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THE CIRCLE LINE

MRT3 LINE GETS GOVT NOD

It will link MRT1, MRT2 into a giant loop around Greater Klang Valley

ADIB POVERA
KUALA LUMPUR
adibpovera@nst.com.my

THE government has approved the construction of the third Mass Rapid Transit Line 3 (MRT3) that will link MRT1 (Kajang) and MRT2 (Putrajaya) lines into one giant loop around the Greater Klang Valley.

Also known as the Circle Line, the project was suspended by the Pakatan Harapan-led federal administration.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, in a statement yesterday, said priority for the project would be given to local contractors, especially Bumiputeras, to generate business opportunities and employment opportunities for the people.

"The implementation of this project will drive economic growth and development in line with the government's aim to empower the business sector and to generate 600,000 jobs this year.

"The government has decided to approve the implementation of the MRT3 project to complete the public transport infrastructure in the Klang Valley by providing an integrated transportation system that is affordable for the people."

Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) was reported as saying that the entire alignment of the MRT3 would be about 50km.

The preliminary plans for the



The implementation of the Mass Rapid Transit Line 3 project will drive the country's economic growth and development. FILE PIC

MRT3 include 30 stations, comprising 10 MRT interchange stations, light rail transit (LRT) and KTM Komuter lines.

Ismail Sabri also said the cabinet had agreed to set aside RM15 billion in additional expenses over a period of seven years starting next year to enhance and expedite flood mitigation projects.

The cabinet, he said, made the decision following the recent floods that were triggered by the northeast monsoon.

Ismail Sabri said the government had set aside RM1 billion in allocation annually under the 12th Malaysia Plan for flood mitigation projects.

"After taking into considerations the flood phenomenon in

the wake of the northeast monsoon, which claimed many lives and destroyed properties, the cabinet has decided to enhance and expedite flood mitigation projects with an additional allocation of RM15 billion for the period of 2023 until 2030."

He also said the government had agreed to implement the Sarawak-Sabah Link Road (SSLR) and Trans Borneo Highway project, which will complement the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sarawak and Sabah.

He said the first phase of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sarawak involving 786km had reached 78 per cent completion rate.

Meanwhile, he said the con-

struction of the first phase of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sabah comprising 15 work packages had reached 52 per cent and was expected to be completed by October 2024.

"To enhance road connectivity in Sabah, the government has agreed to go ahead with the implementation of 19 additional work packages in the state.

"The additional work packages will involve 367km, which will take five years to be completed."

The implementation of all these high-impact projects, he said, was expected to stimulate economic development, increase the competitiveness of the nation and elevate the wellbeing of the people.

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Former Mara Incorporated Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Mohammad Lan Allani (right) arriving at the Sessions Court in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC BY ERSIE ANJUMIN

NOT GUILTY PLEA

EX-MARA INC CHAIRMAN FACES RM10M GRAFT RAP

Ex-assemblyman charged with two counts of money laundering

ERSIE ANJUMIN
KOTA KINABALU
news@nst.com.my

A FORMER Mara Incorporated Sdn Bhd chairman was charged with two counts of money laundering involving RM10 million at the Sessions Court here.

Datuk Mohammad Lan Allani, 65, pleaded not guilty to the charges before judge Abu Bakar Manat yesterday.

The first and second charges stated that the former Sulabayan assemblyman had allegedly transferred RM3 million and RM7 million, respectively, from his CIMB Bank Private Banking Portfolio account to his CIMB Bank

current account, believed to be proceeds from illegal activities, at CIMB Bank in Jalan Sagunting, Central Building, here, on Dec 10, 2012.

Both charges fall under Section 4(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001, which provides for a fine of up to RM5 million or a jail term of up to five years, or both, upon conviction.

Earlier, the prosecution proposed bail of RM100,000.

Counsel Luke Ressa Balang, who represented Mohammad Lan, said they had no objection to the bail amount and asked for one local surety.

Abu Bakar allowed bail of RM100,000 with one local surety and fixed June 30 for pre-trial case management.

No additional conditions were stipulated as the accused's passport was already surrendered to the court when he was charged with corruption at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court last year.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission deputy public prosecutor Allan Suman Pillai prosecuted and was assisted by DPPs Hareesh Prakash Somiah and Mohd Shahrom Idris.

It was reported that Mohammad Lan was also charged with 20 counts of corruption amounting to RM20.45 million involving property deals in Melbourne, Australia.

He was charged under Sections 16(a) and 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009, which carries a fine of not less than 10 times the value of the bribe or RM1 million, whichever is higher, or imprisonment of up to 20 years, or both.

All the offences were allegedly committed at several locations, including at the Maybank Mont Kiara branch and Solaris Mont Kiara Kuala Lumpur branch between September 2012 and July 26, 2013, and at CIMB Bank, Jalan Sagunting, Central Building, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, on Dec 10, 2012.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMMES

Tax relief incentives a boon for private firms

I APPLAUD the government's initiative, through the Finance Ministry, to agree in principle to the application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for an income tax deduction to any private company or corporation that conducts corporate social responsibility on corruption prevention and educational programmes.

These programmes enable private companies and corporate organisations to obtain tax deductions under Section 34(6)(h) of the Income Tax Act 1967.

The provision states that corporate and private companies or organisations are eligible to apply for a tax deduction from the gross business income, an amount equal to the amount of expenses incurred.

The tax relief incentive is to encourage more private companies or corporate organisations to collaborate with MACC to conduct anti-corruption programmes.

This is an important contribution to cultivate integrity and hatred for corruption in our society.

Anti-corruption programmes through these CSR programmes will benefit the public, including schools and higher learning institutions.

What is more interesting is that these programmes must not be business-oriented, profit-motivated or touch on political issues.

Thus, the opportunity is wide open for the private sector to contribute towards raising awareness on the impact of corruption on society and the country.

It is hoped that society will avoid the evils of corruption that can destroy the nation's future.

The synergy among private companies, MACC and the public to eradicate corruption needs to be established and strengthened.

So, why wait? The private sector can seize this opportunity by contacting MACC to obtain information on the integrity and anti-corruption and educational programmes to be conducted for the benefit of every level of society.

ABDUL HAKIM ABDULLAH

Ampang, Selangor

REMANDED BY MACC

2 more held in religious school graft probe

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has remanded two more people to assist a probe into a corruption case involving the upgrading and infrastructure maintenance works of a Selangor religious school.

The two men, aged 42 and 58, will be remanded until Monday.

The remand order against the duo was issued by magistrate Nur Faizah Abdul Sani at the Shah Alam courts yesterday.

Sources revealed that the suspects were detained by Selangor MACC after having their statement recorded about 7.30pm on Thursday.

The sources added that the two men, who were the senior supervisor and supervisor of a religious department, had allegedly received a RM40,000 bribe as a reward for recommending and procuring the religious school's upgrading and infrastructure maintenance works in 2020.

Selangor MACC director Datuk Alias Salim confirmed the arrests.

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25 CHARGES

Headmaster claims trial to abuse of power

KOTA KINABALU: A civil servant claimed trial at the Special Corruption Court here yesterday to 25 counts of abusing his power involving RM36,466.15.

Hussin Amid, 53, pleaded not guilty to all charges before judge Abu Bakar Manat.

The charges stated that Hussin, as a headmaster of a primary school in Kota Kinabalu, allegedly used his position for gratification by appointing two companies belonging to his wife and his brother to make supplies for the school.

The first to 13th charges involved his wife's company amounting to RM24,140, while the rest of the charges involved his brother's company amounting to RM12,326.15.

The alleged offences took place between November 2017 and October 2019 at the school.

All charges fall under Section 23(1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 and are punishable under Section 24(1) of the same Act.

It carries a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine of five times the bribe amount or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

The court fixed May 24 for case re-mention.

Hussin was allowed bail of RM10,000 but only RM6,000 had to be deposited with the court with a local surety, pending disposal.

The court ordered Hussin to report to the Sabah MACC office once in two months, and to surrender his passport to the court.

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AUTOMOTIVE INSTITUTE

9 remanded over RM85 million project

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) remanded nine individuals, including a Datuk, to assist investigations related to a RM85 million project involving an automotive institute.

MACC special operations division senior director Datuk Tan

Kang Sai confirmed the arrests yesterday.

All nine suspects, including a woman, were detained at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya on Wednesday.

Four were company owners, and the other four comprised a medical consultant, an account-

ant, a company director and chief executive, as well as chief operational officer of a company.

Earlier yesterday, Putrajaya magistrate Tuan Shah Wira Abdul Halim granted a remand order of between three and six days against all nine suspects, aged between 34 and 58.