

**NEWS PAPER CUTTING ON APRIL 2021**  
**NEWS STRAIT TIMES**

**CONTENT OF DAILY NEWS APRIL 2021**

<b>BIL.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NEWS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
1.	06.04.2021	RM24,000 Fine For Using Fake Documents In Tender Bid	2
2.	07.04.2021	Senior Govt Officer Arrested	3
3.	07.04.2021	Syndicate That Hacked Into Immigration Department's Database Busted	4
4.	08.04.2021	Ex-Immigration Person Helped Hackers	5
5.	08.04.2021	More Arrests Expected In Project Cartel Probe	6
6.	10.04.2021	6 Held Over MyIMMs System Hacking	7
7.	14.04.2021	Ex MAHB Exec Claims Trial To Cheating Firm Manager Of RM43,000	8
8.	21.04.2021	Hostel Supervisor Held Over Rm20 Million Food Claims	9
9.	22.04.2021	5 Kelantan Enforcement Officers Held Over Graft	10
10.	24.04.2021	35 Held For Graft Offences In Kelantan Last Year	11
11.	29.04.2021	Cop, 2 Civilians Arrested Over Alleged Bribery	12

New Straits Times | 6 Apr 2021 | Page 16

## RM24,000 fine for using fake documents in tender bid

**KOTA KINABALU:** A company owner was fined RM24,000 for using forged documents to get a tender project. Kota Kinabalu Special Corruption Court judge Abu Bakar Manat meted out an RM8,000 fine for each of the three charges framed under Section 417 of the Penal Code. Afian Mohd Nasir, 51, pleaded guilty to the offence committed on Nov 24, 2016. He had used three separate fake documents at the Sabah Education Department here to get the food supply services tender. The project was meant for SMK Pekan in Kuala Penyu between March 1, 2017 until Feb 28, 2019. Afian was represented by counsel Farazwin Haxdy while the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission was represented by public prosecutor Clementine Severinus.

New Straits Times | 7 Apr 2021 | Page 2

## Senior govt officer arrested

**PUTRAJAYA:** A senior officer from a government agency is the latest suspect to be arrested in connection with the cartel that dealt in government project tenders.

The 38-year-old Grade 48 material surveyor was picked up from his house in Ampang on Monday.

Sources said his involvement was believed to be in preparing

the Bill of Quantity (BQ) for projects offered by the agency.

"He is believed to have accepted bribes to leak information on the specification of projects set by the agency to the head of the cartel to ease tender document preparations.

"Investigations found that he received about RM300,000 in bribes for each piece of information channelled to the head

of the syndicate.

"He had received about four payments, totalling RM1.2 million."

The source said more people were expected to be nabbed as the investigation progresses.

When contacted, MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrest, but declined to elaborate on the case.

New Straits Times | 7 Apr 2021 | Page 3

FAKE WORK PERMIT PASS STICKERS

## Syndicate that hacked into Immigration Department's database busted

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), with the cooperation of the Immigration Department, crippled the biggest ever syndicate involved in the issuance of fake work permit pass stickers (PLKS) to foreign workers, costing the government hundreds of millions of ringgit in losses.

This came following the arrest of five people, including the head of the syndicate with a Datuk title, in a major swoop in 22 locations in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

All five suspects, aged between 33 and 43, were nabbed following surveillance by the anti-graft body and the Immigration Department

over the past year.

Sources said the syndicate, with help from "insiders", had hacked into the Immigration's database by installing a transmitter to allow syndicate members to change the passwords of Immigration officers and print the PLKS from their operations centre outside the department office.

"The syndicate infringed on the government agency's database and this is a very serious security breach.

"The ability of the syndicate's members to hack into the Immigration Department's computer system enabled them to print out the PLKS and sell them to illegal

foreign workers in the country.

"Initial investigations revealed that hundreds of thousands of fake PLKS have been produced by the syndicate at a cost of RM6,000 to RM8,000 each."

This issue was raised in an audit report, and leakages of government revenue and breaches in the nation's security system were debated in Parliament.

"The syndicate can hack (the system) and change the passwords of Immigration officers before keying in details of illegal foreign workers into the system to make it look like they legally obtained the PLKS.

"What is even more scary is the

fact that the syndicate can open and close the blacklist or red alert status of certain individuals to enable them to pass through Immigration checks at airports for a certain price.

"All this was done outside the Immigration Department's office using transmitters and cloned systems from the government agency's database."

During yesterday's raids, graft busters seized computer equipment, including two cloned computer systems and transmitters.

The syndicate is believed to have operated out of a renowned hotel in Jalan Sultan Ismail.

"They moved from one place to

another, including luxury hotels, to avoid being detected by the authorities," the source said.

When contacted, MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrests.

He said the case was being probed under Section 17 of the MACC Act 2009.

"We will investigate this matter thoroughly and ensure stern action is taken against all syndicate members and the insiders.

"We want to thank the Immigration director-general for his sternness and willingness to work with us to unveil the shortcomings that led to the crippling of the syndicate."

New Straits Times | 8 Apr 2021 | Page 1, 5

myIMMS

# EX-IMMIGRATION PERSON HELPED HACKERS

Suspect played key role in issuing more than 21,000 falsified employment passes to foreign workers

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**A** FORMER Immigration employee is believed to have played a key role in issuing more than 21,000 falsified Temporary Employment Visit Passes (PLKS) to foreign workers.

The suspect, who was among five people arrested in a major swoop called Op Hacks on Tuesday, was instrumental in helping a syndicate infiltrate the Malaysian Immigration System (myIMMS) since a few years ago.

Immigration director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud said the former employee allegedly used two remote routers placed at the department's office.

"The routers were linked to the main system, and this allowed the hackers to easily obtain the identification (ID) and passwords of the department's staff.

"With these ID and passwords, the syndicate could easily access myIMMS," he said at a joint press conference with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission here yesterday.

He said the hacking granted the intruder access to almost everything, including removing a barred person's name from the database, or allowing a person to be reinstated with a clean status to enter the country.

Asked whether the syndicate managed to override other databases in the department, Khairul Dzaimie said: "Fortunately not. Preliminary investigation showed there was tampering only in the PLKS module. The other modules were untouched."

He said the syndicate had operated for several years and caused the government to lose about RM4.7 million in unpaid levies.

He said the department initiated an investigation into the unauthorised issuance of PLKS in the middle of last year following the arrest of a Bangladeshi worker.

"We were working hard trying to track down those behind the unauthorised issuance of passes.

"We learnt that a former department employee was among those involved in hacking myIMMS to obtain the PLKS.

"We began tracking down the syndicate and its operations since last year, and it took some time for us to crack the case due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Investigations reveal the syndicate is headed by a Datuk with the help of the former department employee who's familiar with the department's operations and systems."

Other than the Datuk and for-

mer Immigration employee, the three others arrested helped to run the syndicate's operations and sold the falsified passes for thousands of ringgit.

"We believe the syndicate is responsible for issuing at least 21,378 PLKS passes over the last few years. These passes were mostly issued to foreigners allegedly working in the plantation, manufacturing and services sectors.

"The levy charge for each worker is between RM600 and RM1,400, depending on the employment sector."

He said the syndicate raked in hundreds of millions of ringgit in these past few years, as it also charged between RM5,000 and RM6,500 for each pass.

He said in the raids jointly conducted with the MACC, they seized RM25.5 million worth of assets, 66 vehicles, including 12 luxury cars, 34 branded watches and more than RM500,000 in cash.

He said the case was uncovered following leakages in government revenue, which had been raised in the 2018 Auditor-General's Report.

Page 1 caption: Immigration director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud (second from left) and MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki (third from left) with the seized equipment used to make fake Temporary Employment Visit Passes, at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY HAUROL ANUAR RAHIM

## GOVERNMENT PROJECT CARTEL

THE SEIZED ITEMS:

1 **RM516,100**

Total cash

**SEIZED**

• Cash **RM491,110.00** and,  
• other foreign currencies including pound sterling, Riyal, and Euros amounting to approximately **RM25,000.**

2 **12 sports and luxury vehicles, each worth more than RM300,000.**

• Range Rover Sport • Mercedes-Benz SL400 AMG  
• Range Rover Vogue • Honda ADV  
• GMC Yukon XL (A) • Toyota Alphard  
• Bentley VX Sport • Mercedes-Benz E250  
• Mercedes-Benz A • Mazda CX5  
• Toyota Vellfire • Mercedes-Benz E Class

3

**34 Designer watches.**

Among them are:

• Rolex watches  
• Bell & Ross watches

4 **Various electronic equipments to produce the passes, including:**

41 Mobile and smartphones	1 Asus router
15 Laptops	3 Heavy duty Canon printer
3 CCTVs	7 Modem / Router / Wifi Repeater
1 Tablet	1 Canon scanner
2 Lenovo model C260 computers	6 Pendrives
2 CPU units	1 Scanner

5 **Other seized documents:**

4 Myanmar passport  
1 Indonesian passport  
2 Philippine passport  
2 Bundles of blank stickers for Temporary Employment Visit Passes  
20 Cheque books and account books

6 **Assets including:**

1 Terrace house  
2 Semi-D houses

7 **Estimated total confiscation & freezing of assets:**

• Properties: **30** units amounting to **RM11,868,835**

• Vehicles: **66** units amounting to **RM13,691,847**

**TOTAL AMOUNT: RM25,560,682**

INFOGRAPHIC BY

New Straits Times | 8 Apr 2021 | Page 5

## More arrests expected in project cartel probe

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission expects to make more arrests in connection with the government project cartel investigations.

MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki said investigators had arrested eight suspects, including the mastermind monopolising government tenders since 2014.

"Although we've arrested the mastermind, a 47-year-old businessman with the title Datuk, we believe there are a few accomplices out there.

"This is an ongoing investigation and based on developments,

we believe there are others involved," he said at the Op Hack press conference at the KL MACC office yesterday.

Present was Immigration Department director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud.

Azam said the latest arrest was of a civil servant believed to be a material surveyor linked to the syndicate.

Sources close to the investigations said 644 individual and company accounts estimated to be worth RM100 million had been frozen for investigations.

Most of these accounts were said to be under proxies, al-

though the faces behind these accounts were the Datuk and his men, they said.

This syndicate was said to have secured more than RM3.8 billion worth of projects, mainly doing cleaning and gardening projects at the ministerial level.

On Tuesday, it was reported that a Grade 48 material surveyor, 38, was arrested in Ampang on Sunday. He was believed to have accepted bribes to leak information on the specification of projects and had received a RM300,000 bribe for each piece of information channelled to the head of the syndicate.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 • NewStraitsTimes

Nation / NEWS | 11

IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

## 6 HELD OVER MYIMMs SYSTEM HACKING

4 technicians, 2 Immigration officers  
allegedly installed hacking devices, software

PUTRAJAYA

**T**HE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has arrested four technicians for allegedly installing devices and software to hack the Immigration Depart-

ment's MyIMMs system.

Sources said the arrest of the men, aged 34 to 39, led to the discovery of computers at the department that were installed with hacking devices and software.

Two department officers were also arrested on suspicion of col-

luding with the syndicate.

The source said the two officers, age 34 and 42, were believed to be involved in helping the syndicate with their hacking.

The officers were also believed to have received bribes for abetting the syndicate.

Following the arrest, several IT hardware and computers were seized from the department's office. Also seized were laptops and external hard disks belonging

to the system supplier company that were used for hacking.

Sources said MACC had identified four popular hotels in Kuala Lumpur that were used as hacking operation centres.

The latest arrest follows the joint operation conducted by the department on Tuesday at 22 locations in Kuala Lumpur and Sungai Petani.

In the operation, MACC arrested the head of the syndicate, a

"Datuk", and four syndicate members, including an ex-Immigration Department officer.

Thirty individual and 11 company accounts with a total of RM9.9 million have been frozen.

Thirty properties worth RM11.8 million and 66 vehicles worth RM13.6 million have also been seized.

When contacted, MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrests.

New Straits Times | 14 Apr 2021 | Page 10

5 CHARGES

## Ex-MAHB exec claims trial to cheating firm manager of RM43,000

**KOTA KINABALU:** A former executive of Malaysia Airports Holding Bhd claimed trial to cheating RM43,000 from a company manager for facilitating the rental of a business site.

Abas Tuah, 59, pleaded not guilty to the five charges under

Section 420 of the Penal Code before Sessions Court judge Abu Bakar Manat.

According to the facts, between September and December 2010, the accused, who worked at the commercial unit of MAHB, cheated a company manager at a bank

branch in Kampung Air, here.

He asked the manager to deposit RM7,000 into the accused's bank account to acquire a business site at Kota Kinabalu International Airport and also to make rental contract renewals easier.

The following year, he again

asked the manager for RM11,500 for the same purpose. In 2012, he asked for RM6,000, RM3,000 in 2013 and RM15,500 in 2014.

Abas, represented by P.J. Pereira, was released on RM12,000 bail with a surety, and was asked to report to the

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) office every two months and to surrender his passport. Public prosecutor Clementine Severinus represented the MACC.

Case management was set for May 24.

New Straits Times | 21 Apr 2021 | Page 16

## Hostel supervisor held over RM20 million food claims

**JOHOR BARU:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) arrested a hostel supervisor of a boarding school in Kota Tinggi for making false claims about the supply of food for students. The commission said initial investigation showed that the suspect, 40, had conspired with several contractors to make claims for the supply of cooked food for students in 2015, 2018 and last year. "The claims made for the contracts, where the food supply was doubtful, totalled RM20 million." The suspect was arrested at the Johor MACC office at 10pm on Monday night. Johor MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias confirmed the arrest and said the suspect had been remanded for six days beginning yesterday.

New Straits Times | 22 Apr 2021 | Page 14

## 5 Kelantan enforcement officers held over graft

**KOTA BARU:** Five enforcement officers have been taking advantage of other people's hardships during the Movement Control Order to make extra money. These officers of a government enforcement department have been demanding money as an inducement to deal with problems faced by individuals who were caught for various offences, including violating traffic regulations and drug involvement. But their 'joy' did not last long when four of the five were caught red-handed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for accepting bribes. Two civilians were also detained on suspicion of being in cahoots with the fifth enforcement officer, who was arrested in the last follow-up operation. Kelantan MACC director Rosli Hussain said the five were caught during a series of operations carried out in three Kelantan districts since last year.

New Straits Times | 24 Apr 2021 | Page 13

## 35 held for graft offences in Kelantan last year

**KOTA BARU:** Thirty-five people were nabbed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for corruption offences, including making false claims, last year. Kelantan MACC director Rosli Husain said the other offences included accepting and receiving bribes totalling more than RM340,000. He said half of the 35 people detained were civil servants with a majority of them being law enforcement officers from several agencies. The rest, he said, were members of the public and all of them were detained in a series of anti-graft operations carried out statewide. The number of those detained by Kelantan MACC last year was an increase from the figure in the previous year. In 2019, Rosli said 28 people were detained for graft.

New Straits Times | 29 Apr 2021 | Page 13

## Cop, 2 civilians arrested over alleged bribery

**KOTA BARU:** A policeman attached to the Pasir Mas district station and two civilians were detained for allegedly requesting and accepting RM4,000 in bribes on Tuesday. Sources said the trio, aged between 20 and 40, were arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in three operations in Pasir Mas. The sources said they were picked up separately between 5pm on Tuesday and 1am yesterday. "They were arrested for requesting and accepting the amount for the release of a car suspected to be used for criminal activities. The vehicle was impounded by the Pasir Mas police." Kelantan MACC director Rosli Husain confirmed the arrests. He said the case was being investigated under Section 16 of MACC Act 2009.