

**MONDAY OCTOBER 1, 2012**

**Auditor-General assures no cover-up in audit report - By ONG HAN SEAN**

KUANTAN: ***Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang*** has given the assurance that there will be no cover-up of the Auditor-General's Report due to be tabled in Parliament soon. Responding to criticisms from opposition leaders on the delay of the report's release, Ambrin said it was to allow enough time to debate the national budget as had been explained by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz. "I also wish to clarify that we audit all the state governments irrespective of whether they are A or B," Ambrin told reporters after the opening of the 1Malaysia Audit Day and the annual public sector auditors' conference here Monday. Bernama quoted Ambrin as saying that Aziz had asked for more time to allow longer debate to prevent the audit report from stealing the limelight from the budget. "We have nothing to hide. Last year, the Auditor-General's Report 2010 was tabled two weeks after Budget 2012," he added. Nazri was recently reported as saying that the report will be tabled one week after Budget 2013. In another development, Ambrin said agencies involved in delivering aid to disaster victims must follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) by the National Audit Department (NAD). "We are flexible when it comes to disasters but the officers involved must record them so that we know where the money comes from and where it goes," he added.

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2012**

**No bias in state audits, says Auditor-General - [hansean@thestar.com.my](mailto:hansean@thestar.com.my)**

KUANTAN: The accounts of state governments led by Barisan Nasional as well as Pakatan Rakyat were scrutinised in equal measure in the Auditor-General's Report, **Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang** said. Ambrin assured that the report, which will be tabled in Parliament two weeks after the recent tabling of Budget 2013, was also impartial on spending by the Federal Government. "I wish to clarify that we audit all the state governments irrespective of whether they are (governed by party) A' or B'," Ambrin told reporters after the opening of the 1Malaysia Audit Day and the annual public sector auditors' conference here yesterday.



**General guidelines:** Adnan checking out an audit book on guidelines after opening the 1Malaysia Audit Day. Looking on is Ambrin (left) and Deputy Auditors-General Datuk Anwari Suri and Datuk Mustafa Saman (right). Responding to Opposition leaders who have questioned the delay in the release of the report, Ambrin said it was to allow enough time to debate the Budget as explained by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz.

DAP adviser and Ipoh Timur MP Lim Kit Siang in his blog demanded that the report be tabled without delay. He also questioned whether Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Nazri were afraid that the audit would contain "explosive exposes". Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng was also reported to have said that he was seeking Nazri's permission for Penang to make public the A-G's Report on the state. Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who launched the event, defended the Auditor-General, adding that the question of bias did not arise. "If the Government wants to cover up, then there will be nothing at all. It will be just like a dictatorial system where the Auditor-General will be told not to highlight this and that," said Adnan.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 6, 2012

### Auditor-General verifies Scorpene buy follows procedures, says Zahid

BAGAN DATOH: *Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi* said the **Auditor-General** has already explained that the purchase of Scorpene submarines was made according to legal procedures and his official report must be accepted by all quarters. In response to the opposition's plan to bring in a French lawyer, William Bourdon, to brief the Malaysian lawmakers on court proceedings in France on the purchase of the submarines, Ahmad Zahid hoped no quarter would twist the existing facts on the matter. He was also in the opinion that the lawyer was invited to Malaysia by the opposition merely with political motive and not so much for legal business. Ahmad Zahid said this to reporters after opening the Sekolah Agama Rakyat Al-Ulum Al Tarbiah's Sports Day in Kampung Tanah Lalang here on Saturday. **The purchase of the submarines should be seen from the aspects of an offset programme, training, and performance assurance for certain period of time, he said.** Ahmad Zahid said this in response to the invitation made by Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to a French lawyer, William Bourdon, who represented Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram), to brief the Dewan Rakyat on court proceedings in France on the purchase of the submarines. Ahmad Zahid said the invitation was made by the opposition with the aim to tarnish the image of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who held the post of Defence Minister when the submarine was purchased. "However, I will personally defend the moves because the purchase involved a thoroughly negotiated price and specifications. "This is really an old issue and it was brought up to create public anger and confusion," he added.

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, 2012

### Ahmad Zahid: A-G report shows Scorpene submarine purchase legal

BAGAN DATOH: Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Auditor-General has already explained that the purchase of Scorpene submarines was made according to legal procedures. "The Auditor-General's official report must be adopted by all quarters. Don't try to twist the existing facts," he said in response to the opposition's plan to bring in a French lawyer, William Bourdon, to brief Malaysian lawmakers on court proceedings in France on the purchase of the submarines. He said the invitation to the lawyer was motivated by political interest and had nothing to do with legal business. Ahmad Zahid said this to reporters after opening the Sekolah Agama Rakyat Al-Ulum Al Tarbiah's Sports Day in Kampung Tanah Lalang here yesterday. The purchase of the submarines should be seen from the aspects of an offset programme, training, and performance assurance for certain period of time, he said, adding that it was an old issue brought up to create public anger and confusion. "This is a political issue and not a legal issue. So, it is unreasonable for the lawyer to get involved in political affairs in our country," he added. The lawyer who also represented Suaram was invited by Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

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The lawyer who also represented Suaram was invited by Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. — Bernama

**MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2012**

**Auditor-General: Govt's financial management improved in 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR: The financial management of government agencies for 2011 recorded a better performance compared with 2010, said Auditor-General [Tan Sri Ambrin Buang](#). He said of all the government agencies that were evaluated, 111 agencies or 31.4% were rated "very good" (four stars), compared with 77 agencies (21.6%) in 2010 and 48 agencies (12%) in 2009. "This remarkable achievement shows implementation of the accountability index has motivated the Controlling Officers to take measures towards improving their financial management," he said in a statement issued here Monday. The 2011 Auditor-General's Report will be distributed to parliamentary members at the Dewan Rakyat sitting later in the day. Ambrin said the National Audit Department had implemented the rating system, which was based on the Accountability Index in 2007 to gauge the extent of compliance by government departments and agencies to laws and regulations. Ambrin said that based on the audit on 456 financial statements for 2011, 388 of them were given the Audit Certificate Without Reprimand. The other 25 financial statements were issued the Audit Certificate With Reprimand because they did not meet the stipulated accounting standards, and the remaining 25 financial statements were still in the process of being audited, he added. He said this was better than in 2010 where only 368 financial statements were given the Audit Certificate Without Reprimand while 33 financial statements were given the Audit Certificate With Reprimand. Ambrin said the Government's revenue collection also showed an increase of RM25.77bil last year

with a total collection of RM185.42bil from RM159.65bil in 2010. "The increase in the world price of crude oil, strong domestic economic growth, as well as continuous enforcement activities by the Malaysian Inland Revenue Board and the Customs Department contributed to the increasing revenue," he added

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