

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

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## Felda manager on 5-day remand in power abuse case

**KUANTAN:** A Felda manager was remanded for five days over abuse of power involving an agriculture project worth RM64,739. The remand order till Aug 8 was issued by Assistant Registrar Humairah KM Haider at the magistrate's court here following an application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). The man, 38, was arrested at 7pm on Tuesday at the state MACC headquarters after giving his statement. He was arrested to facilitate investigations for allegedly abusing his position as the Procurement Committee chairman to appoint a company, despite a conflict of interest with the company for an agriculture project worth RM64,739. State MACC director Hairuzam bin Mohmad Amin @ Hamim, confirmed the arrest.

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JOHOR CASE TRANSFERRED TO KL COURT

## MUAR MP CLAIMS TRIAL TO 2 MORE CHARGES

Syed Saddiq  
pleads not guilty to  
two counts of  
money laundering  
involving RM100,000

JOHOR BARU

**M**UAR member of parliament Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman pleaded not guilty at the Sessions Court here yesterday to two counts of money laundering amounting to RM100,000, three years ago.

The 29-year-old former youth and sports minister entered the plea before judge Datuk Ahmad Kamal Ariffin Ismail.

According to the charges, Syed Saddiq was alleged to have been involved in money laundering, whereby two transactions of RM50,000 were transferred from his Maybank Islamic Berhad account into his Amanah Saham Bumiputera account, which were proceeds from illegal activities.

The offences were allegedly committed at a bank in Jalan Persisiran Perling, Taman Perling here on June 16 and June 19, 2018.

The charges framed under Section 4(1) (b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities



Muar member of parliament Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (right) arriving at the Sessions Court in Johor Baru yesterday. PIC BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

Act 2001, punishable under Section 4(1) of the same act, provides for imprisonment not exceeding 15 years and a fine of not less than five times the sum or value of the proceeds of an unlawful activity, if convicted.

Earlier, deputy public prosecu-

tor Wan Shahrudin Wan Ladin proposed that the court apply the bail set by the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court on July 22.

Wan Shahrudin also applied for the case to be transferred to the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court in accordance with Section 123 of

the Criminal Procedure Code.

"This application is made in the interest of justice. Although Section 121 of the Criminal Procedure Code states that the trial is to be held where the offence was committed, Section 123 allows any court to hear the case.

"The case involves the same witnesses, prosecutors and defence counsels and most of them live around the Klang Valley," he said.

Counsel Gobind Singh Deo representing Syed Saddiq did not object to the bail proposal and the application to transfer the case.

Ahmad Kamal Ariffin allowed the bail set by the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court to be applied, which was RM330,000 with one surety and the condition that the accused surrender his passport until the case is completed and to report to the nearest Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission office once a month.

The court also allowed the case to be transferred to the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court and fixed Sept 10 for re-mention.

Apart from Wan Shahrudin, the prosecution was also represented by MACC deputy public prosecutors Ahmad Akram Gharib and Mohd Afif Ali.

Earlier, Syed Saddiq, who wore a black suit and white shirt, arrived at the court about 9am accompanied by his father Syed Abdul Rahman and mother Sharifah Mahani Syed Abdul Aziz.

On July 22, Syed Saddiq was charged in the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court with committing criminal breach of trust of funds belonging to a political party amounting to RM1 million and misusing RM120,000 in donations for the 14th general election campaign. **Bernama**

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ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

## 'APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE'

It must comprise third parties who have no interest or links to university, says academic association president

KUALA TERENGGANU

**T**HE Higher Education Ministry has been urged to appoint an independent committee to investigate an official in a university, who is alleged to have committed administrative misconduct.

Bernama reports that Malaysian Academic Association Congress (MAAC) president Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Idrus Mohd Masirin said the independent committee must comprise third parties, who have no interest or connection with the university.

This is important to ensure transparency, independence and fairness of the investigation process against the official, who was suspended from performing his duties effective July 12, said Idrus in a statement.

He added that MAAC also supports the appointment of a temporary replacement from among the university's other officials so that operations would go on as usual and smoothly.

Idrus said the appointment

was a temporary measure pending the outcome of the investigation.

"MAAC also urges the university's board of directors to respect and abide by the provisions in the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971" and the university's constitution, he said.

Any action taken against the official must be approved by the minister concerned (Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad) to avoid any misunderstanding with the university's board and management and staff, he added.

"Any misperception can impact the university's reputation."

Idrus said MAAC believed that any allegation of misconduct should be verified to maintain justice and if found to be true, then the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commis-

sion and the courts should determine the matter.

In a separate statement, the university's staff association said it had sent a letter to the higher education minister asking her to use her discretion to immediately appoint someone to replace the official.



Professor Datuk Dr  
Mohd Idrus Mohd  
Masirin

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RM80 BRIBE TO THE 'DOORMEN' TO GET VACCINATED

## MACC: Alleged incident at SACC PPV not true

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has dismissed a viral video where it is alleged that foreigners had to pay for their Covid-19 vaccinations.

The foreigners allegedly had to pay an RM80 bribe to the "doormen" to get vaccinated at the Shah Alam Convention Centre (SACC) vaccination centre (PPV).

In a statement yesterday, MACC said the video was not tak-

en at SACC as mentioned by the person recording the long queue, but at the Midlands Convention Centre in Shah Alam.

The commission said allegations made by the individual about each foreigner having to bribe the doormen at the SACC PPV was also not true.

"MACC sent a team of undercover officers to check the claims at the SACC and found it to be untrue," it said.

A video had been circulating showing a long queue outside a vaccination centre where it was claimed that each foreigner had to pay a bribe to get their vaccine.

MACC also said the Midlands Convention Centre was serving as an industrial vaccination centre for foreign workers in the country, but had some problems arranging their vaccine appointments.

"This had caused a long queue outside the PPV in the public-private partnership for industrial immunisation programme (Pikas). Many came without appointments. However, even at this centre, there was no such thing as having to pay for vaccinations," it said.

MACC reminded the public to report any corrupt practices to them directly rather than posting it on social media.



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CASE MENTION ON SEPT 13

## 3 COPS CLAIM TRIAL TO RECEIVING BRIBE

They plead not guilty to accepting RM2,000 from a man who violated MCO restrictions

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**T**HREE policemen were yesterday accused of accepting a RM2,000 bribe from a man who violated the Movement Control Order (MCO) two months ago.

Lance Corporal Mohamad Taufik Abdul Aziz, 31, Constable Mohamad Fazli Nordin, 28, and Constable Shahruil Norhan Sirhan, 26, however, pleaded not guilty before Sessions Court judge Muhammad Anas Mahdzir.

According to the charge, the trio had allegedly accepted the money from a 37-year-old man as an inducement not to report the latter

for carrying out unauthorised activities during the MCO.

The offence was allegedly committed near Jalan Kebun, Seksyen 30, here on June 25.

They were charged under Section 17(a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act.

The offence carries a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

The accused also claimed trial to an alternative charge of accepting the bribe while being public servants, involving the same amount at the same place and time.

The charge falls under Section 165 of the Penal Code which carries a two-year jail sentence or fine or both upon conviction.

Deputy public prosecutor (DPP) Fadhli Ab Wahab asked the court to impose RM7,000 bail on each of the accused and to order all of them to report themselves to the nearest MACC office once a month.

The accused, represented by

counsels Tham Weng Kin, Faizah K. Zuberi and Azi Azlin, pleaded for a minimum bail of RM3,000.

The court set RM5,000 bail against each of the accused and fixed Sept 13 for mention.

Meanwhile, at the same court, a Kuala Selangor Municipal Council assistant engineer was charged with accepting a bribe in January this year.

The accused, Nurul Azmunir Ahmad, 40, pleaded not guilty to accepting a kickback from a 46-year-old contractor near Taman Kuala Selangor Utama between 5pm and 7pm on Jan 15.

The money was an inducement for the accused to provide an estimated value to the contractor for repair work on a catwalk, as well as related projects at Bagan Sungai Yu, Pasir Penambang near here.

DPP Fadhli asked the court to impose a RM10,000 bail against the accused but counsel Hamdan Hamzah, who represented the accused, pleaded for a minimum bail.

The court set RM6,000 bail and fixed Sept 13 for mention.



One of the three policemen (left) charged with accepting a bribe, at the Shah Alam Sessions Court yesterday. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

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2019 CASE

# EX-MAGISTRATE ORDERED TO ENTER DEFENCE IN BRIBERY CASE

Accused faces 6 charges of bribery  
amounting to RM210,000

## KUANTAN

**T**HE Sessions Court here on Monday ordered a former magistrate to enter his defence on six charges of bribery amounting to RM210,000 two years ago.

Judge Datuk Ahmad Zamzani Mohd Zain made the decision after finding that a prima facie case had been proven against Mohamad Amin Shahul Hamid, 40, at

the end of the prosecution's case. The court fixed Oct 18 to hear the defence case and Nov 19 for submissions.

Amin, who was then the magistrate of the Lipis and Raub courts, was charged with soliciting bribes amounting to RM100,000 and receiving a bribe of RM110,000 from Hassan Basri Ahmad Sutan Modo in Lipis and Raub between July 5 and Oct 22, 2019. The bribes were an inducement for the accused not to fine and jail Hassan Basri, who was facing contraband smuggling charges at that time.



The accused, Mohamad Amin Shahul Hamid (centre), arriving at the Sessions Court in Kuantan in 2019.  
FILE PIC

The charges were framed under

Section 16 (a) (B) and Section 17 (a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, which are punishable under Section 24 of the same act and

provides for a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine of five times the value of the bribe, or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if convicted. **Bernama**

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

# FORMER 1MDB CEO DENIES STRIKING DEAL TO AVOID SUIT

Prosecution witness tells court he had not seen original writ of summons or amended version

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**F**ORMER 1Malaysia Development Bhd chief executive officer Mohd Hazem Abd Rahman denied that he had struck a deal with the prosecution to avoid a lawsuit against him.

Hazem denied the allegation when he was cross-examined by lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah in the trial of Datuk Seri Najib Razak over the misappropriation of RM2.28 billion of 1MDB funds.

Shafee had referred to an article from online news portal The Edge Markets, which reported

that the names of seven defendants, including that of Hazem's, had been dropped from one of 1MDB's suits seeking US\$8 billion over various wrongdoings.

1MDB, which filed the suit in May, initially named 15 people — including Najib, Hazem, its former directors and its former senior management — as defendants.

Hazem, who is the 10th prosecution witness, said he had not personally seen the original copy of the writ of summons nor the amended version until yesterday as he had not been served with the court papers.

He said he had only read about the lawsuit in the news and did not know the reason why his name was removed from the suit.

Shafee then contended that Hazem was in fact very much concerned with the lawsuit and had actually approached the prosecution and the Malaysian

Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to say that "this (civil action) cannot go on" as he was giving evidence in favour of the prosecution and yet was being sued by the government.

Hazem disagreed with this. **Shafee:** You were given a kind of undertaking for you to give evidence against Najib and you will be treated as a witness... cannot be charged... have you not consulted any lawyer?

**Hazem:** No. **Shafee:** I'm here to tell you that in criminal matters, you can be charged with what you have said so far.

**Hazem:** Okay. Shafee then brought up the "astronomical" bonus that Hazem had received during his tenure in the company.

He pointed out that apart from Hazem's monthly salary of more than RM90,000, the latter had also received a RM2.7 million bonus for "exceeding expectation" as CEO.

**Shafee:** Did you feel that this assessment of you — "beyond expectation" — was correct?

**Hazem:** I don't know, they (re-

muneration committee) are the ones who decided it.

Shafee then grilled Hazem, saying that the witness had no shame when he received the bonus despite the company going down the drain under his leadership.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Akram Gharib then stood up and objected to this.

"We are not deciding on the issue of morality. The line of questioning is not relevant to the case. The witness has already answered. The question only amounts to his opinion," Akram said.

Shafee replied that he was trying to prove the inconsistent answers provided by the witness.

**Shafee:** The only reason you were shameless in receiving this money is because you were part and parcel of this scam with Jho Low (fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho) together with Shahrol Azral (former 1MDB CEO). That's why you received the money (bonus).

**Hazem:** I disagree. Trial before judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah continues today.

Najib, 68, is charged with 25 counts of abuse of power and money laundering involving RM2.28 billion of 1MDB funds which were deposited into his accounts between 2011 and 2014.

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



Former 1Malaysia Development Bhd chief executive officer Mohd Hazem Abd Rahman (left) and Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah (below) at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIX BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI





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GUAN ENG GRAFT TRIAL

## Witness: BUCG had advantage in 'open tender' bid for undersea tunnel project

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Beijing Urban Construction Group (BUCG), which was awarded the controversial RM6.34 billion undersea tunnel project by the Penang government under Lim Guan Eng, had a one-year advantage over others in preparing its Request for Proposal (RFP) through open tender.

This was revealed in the Sessions Court here yesterday by former state economic planning unit (Upem) officer Muhamad Azrai Mohamad Zaini, who acknowledged that the company officials had attended several meetings with state officials in the run-up to the submission of the RFP in 2012.

He said the meetings were held in 2011 and that top state officers, including former state Public Works, Public Utilities and Transportation Affairs Committee chairman Datuk Lim Hock Seng, had discussed with BUCG officials on what was required in the RFP.

Azrai, who was testifying in Guan Eng's corruption trial in which the former Penang chief minister is facing four corruption charges, said this when he was questioned by deputy public prosecutor Wan Shaharudin Wan Ladin.

Asked if there was any conflict



Muhamad Azrai Mohamad Zaini

of interest in the meetings between BUCG and state officials considering the company intended to bid for the project, Azrai said: "There will be conflict of interest when a company that bids for the project is also involved in preparing for the RFP (with state officers)."

Asked if it was proper for BUCG officials to have been involved in such meetings as it was bidding for the project, the 39-year-old, who was then the assistant director of infrastructure in Upem, said it should not have happened.

**Wan Shaharudin:** What kind of

advantage did BUCG get compared with other companies that bid for the project?

**Azrai:** BUCG got to know from very early on the scope of work and terms and conditions that would be imposed on those bidding for the project.

**Wan Shaharudin:** The RFP for the project was issued in July 2012, but the meetings between BUCG and state officials happened from 2011. How long did they have (to prepare for the RFP)?

**Azrai:** Almost one year.

**Wan Shaharudin:** Why didn't you raise the involvement of BUCG in such meetings with your superiors?

**Azrai:** I was just a junior officer at that time and I assumed that my immediate bosses were aware of what was happening. I, therefore, did not feel it necessary to report about BUCG's involvement in the meetings.

BUCG is part of the Consortium Zenith BUCG (CZBUCG) joint venture that was eventually awarded the controversial Penang undersea tunnel and three paired roads project.

The court previously heard that work had not started on any of the planned infrastructure apart from preliminary work on one of

the road parcels. Guan Eng has been accused of seeking and accepting bribes from CZBUCG managing director Datuk Zarul Ahmad Mohd Zulkifli.

At the hearing yesterday, Azrai confirmed that Zarul had attended at least three of the meetings with state officials to discuss the mega project in 2011.

Guan Eng's lawyer, Gobind Singh Deo, later put Azrai under the hammer over his testimony. The defence counsel questioned the witness on his experience in dealing with RFPs.

To this, Azrai said he had handled only one RFP prior to the undersea tunnel project and it involved the construction of a medical centre in Lorong Selamat, George Town.

Gobind then zoomed in on Azrai's statement that BUCG had an unfair advantage over others when it bid for the project as the company had already attended meetings with state officials.

He suggested to Azrai that the meetings were actually a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding that the state government had signed with the company.

The lawyer then got Azrai to agree that there was, therefore, no issue with such a meeting to be held between the parties.

Gobind also pressed Azrai to agree with his assertion that BUCG would actually not have any advantage in its RFP as one year would have lapsed and not all things that had been discussed would be included.

However, Azrai said BUCG would know what had been proposed and what would be needed in the RFP.

Guan Eng, who is DAP secretary-general, is accused of using his position as the then chief minister to solicit gratification to help CZBUCG secure the tunnel project.

He is alleged to have sought 10 per cent of the profit to be made by the company from Zarul.

He is also accused of using his position as the then chief minister to receive RM3.3 million in gratification for himself as an inducement for helping the company secure the project.

For the third and fourth charges, Guan Eng is accused of causing two plots of land belonging to the Penang government worth RM208.8 million to be disposed of to two companies linked to the tunnel project.

Guan Eng has pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

The trial before Sessions Court judge Azura Alwi continues on Sept 10. **By Sharanjit Singh**

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## Another govt dept engineer remanded over alleged graft

**SHAH ALAM:** The magistrate's court here yesterday issued an order for another government department engineer to be remanded for five days over alleged corruption following an application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). An MACC source said the 40-year-old engineer was arrested on Friday. On Aug 18, five individuals, including an engineers and two assistant engineers, were ordered to be remanded for investigation into the same case. They were believed to have solicited and received bribes amounting to more than RM120,000 from a contractor to obtain construction projects of a road and a tahfiz school in Hulu Selangor and more than RM8,000 for the maintenance and repair of a government office. **Bernama**