published on May 6 this year.

Apandi said the article had tainted his reputation by claiming that he was directly involved, assist and abetting in the 1MDB scandal.

He said the article had portrayed him as unprofessional and unethical to take on the position of AG back then.

"The article also depicted the plaintiff as having committed power abuse, double standards, and incompetence during his tenure as the AG.

"The article written by the defendant was specious and fallacious which would confuse the public," he claimed.

He claimed that the article had placed him under public contempt as it was republished and shared through social media.

Apandi also is seeking an injunction to stop Lim or any of his agents from further publishing the article, either in part or in whole.

In January 2016, the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) had cleared the then prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak of any criminal wrongdoing in the case involving a donation from the Middle East, as well as another involving SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Apandi in a press conference had said that Najib committed no wrongdoing in the cases.

He had also said that in August 2013, a sum of USD620 million (RM2.03 billion) was returned by Najib to the Saudi royal family, as the sum was not utilised.

On the case of SRC International, Apandi had said their investigations concluded that Najib had not committed any criminal offences under the MACC Act 2009 and the Penal Code.

7. PAC: RM19.4b GST refunds not missing; used for development



PAC chairman Datuk Noraini Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR: The RM19.4 billion in Goods and Services Tax (GST) refund money is not missing, said the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

PAC chairman Datuk Noraini Ahmad said based on its findings, the money was used to pay for the government's management and development expenditure.

She explained that the previous Barisan Nasional (BN) government had channelled the money collected from GST into a consolidated revenue account.

The monies were later transferred in stages to the GST refund provident fund (Kumpulan Wang Pembayaran Balik GST) as was decided by the GST Refund Committee, she said.

"This is inconsistent with Section 54(2) and 54(5) of the GST Act 2014.

"The previous government had overestimated the GST net collection, or 65 per cent of the gross collection amount.

"The government had announced that it would disburse GST refund in 2019 by using a portion of the Petronas special dividend amounting to RM30 billion," said the Parit Sulong Member of Parliament.

Noraini said based on the findings, PAC had prepared several recommendations for the government.

"The government's administration must ensure full compliance of the country's fund, especially in carrying out procedures to ensure a more orderly and accountability of financial administration.

"Government officials who had been entrusted (in financial administration) must consistently advise the government on legal, procedures and information without fear or favour, particularly in practising cash-flow planning and accountable fiscal discipline," she said.

In August last year, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng revealed that the previous BN government had failed to pay RM19.4 billion in GST refunds since its implementation in April 2015 to May 31 2018, and there was only RM1.49 billion left in the repayment fund.

PAC began its investigation proceeding on the matter on August 15, 2018, and took 11 months to complete the report. A total of 10 witnesses were called to testify in the select committee's proceedings.

8. Najib's RM3.35mil bill at jewellery store in Italy revealed



Datuk Seri Najib Razak spent RM3.35 million in a day at a Swiss jeweller and watch store in Italy using two of his credit cards, the High Court heard today.

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak spent RM3.35 million in a day at a Swiss jeweller and watch store in Italy using two of his credit cards, the High Court heard today.

The Senior Vice President of Ambank Group (Credit Card, Authorisation, and Banking Fraud Management) Yeoh Eng Leong testified that Najib used his Ambank visa platinum and master card platinum for the transactions on Aug 8, 2014.

Najib, he said, had a credit limit of RM3 million for both cards.

Detailing the expenditure incurred by Najib on that day, he said the former prime minister spent:

Visa Platinum card:

1. Euro 100,000 (RM440,928.71) and Euro 3,500 (RM50,432.50) at the De Grisogono store

Mastercard Platinum card:

1. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)
2. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)
3. Euro 50,000 (RM216,993.14)
4. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)
5. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)
6. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)

7. Euro 100,000 (RM433,986.28)

8. Euro 10,000 (RM43,398.62)

All the above Mastercard Platinum transactions were also made on Aug 8, 2014 at the same merchant.

De Grisogono is a Swiss luxury jeweller founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1993 by Lebanese - Italian black diamond specialist Fawaz Gruosi.

Yeoh said Najib paid for the credit card transactions five days later on Aug 13.

"He paid RM2.8 million for the Mastercard and RM449,586.95 for the Visa Platinum card," he said.

Yeoh revealed that Najib had also used his credit card at the Chanel store in Honolulu, United States.

The amount transacted was RM466,330.11 on Dec 22, 2014.

He said another transaction using the Mastercard was made at the Shangrila Hotel in Bangkok on Jan 4, 2015.

The amount transacted was RM127,017.46.

The payments for the above transactions was made on Feb 5, 2015.

Asked by the Deputy Public Prosecutor Budiman Lutfi Mohamed if there had been any complaints or report of unlawful usage of Najib's credit cards, Yeoh said there were none.

Yeoh said all payments came from Najib's AmBank current account ending with number 880.

The prosecution's case is that the money received from SRC International which was channelled through several intermediary companies finally went to Najib's account before it was used to settle the credit card bills.

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 is charged with committing the offences between Aug 17, 2011 and Feb 10, 2015.

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

9. Audit report: Manipulation, fraud in MyIMMs



The Auditor General's Report 2018 Series 1 has revealed elements of manipulation and fraud in the Malaysian Immigration System (MyIMMs) for foreign labour quota approval.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Auditor General's Report 2018 Series 1 has revealed elements of manipulation and fraud in the Malaysian Immigration System (MyIMMs) for foreign labour quota approval.

According to the report, the quota granted to 123 companies to bring in foreign labour was found to be a fake.

The audit findings revealed that a total of 21,378 foreign workers from the 32,424 quota created in a disorderly manner, had obtained temporary working pass.

"The audit estimated the first levy payment collection for 21,378 workers should have stood at RM24.55 million. However, the fake quota and possibility of fraud could have led to losses of government's revenue.

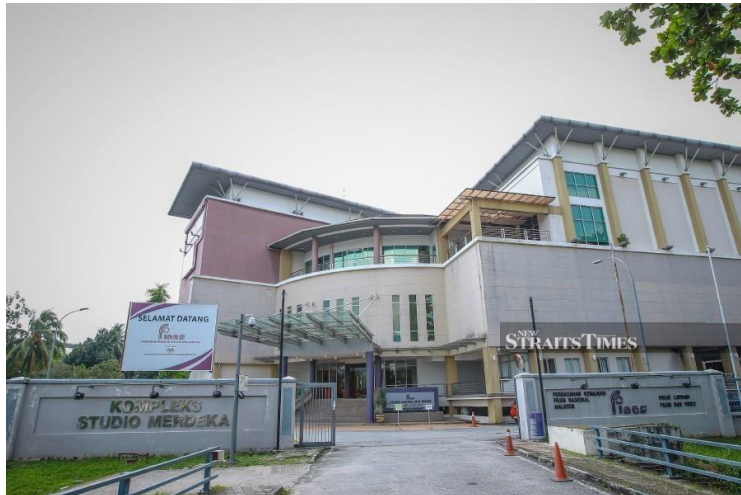
"The Audit Department scrutinised the feedback from the Immigration Department, and based on analysis of data derived from MyIMMs between 2016 and 2018, there was manipulation and possibility of fraud in foreign workers' quota that warrants an immediate investigation," read the report that was made public today.

"Audit reviews found that that the creation, approval and workers' levy payments were not made at the Home Ministry's Foreign Workers' management division One-Stop Centre (OSC). Instead, they were recorded at 10 ministry divisions or Immigration Department which did not have the authority.

"The identification document (ID) of the person who created, approved and received payments for the workers' levy was that of an Immigration Department officer who did not have the authority to carry out the roles.

"These tasks are only authorised to the OSC. This showed that the approval was given in a disorderly manner and the recorded payments created in the system were fakes to obtain the temporary working pass to bring in foreign workers," it said.

10. FIMI not fully utilised, says A-G's Report



The Film in Malaysia Incentive (FIMI) programme, set up to assist local filmmakers and promote Malaysia as an international filmmaking destination, has yet to be fully utilised. -- NSTP Archive

KUALA LUMPUR: The Film in Malaysia Incentive (FIMI) programme, set up to assist local filmmakers and promote Malaysia as an international filmmaking destination, has yet to be fully utilised.

The Auditor-General's Report 2018 Series 1, which was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat today, said the implementation of the FIMI management programme, which comes under the Communications and Multimedia Ministry, was inefficient.

It said there were still weaknesses in regards to FIMI's approval, payment, recordkeeping, the appointment of private auditors and monitoring process.

The report adds that the ministry should address a number of shortcomings related to the FIMI programme.

It said only 50 per cent of FIMI's funds were being utilised by local filmmakers.

"This was because only five local project applications worth RM12.42 million (10 per cent) was approved from 2016 to the date of auditing in August 2018," it said.

It said that the National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (Finas) had yet to implement the assessment research outcome related to the FIMI programme.

"Thirdly, a payment totalling RM1.21 million was approved, despite the application (for funds) not meeting the requirement.

"The FIMI unit also did not keep proper financial records; expenditure ledger and receipts; and bills from checked company applicants as well as allowing a private auditor to give approval with regards to rebate claims and auditing.

"Finas also did not prepare an agreement contract for the private auditor service, instead, it accepted the terms of service submitted by a private auditor.

"Lastly, there was no checklist and physical examination report for 15 projects from 2012 till June 2018," it added.

The government introduced the FIMI programme in January 2013 to assist the development of local production industry and promote Malaysia as an international film making destination.

Funds for FIMI from 2013 to 2015 amounted to RM146 million. From 2016 to 2018, it amounted to RM124.52 million.

To prevent any inconveniences in the future and to meet the objective of the programme, the Auditor-General proposed that Finas actively promote its activities locally and internationally.

"This is to ensure that film producers would get clearer information on the FIMI incentives especially to increase the applications from the local film producer to apply for the incentive provided by the government.

"Finas should also implement an assessment outcome to measure programme performance to promote creative and high-quality film production to attract foreign filmmakers to film in Malaysia," it said.

11. Academy of Sciences Malaysia yet to return RM31.6 mil in unused funds



Some RM31 million in unused research and development (R&D) funds allocated for the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) have yet to be returned.

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of RM31.66 million in unused research and development (R&D) funds allocated for the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) have yet to be returned to the government.

This was among the findings of the Auditor General's Report 2018 Series 1, released today, which said that the funds, allocated under 10th Malaysia Plan, had yet to be recovered.

The report said the fund management of the R&D programme under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, which was held during the previous administration, did not achieve an optimum level of efficiency.

"The unused funds which were not recovered were kept by ASM, and thus could not be distributed to other applicants for its intended purpose," read the report.

The report also pointed out weaknesses in the approval process for the fund application and execution of its agreement as well as physical monitoring which affected the management of R&D programmes.

Among them were five R&D projects with an accumulated expenditure of RM1.4 million, which were terminated due to ASM's failure to submit its Milestone Achievement Report (MAR), as well as three R&D projects which cost RM2.9 million which did not achieve its objectives as stated in the agreement.

In addition, the signing of 19 agreements were delayed between 46 and 408 days, in contrast to the targeted time frame of 30 days. There were also delay in the approval of 28 applications by the

ministry between four and 211 days, in contrast to the 60-day period under its standard operating procedure (SOP).

The report said that the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry (Mestecc) had initiated the recovery process on the unused funds kept by ASM.

"Apart from that, Mestecc's funds division must conduct its first monitoring visit within three months of the disbursement of the fund to make sure that the R&D programme has begun.

"The division must also carry out follow-up visits, either before or after the expenditure claims are made to check on the progress of the projects, apart from preparing SOP for refunds collection and recovery of funds for projects that are being terminated."

ASM, through a letter dated April 23, 2019, had requested for more time to return the unused funds.

12. PAC to summon ministries, depts and agencies over A-G's Report



PAC chairman Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad said those who would be summoned to explain the discrepancies highlighted in the report included the Prime Minister's Office, Finance Ministry and Education Ministry.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will summon several ministries, government departments and agencies over the findings of the Auditor- General's Report 2018.

PAC chairman Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad said those who would be summoned to explain the discrepancies highlighted in the report included the Prime Minister's Office, Finance Ministry and Education Ministry.

"PAC will be summoning the PMO on its Socio-Economic Development of the Indian Community Unit (now known as the Malaysian Indian Transformation Unit).

"Also will be called in are the Finance Ministry and the Royal Malaysian Customs over the issue of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidies, as well as the Home Ministry over issues pertaining to foreign workers," she told a press conference in Parliament.

Noraini said PAC would also be summoning the Health Ministry over issues pertaining to its Trauma and Emergency Departments.

"The Education Ministry will also be called in to explain the delay in the construction of the Malaysia Sports School in Perlis and Education Hub in Pagoh, Johor.

"Lastly, the Communications and Multimedia Ministry will be summoned to explain the issue over the National Film Association," she said.

The A-G's Report, released on Monday, said that out of 54 ministries, 34 departments and federal statutory bodies had attained excellent ratings in financial management.

Auditor-General Datuk Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid, in a statement, said 83 ministries, departments and agencies were excellent, followed by good (69), satisfactory (26), less satisfactory (13) and unsatisfactory (two).

On the audit performance of programmes, activities, government projects at federal and state levels, he said it was generally implemented according to the purposes stipulated, but there were weaknesses identified.

The weaknesses included delays in the supply of equipment, abandoned construction projects or falling behind schedule, improper payment, weak contract administration, not in accordance with specifications, and low quality, inefficient management of government assets and revenue collection

13. 'I handed RM2mil cheque to Ku Nan'



Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (centre) arrives at the court for the on-going bribery trial.

KUALA LUMPUR: A key witness told the High Court today that Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor told him to pay RM2 million to Tadmansori Holdings Sdn Bhd, as 'political fund' for Umno.

Aset Kayamas Sdn Bhd managing director Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong said the former Umno secretary-general told him that the party needed between RM5 million to RM6 million for by-elections.

"I personally gave him the cheque in his office as I often went there to discuss about Federal Territories Affordable Housing (Rumawip) project," he said, adding that Tengku Adnan had approached him on September 2013 for the project.

"I can verify that the RM2 million cheque is a political donation to Tengku Adnan," he said.

"He asked me how much I could give but I did not promise him anything. I said I would hand over the cheque once I have the money."

Chai, who had known Tengku Adnan since the 1980s when he was involved in the timber industry, said the latter had given him Tadmansori Sdn Bhd's name for that purpose.

"I did not know who owned the company. I also did not ask him why I needed to channel the fund to Tadmansori and not directly into Umno's account," Chai said.

He was testifying in Tengku Adnan's bribery trial which entered its seventh day today.



Aset Kayamas Sdn Bhd managing director Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong arrives at the Kuala Lumpur Court Complex.

In his witness statement tendered in court, Chai said Tengku Adnan who was then the Federal Territories Minister told him to identify strategic locations for the project (Rumawip) which he had agreed.

He said the company had identified two plots of land measuring 4.05 hectares belonging to the City Hall and applied for the properties to be sold to them (Aset Kayamas).

"I personally sent the application letter to Tengku Adnan on Jan 27, 2015, at his office because the project directly came under him.

Tengku Adnan is charged with accepting RM2 million from Chai, whom he knew had connection with his official function, via a cheque belonging to Aset Kayamas, which was deposited into a bank account belonging to Tadmansori Holding, in which the accused had interest.

He allegedly committed the offence in his capacity as a public servant, which was the Federal Territories minister at the time, at CIMB Bank Bhd, Pusat Bandar Damansara branch, level 1, Lot A4, Block A, Pusat Bandar Damansara, here, on June 14, 2016.

Aset Kayamas was set up in 2011, with a primary focus of delivering homes that were founded on quality and affordability.

Its expanding portfolio featured various luxury residential development projects such as Park Hill in Bukit Jalil, The Henge in Kepong and The Holmes in Bandar Tun Razak.

It has also worked on several affordable public housing projects across the Klang Valley in collaboration under the Perumahan Penjawat Awam 1Malaysia (PPA1M) and Rumawip schemes.

14. Witness reveals her role in moving RM42mil into Najib's bank accounts



Ung Su Ling, 51, former chief executive (CEO) of another 1MDB-linked entity called Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M) at Kuala Lumpur court complex, July 16, 2019.

KUALA LUMPUR: A clear picture is beginning to emerge on the planning involved in the flow of RM42 million from a 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) subsidiary company into Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts.

Evidence given in court by a key prosecution witness in Najib's trial involving the abuse of SRC International Sdn Bhd funds today outlined the money trail and her role in it all.

The witness, Ung Su Ling, gave details about how she was told three months in advance that money would be pumped into Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd (IPSB) and the instructions given to her by Najib's former private secretary, the late Datuk Seri Azlin Alias.

She revealed how Azlin told her about the money transfers and asked her help to relay instructions for the cash to be moved into two private bank accounts.

The process started after Ung had gone to Azlin's office located within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the Putra Perdana Complex, Putrajaya in Sept 2014.

There, she was told that a certain amount of money will be transferred into IPSB's bank account, apparently for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

At the same time, she said, Azlin asked her help to inform IPSB managing director Datuk Dr Shamsul Anwar Sulaiman where to move the money.

"I agreed to help him convey the message," she said during examination in chief by Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohd Ashrof Adrin Kamarul.

The 51-year-old former chief executive (CEO) of another 1MDB-linked entity called Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M), said Azlin eventually Whatsapp messaged her in December to inform that a certain amount of money had been banked into IPSB's account.

Ung said she was instructed to inform Dr Shamsul to transfer RM27 million and RM5 million in separate transactions into two AmIslamic private bank accounts ending with 880 and 906.

She said Azlin Whatsapp messaged her again in February 2015, this time directing her to inform Dr Shamsul to move another RM10 million into the AmIslamic account ending with 880.

Ung, who was the 49th witness in the trial, said at that time she did not know who was the owner of the two accounts.

However, it has been previously established that the accounts which the RM42 million ended up in belonged to Najib.

On the Whatsapp messages, Ung said she had deleted the conversation with Azlin after he died.

It was reported that Azlin, along with former Rompin member of parliament Tan Sri Jamaluddin Jarjis and four others were killed in a helicopter crash in April 2015.

They were killed after the ill-fated helicopter crashed into the fringes of a jungle near Jalan Sungai Lalang, Kampung Pasir Batu, Semenyih.

The helicopter was flying back from Pekan to Subang after the victims attended the wedding reception of Najib's daughter.

Ung's testimony today corroborates with the evidence given by Dr Shamsul, who had previously testified transferring the RM42 million into the AmBank accounts.

Dr Shamsul had given evidence how IPSB's account had been used as a transit point for the money before it was moved out.

The trial before High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali will continue tomorrow.

Najib is facing three charges of criminal breach of trust, one for the abuse of power and three more for money laundering involving RM42 million of SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

The 66-year-old Pekan member of parliament faces 20-years jail and fine for the offences.

15. New twist in Ku Nan's corruption trial



Tengku Adnan is charged with accepting RM2 million from Chai, whom he knew had a connection with his official function, via a cheque belonging to Aset Kayamas. NSTP/Aswadi Alias

KUALA LUMPUR: A new twist emerged at Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor's corruption trial today when a key witness revealed what could possibly be a vital piece of evidence.

As he took the witness stand, Aset Kayamas Sdn Bhd managing director Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong produced a receipt from his wallet that he had allegedly received from Umno for a RM2 million political donation.

Earlier, Tengku Adnan's lead counsel Datuk Tan Hock Chuan had asked Chia whether he had received any acknowledgement letter for the RM2 million payment, which was made to Tadmansori Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Chia, who is the 19th prosecution witness, said: "Yes, it is in my pocket now" before he took out his wallet and handed the receipt to the court.

Tan, who appeared shocked, examined the receipt and then requested that it be tendered as a defence exhibit before he continued with his cross-examination.

However, deputy public prosecutor Julia Ibrahim objected to it.

Chia said the receipt was given to him by Tengku Adnan, two days after he had handed over the cheque at the latter's office.

Tan: The receipt was given to you by Umno for your RM2 million donation for two by-elections in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar?

Chia: Yes.

Tan: Does the cheque's number appear on the receipt?

Chia: Yes.

Tan: Why you keep the receipt in your wallet?

Chia: I usually keep important documents, for example my pistol's licence and praying amulets, in it.

Chia said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had ask for the receipt, but he could not remember where he had placed it, at the time.

"They asked for the receipt when I was called to give a statement for the first time.

"After I answered that I cannot remember where I put it (receipt), they did not ask about it again," he said.

The prosecution, in its opening statement, had alleged that there was a conflict of interest between Tengku Adnan's position as the then federal territories minister and Aset Kayamas's property development activities.

Aset Kayamas was founded by Chia in 2011, with a focus on housing development projects.

Chia, in his witness statement tendered in court yesterday, confirmed that he had paid RM2 million to Tadmansori Holdings after Tengku Adnan told him that Umno needed between RM5 million and RM6 million for by-elections.

Chia who has known Tengku Adnan since the 1980s, when the former was involved in the timber industry, said: "I did not know who owned the company. I also did not ask him why I needed to channel the funds to Tadmansori Holdings and not directly into Umno's account," Chai said.

He also revealed that he had given "political donations" to other political parties.

Tengku Adnan is charged with accepting RM2 million from Chai, whom he knew had a connection with his official function, via a cheque belonging to Aset Kayamas, which was deposited into a bank account belonging to Tadmansori Holdings, in which the accused had an interest.

He allegedly committed the offence in his capacity as a public servant, which was the federal territories minister, at CIMB Bank Bhd, Pusat Bandar Damansara branch, level 1, Lot A4, Block A, Pusat Bandar Damansara, here, on June 14, 2016.

16. Witness fires back: 'Jho Low is also close to your client'



Ung Su Ling was questioned by lawyer Harvinderjit Singh and Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah during the on-going SRC International trial at Kuala Lumpur Court Complex

Razak's bank accounts took centre stage at his trial today.

However, the witness who was pressed hard to admit this stood her ground and maintained that the notorious billionaire was not the one behind it.

Ung Su Ling said Jho Low did not instruct her to initiate the transfer of RM42 million, which is at the centre of Najib's ongoing trial, into the former prime minister's accounts.

Instead, she said it was Najib's former private secretary, the late Datuk Seri Azlin Alias, who had instructed her to initiate the movement of money from a 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) linked company into the latter's Ambank private banking accounts.

Ung, who was the former chief executive of Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M), also dismissed Najib's lawyers' assertions that she had been in contact with Jho Low at the time and had received instructions from him.

She was accused of communicating with him constantly through Blackberry messenger chats, which also included Najib's relationship manager at Ambank named Joanna Yu.

The excerpts of the messages included their conversations from the days leading to the transfers of the money into Najib's accounts on Dec 24, 2014 to Feb 9, 2015.

One of the terms in the messages that kept cropping up was "our friend", which the defence argued referred to Jho Low.

However, Ung insisted that the "our friend" that she referred to in the messages was Azlin.

Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh then took her through a series of questions on what happened after news of the 1MDB scandal broke, especially when stories that the money was in Najib's personal accounts were reported.

He asked Ung, who was the 49th prosecution witness, if she met Najib during this time and she replied in the affirmative.

Harvinderjit: Did you meet Najib and did he not say to you that he didn't know the source of the money?

Ung: Yes, I met him, but I am not sure if that is what he said. He said it (the stories) was very damaging to him, his reputation and his career. He said he did not know money was being transferred into his account.

Harvinderjit: There was genuine shock in him?

Ung: Actually he was more annoyed I would say.

Harvinderjit: Did you apologise for your role in it all?

Ung: Yes, I did and I also offered to resign from my post in YR1M.

Harvinderjit then grilled Ung about her evidence that it was Azlin who had instructed her to initiate the transfer of money into Najib's accounts from 1MDB subsidiary company Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd (IPSB).

Ung yesterday testified that she had deleted all messages from Azlin after he died in a helicopter crash on April 4, 2015.

Harvinderjit: You conveniently deleted all conversations with Azlin. I put it to you that you are now implicating Azlin because of his closeness to my client?

Ung: Jho Low is also close to your client

Later, Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah took over the cross examination and continued asking her about her conversations with Azlin.

Shafee: Do you still have the phone which was used to chat with Azlin?

Ung: No I threw it away.

Shafee: You mean you literally just put it in the dustbin?

Ung: Yes I just tossed it away. I threw it in the trash. Maxis was having some promotions then and I wanted a new phone so I just tossed it away.

Shafee: Do you know that is the worst thing you can do. You should boil it first and then throw it away.

Ung: Ok I will remember that next time.

Shafee: After deleting the messages from Azlin, do you have anything else in writing?

Ung: No.

Shafee: Preserving the messages would have aided in many ways, correct?

Ung: In hindsight, yes.

Shafee: You do know that messages can be preserved for protecting yourself?

Ung: At that time I did not think there was anything wrong. If I had the slightest doubt I would have kept it.

Shafee: So, you had no inkling anything had been done?

Ung: None.

Shafee: I put it to you that this story you put up on the conversations with Azlin is not true. You have made it up because he is no longer around.

Ung: I disagree.

Shafee: It is impossible for someone with a legal background like you to have thrown away the phone. Your only salvation was the phone.

Ung: I disagree. I may have been slightly naive, but that is how it happened.

Shafee: You can't have been that naive.

Ung: I trusted the wrong person... that may be my fault.

The trial continues.

Najib, 66, is charged with seven counts of abuse of SRC International funds.

17. MCMC to cooperate with MACC following fund mismanagement report



Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) will cooperate with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) following reports . NSTP

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) will cooperate with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) following reports of fund mismanagement, apart from continuing reform measures that were initiated last year.

In a statement, MCMC said it took serious note of the findings and recommendations raised in the latest edition of Auditor General's Report 2018 Series 1, that had highlighted mismanagement of its RM13 million fund.

MCMC reiterated that it would not tolerate misconduct by its officers and would extend full cooperation with the MACC in its probe.

"The report revealed that under the previous minister's helm, the approval for projects was not implemented transparently as the funds were released without a clear basis.

"This has breached the requirements under the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission Act 1998.

"As a regulator responsible for the communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia, MCMC adheres to its integrity values and is confident in improving performance to successfully develop a world-class communications and multimedia industry."

The statement also revealed MCMC which is under the purview of Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh, had implemented initiatives to reform and improve existing procedures and governance since May last year.

It highlighted four steps to reform and improve the management of the MCMC fund. They are:

- * Measures to halt all MCMC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, revising financial authority limit, terminating subcommittees previously granted the responsibility in approving matter to the MCMC fund and enhancing standard operating procedures on approvals;
- * Updating existing guidelines on financial authority limit to ensure that every approval involving MCMC's finances are approved by those who are authorised and mandated to approve.
- * Dissolution of subcommittees previously entrusted to approve matters closely related to the usage of the MCMC Fund, whereby those items (subject to the updated financial authority limit) would be extended to Commission Members for assessment and approval.
- * Standard operating procedures for any approval is enhanced whereby each project, arising matters and every item that needs approval from the management are presented, discussed and, or approved in MCMC's Management Committee Meeting before it is presented to Commission Members.

On July 15, in the publication of Auditor-General's Report 2018 Series 1, it found that MCMC under the previous Barisan Nasional government had spent nearly RM13 million on special projects unrelated to its job scope for over two years.

It said some RM12.81 million was spent from 2016 up until April 2018, a month before the 14th general election.

18. Keeping graft at bay with basic moral values

IT is back to basics for Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Latheefa Koya as she plots the way forward for Malaysia in the fight against corruption.

To her, it's all about schools and trying to inculcate basic values, such as integrity, in children.

That is why MACC is working closely with the Education Ministry, she says, while reminiscing about her school days "when we were taught" basic values, such as to give bus seats to the elderly.

"Those things were planted in our heads. In the same way, if someone gives you money to do something illegal, is this acceptable? Because MACC conducted a survey years ago and students said they were willing to be involved in corruption if given the opportunity.

"They don't feel shame. Years ago, government servants caught being involved in corruption were young officers... that means something is wrong. So we need to come back to this issue. To prevent corruption, we need to make sure these things are fixed."

Latheefa says the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023 comprises more than 100 initiatives and MACC has the responsibility of carrying out more than half of them.

Among the government agencies involved in carrying out the rest of the initiatives, the Education Ministry plays a big role.

MACC, says Latheefa, is paying visits to state governments to talk about two things.

First is to convince state governments to follow the lead of the Dewan Rakyat, which recently passed a motion making it compulsory for members of parliament to declare their assets and those of immediate family members.

Latheefa says the commission is trying to get state governments to make it mandatory for assemblymen to declare their assets.

The second is for state government administrations to appoint certified integrity officers.

The Sarawak government was the first to have taken this step.

Some time back, says Latheefa, the Sarawak chief minister established an integrity unit under the Chief Minister's Office and appointed an ombudsman.

This, she says, is what MACC wants to see in all states.

Latheefa speaks about a wide range of issues during the interview. The following are excerpts from the interview:

Question: When Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad picked you as the new chief commissioner, what was your reaction, and what do you think you can do for MACC and the country?

Answer: Of course, the moment has dissipated in terms of excitement. It was shocking not just to the people out there, but also to me. It was difficult to say "no" when the offer came. I had to consider whether to say "no" and whether I could serve the nation probably in a more effective way. So taking into account all that, I decided to take a chance. It's different from what I have been doing all this while.

Question: Dr Mahathir said the people's perception of the government's seriousness in tackling the scourge reflected a 11 per cent hike in trust, from 59.8 per cent in 2016 to 70.8 per cent last year. What's your aim on this and what will be done to continue getting public confidence?

A: I need to carry out my duty transparently and within the power of the law. If I am seen as trying to cover up corruption, that will affect public confidence. Our duty is to investigate complaints lodged with MACC and take the next step.

MACC is not only about arrest and prosecute. We have an equally important part in prevention, which many are not aware of or do not understand. There are two levels of prevention — prevention and deterrence. We need to give equal attention to prevention, hence we want to tighten the system, prevent leakage and so on.

Q: What are the efforts to promote prevention?

A: We have the methods in place. We have our information division, but is what being done now enough? For example, we want to ensure that the values of hating and rejecting corruption are instilled in the younger generation. One or two programmes are not enough. We want to ensure that these values are included in school modules.

MACC doesn't have the budget to publish a textbook, but we have the means and capacity to provide the content. For example, we need to cooperate with the Education Ministry so that we can ensure anti-corruption values are promoted effectively.

Not just for show, it must be serious.

"Back in the days, we had moral education. We were taught basic values like when you are in a bus, offer your seat to an elderly person... those things were planted in our heads.

Q: Has the proposal been brought to the Education Ministry?

A: Yes, in fact, we will meet Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik next month to discuss this. Under the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023, there are more than 100 initiatives that need to be

implemented. MACC needs to carry out more than half, others will be carried out by the ministries. The Education Ministry is playing a huge role in anti-corruption efforts. We want to work with them to make this happen.

Q: How do you tell if a civil servant is involved in corruption? What action can be taken against civil servants who live beyond their means?

A: What we have in public administration is asset declaration. After government servants declare their assets, if they have new assets, they need to re-declare. Failure to do so is considered a misconduct and action can be taken. Secondly, a department chief may file a report if he or she believes a subordinate is involved in corruption.

It all depends on asset declaration. For example, some government servants may go for overseas holidays multiple times a year despite people knowing how much they make for a living. This is living beyond their means, so there will be an investigation. We will check their asset declaration, not only the suspected officers, but also their spouses.

Q: Is it compulsory for government servants to declare their assets?

A: Yes. Compulsory for everyone, including me. They will be given a number where the Public Service Department can keep track of things.

Q: It is now compulsory for members of parliament to declare assets. What about assemblymen?

A: We are visiting states and in some states, we are allowed to meet with the state administrators. We have visited Kelantan and Sarawak. We have advised them on the implementation of asset declaration to boost transparency in their administration.

We suggested that they do the same thing as members of parliament. It's up to them how they want to do it, but they need to start somewhere.

You're a public figure. You have stepped into public life. You cannot claim you want to keep your life private. You took the risk to be a politician. This is how people expect you to show commitment to a cleaner government.

Asset declaration is basic. It's only the first step. There are many more. We have just started, unlike other countries that have taken the second or third step.

Q: In the previous government, most of the MPs and assemblymen seemed to live beyond their means, and yet, nothing was done to address this, as claimed by certain quarters. Now that you have taken over, how are you going to change things?

A: It's not for me to change. I am a public servant who can only work within the law. So if the government has come out with the law that requires parliamentarians to declare their assets, then that is the government's policy. We are only the executors. As far as I am concerned, since the

motion has been approved, they have to follow. They were the ones who tabled and approved the motion, hence they need to comply. They cannot have it both ways.

If we had this issue of asset declaration, say, 10 years ago, would we be in the situation where we lost billions of ringgit? Maybe not. So this is the first step. At least we are moving in the right direction.

Q: Since May last year, we have seen a lot of MPs being investigated and brought to court. Are there more on the MACC radar?

A: Many are on our radar. Not just the old ones, but the new ones too. We have to be sure because power is something that is "tasty". It's very attractive. Power and access to funds. So you have to have self-control.

For me, politicians and the people around them are on our radar. If we receive complaints, we will look into them.

Q: Back to university students, do they think that corruption is okay? Look at what's happening now, ex-prime minister is being charged. He smiles in court, he is giving press conferences. Not only him but also other senior government servants, and he still gets the people's support. It looks like "corruption is cool". Is that the culture now?

A: I hope not. The thing is, what was the most important thing for Pakatan Harapan politicians before they won in the last general election? It was related to corruption, for example, 1MDB, and they won because of that. That means the people reject corruption. They want a cleaner government.

When the VIPs are smiling — trust me, I know politicians well — that is their strategy to say they are not affected. We can't do anything about it. If you think you can continue smiling, go ahead. I think people are not going to be fooled by that.

Q: We have had government agencies take corruption-free pledges before. Two years ago, in Penang, they took the pledge. A year later, several government officers were found to be involved in corrupt practices. Will you continue with this?

A: I think we need to ensure they hold on to their pledge. In fact, the pledge will be the main theme for this year's Merdeka. But pledging alone is not enough. There must be commitment.

That is why, under prevention, we have a unit called the integrity unit. This unit trains certified integrity officers (CIOs).

They are placed in agencies, government-linked companies and projects where the government holds interest. The CIOs become our eyes and ears.

Over the last two years, you can see a lot of corruption cases involving GLCs, Felda Global Ventures and the Road Transport Department. It's because we have people inside (the CIOs) who understand what is going on there.

It's about governance and integrity, so they will advise the board of directors (of the agencies and GLCs) if something is wrong. If there is a situation, we will know and we can start the investigation.

Q: Before you were appointed MACC chief commissioner, you were a PKR member. There are some who believe that your appointment was to protect "Camp Azmin" (PKR deputy president Datuk Seri Azmin Ali). How are you going to manage the perception of links to Azmin?

A: I will leave it to the people to decide. As far as I am concerned, you can judge me by what I do. I can't say much. It's not for me to decide.

I left the party formally a day before the appointment. But I have not been active in politics for more than a year.

I was always focusing on human rights issues, but somehow, everybody suddenly remembers me as a PKR member.

But, of course, I needed to officially end my membership when I knew that I got this job. I cannot continue to be a PKR member and a MACC chief. That's not proper.

Q: Due to your previous political affiliations, people are still going to question whether you will go easy on PH or PKR politicians when it comes to investigation, or whether you will go after Barisan Nasional or other opposition politicians. We noticed that when allegations of corruption were brought against Azmin, you took a back seat and handed things over to your deputy, Datuk Seri Azam Baki. Is that going to be your policy from now?

A: Depends on the case. In this case, one needs to understand what my role is. I am the chief commissioner. Under me, I have three deputy chief commissioners. One is in charge of operations — who is Azam — one is in charge of prevention and another person is in charge of management and professionalism.

So it is only natural that whenever we get a complaint, it will go under operations.

But in this case, because I have been accused of being seen as (part of) a camp, I need to be clear. If I don't say it, any outcome will be questioned, so I recuse myself from that case.

But that doesn't mean I can't take action against PKR members or non-members. It's not a policy to step out of everything because that means I might as well not do my work.

But having said that, I will be fair. Judging by the reaction (when I was appointed), I think those who reacted were mostly politicians (from the government). If I am supposed to be biased towards the government, they wouldn't have reacted in the manner that they did.

Which means at the end of the day, you can judge only from what I do. But I think they have this feeling that I might go after everybody. If not, only those from the opposition would be upset with me. However, it seems that a lot of people are upset, including members of my former party.

Q: Last month, you announced that MACC had filed a civil forfeiture suit against 41 entities and individuals. Have any of them filed an affidavit or returned the money?

A: That you have to check with the deputy public prosecutor. But there are some who have filed affidavits and some who wanted to return the money.

Q: Some of the cases like Media Association of Penang and small bodies, they don't even know who gave them the money. What is your comment on that?

A: You need to know what AMLA (the Anti-Money Laundering Act) is. AMLA was introduced and approved by the former government, not us. Under the act, MACC has the right to execute the law. When we take action, it means that we have identified whether or not the money given to these people was "dirty money".

Once we know that the source of the money is not proper, we will identify the accounts into which the money is deposited, then file a notice to have those accounts frozen.

We do this so that the money can't be moved into other accounts. Account holders will receive a notice. If they think it is not right and that the money is "clean", they can file to set aside the freeze order.

In the case of the 41 accounts, they have been frozen for the past 12 months. Once we freeze an account, we have 12 months to take further action. The money has been frozen in the accounts, now we want to forfeit.

So you have to explain in an affidavit whether you took the steps to know where the money came from. If you can explain, there is no problem. We let the court decide.

It is also a message to the public. You cannot simply receive money without knowing the source. You cannot allow yourself to be used for money laundering. You get some extra money, you have to check the source. You can't use ignorance as an excuse.

19. Witness: Jho Low was the problem solver



Datuk Seri Najib Razak arrives at the Kuala Lumpur High Court

KUALA LUMPUR: 'My platinum cards are not going through Jho.

"Can you call AmBank Visa and Mastercard right away? Thanks.'

The above message was read out at the High Court here today. It was sent by Datuk Seri Najib Razak to Low Taek Jho @ Jho Low, who then forwarded it to the former prime minister's relationship manager at AmBank.

Low ended the message by informing the banker that it was "from MNR, pls help asap?"

The mastermind of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal had apparently received the message from Najib after the latter's credit cards were declined in a Chanel store in Hawaii.

It had happened as Najib attempted to swipe his credit card for a US\$100,000 purchase in the store on Dec 23, 2014.

Najib's then relationship manager at AmBank, Joanna Yu Ging Ping, said she immediately tried to sort out the problem after getting the message from Low.

She confirmed that "MNR" in the message referred to Mohd Najib Razak before reading out the full transcript of the conversation she had with Low.

Low: My platinum cards are not going through Jho. Can u call AmBank Visa and Mastercard right away? Thanks - from MNR pls help asap?

Yu: Aiyo...our stupid card system down. Will check

Low: Chk asap pls. He is chasing

Yu: Yep called them already. Asking card guys to look into it immediately

Low: Urgent. He is in Hawaii and wants to charge US\$100k

Yu: System ok wor. They asked to try again. They are on standby to clear transaction

Low: It will work? They checked his card works?

Yu: They checked and it seems ok

Low: Sure?

Yu: From what they can see

Low: US\$100k one transaction no problem?

Yu: No problem. His limit is RM3 million

Low: OK



Joanna Yu arrives at the Kuala Lumpur High Court ahead of the ongoing SRC International trial. - NSTP/Zunnur Al Shafiq.

The court then hears the transaction for US\$130,625 is later charged to Najib's Visa Platinum credit card.

Yu also reveals how she communicated with Low during Najib's trip to Italy where the Pekan member of parliament had used his credit cards to purchase millions of ringgit worth of jewellery at the Swiss jeweller, De Grisogono.

Yu: Need to urgently verify 24 transactions in Italy amounting to RM3.3 million in his cards

Low: From PM - Great holiday here. All went well. Need to speak to Cheah to clear AmBank Visa for 1.2 million euro for u know what purchase. Can u do it immediately

Yu: Ok

Low: Let me know once you confirmed okay and informed AmBank

Yu: Just managed to contact them...cleared

Cheah referred to in the conversation was former AmBank managing director Cheah Tek Kuan, 72.

However, Yu also revealed that apart from the transactions which were cleared, 16 other transactions for more jewellery worth another RM2.64 million were declined as the cards had exceeded the limit.

Yu, who was the 54th witness to testify, revealed this during the course of her testimony in Najib's trial involving the abuse of SRC International funds.

She earlier read out her witness statement as deputy public prosecutor (DPP) Budiman Lutfi Mohamed took her through a series of exhibits involving her dealings with Najib's accounts from 2013 to 2015.

Yu said she first met Low in 2008 and started handling the 1MDB account from 2010.

She said it was Low who recommended Najib to open his personal accounts in AmBank.

However, she said, it ended as a nightmare for the bank because Najib's current accounts were always overdrawn.

She said cheques amounting to millions of ringgit were issued even though there were insufficient funds in the accounts.

"I often had to chase Nik Faisal to bank in money to prevent the cheques from bouncing," she said, referring to former SRC International Sdn Bhd managing director Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil who was the mandate holder for Najib's accounts.

Yu said she also contacted Low whenever Nik Faisal could not be reached.

Low, she said, always managed to sort out the problem by getting someone to bank in the money over the counter to make up for the shortfall in Najib's accounts.

However, she said this posed a problem for the bank as such transactions had to be reported to Bank Negara.

She confirmed that a total of RM12.3 million cash was deposited over the counter between June 2014 and March 2015 to ensure that cheques issued by the prime minister did not bounce.

Asked by lead DPP Datuk V. Sithambaram why she had contacted Low when he was not a mandate holder of Najib's accounts, she said the latter was Nik Faisal and also Najib's friend.

Sithambaram: How would you describe Jho Low's role in the accounts?

Yu: He may not have the mandate to give written instructions to the bank, but he is able to facilitate to get funds. There were instances I told him I could not get hold of Nik Faisal and the accounts were overdrawn. Then someone banks in the money or he gets hold of Nik Faisal.

Sithambaram: You mean he can solve your problems?

Yu: Yes

Sithambaram then gets Yu to confirm a Black Berry messenger chat she had with Low in May 2014 where the fugitive businessman asked her about a RM10 million cheque issued by Najib.

Yu: Account overdrawn again. Need to confirm RM10 million to Umno. Need to transfer again, funds very low already

Low: Okay pls transfer, what are the amounts in the three accounts, getting Nik to sign

Yu will continue with her testimony under cross examination tomorrow.

Najib, 66, is facing 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.

20. Witness told to quit her ambank post

Ex-AmBank officer, who left in 2015, says it was due to her involvement in ex-PM's accounts



Former AmBank corporate banking officer Joanna Yu Ging Ping at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

AGARRULOUS witness, an irate lawyer and an angry prosecutor provided all the ingredients for a combustive atmosphere in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's corruption trial yesterday.

As if living up to the occasion of the former prime minister's 66th birthday, the potent mix of all three led to plenty of fireworks in the courtroom as the day unfolded.

The drama started when former AmBank corporate banking officer Joanna Yu Ging Ping was being cross-examined by Najib's lawyer, Harvinderjit Singh.

The 48-year-old, who used to be Najib's relationship manager at the bank, was just being put through the mill when she started getting on the lawyer's nerves.

Instead of giving "yes" or "no" replies, she would go on and expand on her answers despite being repeatedly reminded not to do so.

This soon led to Harvinderjit losing his cool and he started raising his voice when questioning her.

At one point, deputy public prosecutor (DPP) Budiman Lutfi Mohamed had to ask him to be gentle with the witness.

"I tried," he said.

However, instead of cooling down, the lawyer soon exploded when Yu again started giving a lengthy explanation to his question.

He then started cutting her off, prompting lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram to jump up and tell him to let the witness speak.

"You asked an open question, now let her answer."

Harvinderjit, who seemed visibly unhappy, then turned to the senior lawyer and uttered something that soon led to an exchange of words between them.

"You are being pedantic," Harvinderjit said.

His remark did not sit well with the DPP who shot back by calling Harvinderjit "pathetic".

This was followed by a stunned silence before judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali finally urged everyone not to use such descriptions in his court.

Sithambaram apologised and Harvinderjit then continued with his cross-examination in a more composed manner.

Yu was asked about her job in AmBank and the 54th witness in the trial agreed that she had been told to leave due to her involvement in Najib's accounts.

"I left in 2015. I read in the newspapers that they (AmBank) were fined. I was asked to leave."

However, before he could probe further, Sithambaram informed Harvinderjit that Yu had signed a confidential, non-disclosure agreement with the bank.

The lawyer then said he would not question her about the issue any further.

It was reported that AmBank was fined RM53.7 million for its failure to report suspicious transactions by one of its clients to the central bank.

AmBank was fined for breaching the Financial Services Act 2013 in November 2015.

The defence will continue cross-examining Yu today.

Najib is facing six charges of money laundering and criminal breach of trust.

He is accused of transferring RM42 million into his accounts from SRC International, a former subsidiary company of 1Malaysia Development Bhd.

He is also accused of abusing his power as prime minister and finance minister by giving government guarantees on SRC International's RM4 billion loan from the Retirement Fund Inc.

The Pekan member of parliament is accused of committing the offences at AmIslamic Bank Bhd in Jalan Raja Chulan here and the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya between Aug 17, 2011 and Feb 10, 2015.

He faces 20 years' jail and a fine upon conviction.

21. MACC probe into political secretary receiving luxury watch completed



"The MACC has completed its investigation and sent the papers for further action to the Attorney General's Chambers on July 10 and we are awaiting feedback," Latheefa Koya said in statement today

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has completed its investigation of the political secretary of Agriculture and Agro-based Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub over the possession of a luxury watch worth RM28,000.

MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya said the investigation papers were sent to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) on July 10.

"The MACC has completed its investigation and sent the papers for further action to the Attorney General's Chambers on July 10 and we are awaiting feedback," she said in statement today.

On April 1, the political secretary was arrested for allegedly receiving a luxury watch as a gift from a developer in return for his assistance in securing contracts from the ministry for the developer.

The following day, a remand order was obtained to detain him for four days to assist investigations.

Salahuddin had said in a statement on April 1 that he will not interfere in the MACC investigation and would let the law takes its course.

22. Zahid comes a-calling, banker admits topping up Najib's account



Joanna Yu Ging Ping admitted that she advanced RM55,000 into Najib's AmBank account to cover the shortfall arising from a RM80,000 cheque he issued in September 2015. -

KUALA LUMPUR: A former banker was today forced to admit that she had used her own money to top up Datuk Seri Najib Razak's bank account to prevent his cheque from bouncing.

Joanna Yu Ging Ping admitted that she advanced RM55,000 into Najib's AmBank account to cover the shortfall arising from a RM80,000 cheque he issued in September 2015.

The former Corporate Banking Officer at AmBank, who was also Najib's relationship manager, had earlier skirted around the issue when questioned by lawyer Harvinderjit Singh.

However, she was forced to admit it when shown her Blackberry messenger chats with fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho @ Jho Low, who has since been revealed to have close control of the former prime minister's bank accounts.

The chats showed how Yu had desperately tried to get hold of Jho Low on that day due to insufficient funds in Najib's accounts.

After being given the runaround by Jho Low, who was on a flight, and his secretary, a woman identified as Josie, Yu eventually decided to use her own money to top up Najib's account.

The court heard that Jho Low repaid her the money the very next day.

Najib's defence has tried to show that Jho Low had gone out of his way to ensure the former Finance Minister was kept in the dark about his account balances.

Jho Low, they said, had ensured AmBank never returned Najib's cheques even though the latter's accounts were always overdrawn to the tune of millions of ringgit, when cheques were issued or his credit cards used.

Another example of one such incident happened when Najib issued a RM5 million cheque to Umno even though his account only had RM1.2 million in it.

On that occasion, Jho Low also managed to arrange for money to be wired in.



A former banker was today forced to admit that she had used her own money to top up Datuk Seri Najib Razak's bank account to prevent his cheque from bouncing. - NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

Earlier, the court also heard how Jho Low had transferred 5.75 million sterling pounds (about RM30 million) into Najib's account in 2014.

The money was transferred from a Jho Low linked company called Vista Equity Partners Ltd which is based in the Seychelles.

Jho Low, the court heard, had informed Yu to list the fund transfer as a gift for the then prime minister and Umno president.

Yu, who is the 54th prosecution witness, had previously testified that she was asked to leave AmBank in 2015 due to her involvement in Najib's accounts.

However, she did not give details about the circumstances leading to her ouster from the bank due to confidentiality, non-disclosure agreement between both parties.

The proceedings today also saw Najib's former deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi dropping by to lend support to his former boss.

Zahid, who is Umno president, tapped Najib on the shoulder as the latter was sitting in the dock and exchanged greetings before taking a seat in the public gallery.

He stayed on for about 10 minutes before leaving.

Zahid himself had earlier attended his own court case where he is facing graft charges involving a foreign visa system.

Najib, 66, is facing six charges of money laundering and criminal breach of trust.

He is accused of transferring RM42 million of SRC International Sdn Bhd money into his own accounts.

He is also accused of abusing his power as prime minister and finance minister by giving government guarantees on SRC International's RM4 billion loan from the Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP).

The Pekan member of parliament is accused of committing the offences at the AmIslamic Bank Bhd, Jalan Raja Chulan, and the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya between Aug 17, 2011, and Feb 10, 2015.