

1. MACC records statements from SRC director Suboh, Jho Low

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded the statements of SRC International director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin and businessman Low Taek Jho, as the graftbusters near the end of their probe into the Finance Ministry subsidiary.

Its deputy chief commissioner Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull said officers travelled overseas to meet Suboh and Low over the weekend to record their statements.

"I haven't read the statements. They (officers) just came back. The statements were taken overseas. I don't want to say where. It was done yesterday and two days ago," he told reporters Tuesday.

"Now we are waiting for PM's statement. We have sent a notice to the PM's Office and we are waiting for him to respond," Mohd Shukri said after a dinner to commemorate the MACC Academy's 10th anniversary here.

On Nov 20, the MACC recorded SRC's managing director Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil's statement for its investigations into the company.

Nik Faisal, Suboh and Low - who is more commonly known as Jho Low - were named in August by the commission as people they wanted to question regarding alleged misuse of funds in SRC.

SRC was a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) until it was taken over by the Finance Ministry in February 2012 via a non-cash dividend transaction worth RM1mil.

2. MACC meets PMO over RM2.6bil funds

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) met the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to give his statement concerning the RM2.6bil donation in his personal account.

The MACC confirmed in a statement Thursday that it had a meeting to fix the date and time for Najib to give his statement regarding SRC International Sdn Bhd and the RM2.6bil funds.

It, however, did not reveal when Najib would be giving his statement but said updates concerning the matter would be given from time to time.

Earlier in the day, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman said that Najib was following the advice of the Attorney-General's Chambers when he did not personally answer questions in the Dewan Rakyat about the RM2.6bil.

The Prime Minister had said recently that he would give a statement to MACC to assist in the ongoing probe into allegations of graft in SRC International, a former subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).



Monday, 7 December 2015

3. PM: Attacks on 1MDB are all lies and not facts

KUALA LUMPUR: The attacks and criticisms on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) are nothing but a war of perception, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said after properly explaining the real issue behind the 1MDB issue, it was clear that the matter could be easily resolved.

"The reality is the company has yet to default and it has assets to back up its loans.

"And a company from China has bought some of 1MDB assets worth about RM17bil," he said in his remarks at the closing ceremony of the National undergraduate leadership conference (Pemanas 3.0) at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

Najib also hit out at certain people who, he said, only wanted to attack the government via a war of perception.

"They fight with us using *auta bukan fakta* (lies and not facts).

"I believe after properly explaining the issue, the youth will come back to us," said Najib who is Umno president.

He also noted that Malaysia was not a failed state, but a success story that everyone should be proud of.

"When world leaders came to Malaysia recently for the Asean meeting, they showed us so much respect," he said.

Najib said he met with several world leaders including American President Barack Obama and China's Premier Li Keqiang to discuss various bilateral trades agreement.

"I even told President Barack Obama that Malaysia wants to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), but on our terms.

"We must understand, our competitors now are advanced economies such as Korea and Europe.

"If Vietnam dares to enter the TPPA, where is our courage?

"We cannot just cheer from behind.

"We must be brave to compete with international players and succeed," the Prime Minister said.

He said the Government had to make unpopular decisions for the betterment of the country.

"When we develop a country, we must understand there are a lot of constraints for the Government.

"There must be a trade off. Although some decisions seem unpopular, the Government is doing so for the betterment of the country in the long term," he said.



Tuesday, 8 December 2015

4. Najib: RM2.6bil donation not from public fund, 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak (*pic*) stressed that the RM2.6bil donation deposited into his account is neither from a public fund nor the government's strategic investment company, 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

He said the matter had already been verified by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), which had also found the donors.

"I have not committed any offence or malpractice, this has been explained in the Parliament by the Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi).

"The donors have been verified and found by the MACC and the commission have also obtained their statements," he said over TV3.

Asked why the funds were deposited into his account, the prime minister explained that it was the donor's wish and the donation was made in personal capacity.

He said that Bank Negara was notified when the account was created.

"So, there is no intention at all to cheat or to commit an offence because Bank Negara had been notified about the existence of this account.

"But, do not be confused, the account is in my name, but it is not like a personal account. And I am sure that once the investigation is completed, the truth will prevail," he said.

The MACC has confirmed sending its officials to the Middle East to meet with the donor.

Its investigation director Datuk Azam Baki said they would submit a report to the Attorney-General as soon as the investigation was completed.

MACC, however, did not disclose the results of the meeting as the investigation was still ongoing. - Bernama



Wednesday, 9 December 2015

5. MACC to plug loopholes in mining for bauxite

KUANTAN: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is looking into plugging loopholes in bauxite mining regulations that has left the industry open to abuse.

Pahang MACC director Datuk Zainul Darus said the commission was preparing two papers on regulating bauxite mining, which it will hand over to the state government by early next year.

At present, bauxite is not listed in the laws covering natural resources. The closest term is laterite.

Such "loose regulations" had left the industry open to bribery and cut into the 5% royalty that should be levied from the estimated two million tonnes of bauxite mined a month, said Zainul.

On Nov 17, Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob blamed "crooked" mining operators among the reasons the state government did not receive the full RM10mil monthly royalty expected.

"When the term 'bauxite' is included in the law, enforcement agencies will be able to take specific action.

"Right now, the Department of Environment can only act in terms of lorry overloading and bauxite dust spillage," said Zainul.

The Geoscience Department was unable to take action in terms of issuing permits, levies and taxes, he said at a MACC community programme to mark International Anti-Corruption Day.

Zainul said more community programmes would be carried out throughout the state next year as part of MACC's efforts to build ties with the people.



Monday, 14 December 2015

6. Education Ministry has no debt with school construction contractors

KUALA LUMPUR: The Education Ministry does not owe any contractor any debt with regard to school construction projects, says deputy minister P. Kamalanathan (*pic*).

He said the ministry was obliged under the Treasury Instruction (AP) 103 and financial regulations to settle any claim for payment from contractors, within 14 days upon receiving the relevant documents.

"It must be understood that claims for payment from contractors for conventional projects are made through the consultants.

"The consultants are responsible for assessing the projects, and signing and forwarding the payment claim documents," he said at the Dewan Negara here Monday.

He was responding to a question from Senator Datuk Hamzah Mohd Kassim on claims that had yet to be paid to contractors who had completed school construction projects.

He stressed that the ministry would not unnecessarily hold back any payment from the contractors regardless of whether they are bumiputera or of other races.

"We will get a summary of the completed projects from the consultants; if the contractor concerned had failed to follow the scope of the job, then the report would not be favourable.

"The assessments are normally not done by us but by the consultants; if the completed scope differed from the original scope, our consultants would not forward the payment claim to us," he said.

Nevertheless, Kamalanathan said contractors could always approach and seek the ministry's advice.

"We are always willing to provide guidance and advice to the contractors on avoiding the hitches.

"We do not wish to be accountable if the contractor fails to complete the project or has done a 'low standard' job because we are talking about the school here, the building where our children study," he added.



Wednesday, 16 December 2015

7. Former Immigration DG's corruption conviction upheld



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here upheld the conviction and sentence against former Immigration Department director-general Datuk Wahid Md Don (*pic*).

Justice Amelia said evidence showed that the transaction existed.

Wahid, 62, was found guilty by the Sessions Court for corruption involving visa applications for 4,337 Bangladeshis, and sentenced him to six years in prison and a RM300,000 fine.

Wahid was first charged on Aug 19, 2008, with agreeing to accept a RM60,000 bribe from businessman Datuk Low Chang Hian as part of the payment to expedite the approval of visa applications for 4,337 Bangladeshis to enable them to enter Malaysia.

He is accused of committing the offence in Jalan Lembah Ledang, off Jalan Duta here, at 10.15pm on July 10, 2008, while still a director-general.

Wahid, who served 35 years in government service, has since retired.

8. A-G's final report on 1MDB deferred to later date

PETALING JAYA: The Auditor-General's final report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), which is to be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), has been deferred to a later date.

PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin confirmed that the final report would not be handed over to the bi-partisan parliament committee today as scheduled earlier.

"This is because the National Audit Department needs to update some of the information.

"The PAC is of the view that the final report on 1MDB needs to be transparent, comprehensive and fair to ensure the audit is comprehensive and complete as required by Parliament and the people," he said in a statement here yesterday.

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PAC deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw said the Auditor-General must be given room to ensure the final report was based on facts.

"The report must present the truth. It must be submitted to the PAC and Parliament as soon as possible," he said when contacted.

Dr Tan noted that the Auditor-General may require time to complete the final report as it was a comprehensive audit on 1MDB.

On July 9, Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang presented the department's initial findings to the PAC.

Only the Auditor-General's final report will be tabled in Parliament and Ambrin said in September that the department was working hard to complete it by year's end.

In March, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak directed the Auditor-General to carry out an audit of 1MDB with its findings tabled in Parliament.

Meanwhile, Hasan said 1MDB's president and chief executive officer Arul Kandasamy would resume testimony before the PAC tomorrow. He was called in to appear before the committee on Dec 1.

On a separate matter, the Prime Minister has requested a special Parliament sitting this coming Jan 25 and Jan 26 to allow lawmakers to debate the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

Dewan Rakyat's Legislative Division will issue notices to MPs once the dates are confirmed.

9. PAC to summon 1MDB's chairman, satisfied with Arul Kanda's explanation

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will continue its proceedings on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) by summoning the company's current and former chairmen in January.

1MDB chairman Tan Sri Lodin Wok Kamaruddin will be called on Jan 19 while the company's ex-chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh a day later.

According to PAC chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin, if there was a need, 1MDB's former president and chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Halmi would be recalled to help complete the investigations.

"PAC has also given time to the National Audit Department to complete the final audit report which is expected to be tabled by the Auditor-General to the committee, at the latest by the end of February next year," he said in a statement Friday.

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Earlier, 1MDB president and group executive director Arul Kanda Kandasamy appeared before PAC for the second time to give more explanation in respect to 1MDB.

The PAC said it was satisfied with Arul Kanda's explanation over 1MDB's rationalisation plan following the three-hour meeting.

Arul Kanda was previously summoned by PAC on Dec 1, while Shahrol Azral was called a day earlier.

The PAC is probing 1MDB over its dealings

10. Tony Pua: Auditor-General's 1MDB report only in February



KUALA LUMPUR: The Auditor-General's final report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) is only expected to be completed by February next year as it has yet to receive certain documents, says Public Accounts Committee (PAC) member Tony Pua (*pic*).

He said the PAC was told that the Auditor-General just received some new documents from 1MDB but was still waiting for a number of other documents they had promised.

"Because of that, the Auditor-General's final report to the PAC is still not ready," he said, adding they were told to only expect it in February or thereabouts.

"Whether or not it happens we will have to wait and see," Pua told reporters outside Parliament.

The PAC held a session with 1MDB president Arul Kanda Kandasamy earlier Friday but the media was barred from entering the Parliament compound to provide coverage.

Pua said that the PAC had completed fielding its questions to Arul, but it was too early to judge if the committee was satisfied with the proceedings so far.

He said the meeting also decided that 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Lodin Wok Kamaruddin and former 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh would be asked to appear before the PAC on Jan 19 and 20.

He said each would appear separately before the PAC.

11. 1MDB: WSJ offered nothing new in latest article

PETALING JAYA: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) says a recent article published by the *Wall Street Journal* contained "old and recycled" allegations against the company.

"The allegations are simply a regurgitation of old claims carried by the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) in September, which it has re-written and re-published without offering any new information or evidence," the firm said in a statement yesterday.

"It is interesting that Opposition leaders and certain publications re-published and commented on this latest article barely minutes after it was published, raising questions as to whether this is part of a broader orchestrated campaign against 1MDB."

1MDB raised doubts over the article being published at a time when the firm was making progress with its rationalisation process, with a successful Share Sale and Purchase Agreement with CGN Group, and the impending selection of a preferred development partner for its Bandar Malaysia project.

"With respect to 1MDB's past dealings with International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC), the two companies continue to enjoy a strong business relationship," the statement read.

"This was reflected in the execution of a binding term sheet that saw IPIC assume obligation for a US\$3.5bil (RM15.05bil) bond principal and interest, currently held by 1MDB, and followed a US\$1bil (RM4.3bil) cash payment made by IPIC to 1MDB in June 2015."

1MDB said that IPIC had reaffirmed its commitment to partnering with the company via a statement in October, and had made interest payments on the bonds in October and November.

12. A-G: MACC still has time to deliver SRC International investigation report



PUTRAJAYA: With less than two weeks left in the year, Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohd Apandi Ali (*pic*) is still waiting for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) final investigation report into SRC International, a former 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) subsidiary.

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"I'm still waiting for the report from MACC.

"The year has not ended, okay? Another two weeks isn't it? Don't worry I will let you know," he said to reporters at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) on Saturday.

Last October, MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull said the agency would try its best to complete investigations by the end of the year.

13. MACC will not reveal identity of RM2.6bil donor

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will not reveal details about the identity of the donor of the RM2.6bil that was deposited into the personal bank account of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak because it is prevented from doing so under the law.

"MACC has no problem revealing details of the investigation if it does not go against the law," said its director of special operations Datuk Bahri Mohamad Zin in a statement.

He said existing provisions under the law prevented MACC from doing so.

Bahri said that under the MACC Act, the commission was prevented from revealing detailed information on a case to the public.

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He said that this was also in line with the comments made by former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman who had posted on his blog on Saturday that the MACC had no power to give details of its investigations until the matter had been brought to court.

The statement was in response to Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli's remarks calling for the commission to reveal the identity of the donors.

Bahri said, as a lawmaker, Rafizi should understand the restraints imposed upon the commission.

He also said that MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed had ordered investigators to make their recommendations regardless of their findings, which would then be presented to the Attorney-General.

Bahri said the commission believed that this was important to ensure that all parties know that MACC had taken every decision professionally and independently.

"On behalf of the MACC, I guarantee that the investigations into the case of SRC International and the RM2.6bil donation would be carried out independently, transparently and professionally," he said.

14. MACC submits SRC, RM2.6bil investigation papers to AG



PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has submitted its investigation papers on SRC International and the RM2.6bil political donation to the Attorney-General.

The commission's deputy chief commissioner for operations Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull said that MACC had submitted two sets of papers concerning the case of SRC International to the Attorney-General on Dec 31.

He said that the day before, MACC had revealed the findings of the investigation to a special independent panel, which comprised five members representing various independent bodies that had been monitoring MACC's investigation process.

Shukri said that the members comprised experts from the fields of law, banking, corporate and investigation.

The panel members were for Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan, former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mohd Noor Abdullah, former Bank Negara Deputy Governor Datuk Zamani Abdul Ghani, former Bar Council President Lim Chee Wee and lawyer Datuk Zuraidah Atan.

"The panel members had also expressed suggestions and constructive views to MACC," he said.

Shukri stated that more than 100 witnesses had given their statements during the whole process.

"MACC is satisfied with the explanations which were obtained, although there were many challenges and obstacles faced," he said.

Shukri added that MACC had submitted a paper on the RM2.6bil.

He said that investigations, involving witnesses within Malaysia, had been completed and statements had also been taken from parties that had claimed to be contributors of the RM2.6bil.

However, Shukri said that MACC had yet to complete its investigation relating to the documents and statements involving several financial institutions overseas.

"These documents and statements can only be obtained through the process of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) because it is related to a country's banking provisions under the law," he stressed.

Shukri said that the MLA process can only be issued with the consent and the approval of the Attorney-General as stated under international law.

"MACC has made a request under the MLA to the Attorney General's Chambers to obtain the documents and statements mentioned," said Shukri.

He said that the commission is confident that the Attorney-General in his capacity as public prosecutor will come to a decision professionally.



Thursday, 31 December 2015

15. Exiting TPPA would bankrupt Malaysia, says Dr M



PETALING JAYA: While Malaysia could technically get out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) anytime it wanted, such a move would bankrupt the country due to litigation costs, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In a statement on his blog on Thursday, the former prime minister cautioned that it would not be so easy for the country to extricate itself from the treaty as was said by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Dr Mahathir explained that all parties who would lose profit, even future profit, from such a decision would be able to sue the Government as part of the treaty's agreements.

"In the TPPA agreement companies can sue the Government for loss of profit including future profit if Government action results in the loss," he said.

He gave the example of a Latin American country where the government was sued for several billion US dollars for stopping a mining operation granted to an American company over reasons of pollution.

"A decision to withdraw from the TPPA will obviously result in loss of profit and future profits by companies investing in Malaysia or trading with Malaysia.

"The withdrawal will involve numerous companies and the purported loss will run into hundreds of billions," he said, explaining that the courts would not be Malaysian and so would harbour no sympathy for our economy and finances.

"There is also no way we can pressure or bribe the courts. We will just have to pay the billions," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that the TPPA was not for promoting free trade, but rather for regulating trade.

He explained how Malaysia needed no such treaty before this when it became the seventeenth largest trading nation in the world.

"We were free to protect ourselves and to devise policies beneficial to all of us Malaysians.

"We grew fast at that time. We traded with whomever we liked," he said.

The TPPA is a multi-lateral free trade agreement that encompasses 12 countries -

Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, Vietnam and Japan.

Under the TPPA, Malaysian businesses will have access to other TPPA countries' markets while companies from those places can also apply here.

Concerns have been raised that such a treaty would limit Malaysia's sovereignty and its ability to protect its local businesses and the rights of its workers.



Thursday, 31 December 2015

16. IGP: A-G receives 1MDB documents from Thai counterpart



KUALA LUMPUR: The Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) has received documents pertaining to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) investigation from its Thai counterpart, including the information former PetroSaudi International executive Xavier Andre Justo shared with *Sarawak Report*.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar (*pic*) said the documents were handed over by the Thai attorney-general's chambers on Thursday.

"We are waiting for the AGC to go through the documents before passing them to us.

"The documents include the information Justo shared with *Sarawak Report* editor, Clare Rewcastle-Brown and also the transcript of the questioning between Malaysian police and him in Thailand recently," he said at Bukit Aman on Thursday.

Khalid said the documents would be examined by police before the investigation is wrapped up.

On Dec 15, Malaysian police were seen entering the prison in Bangkok at 10am local time to speak to Justo.

The Malaysian police team was headed by Bukit Aman CID deputy director Datuk Amar Singh Ishar Singh.

On Aug 17, Justo was sentenced to three years' jail by the South Bangkok Criminal Court for stealing 90 gigabytes of data that included emails, documents and other materials from PetroSaudi International.

Malaysian police had been trying to record his statement for the past few months.

The case drew interest in Malaysia over dealings between PetroSaudi and 1MDB.