

1. Mara submits documents to MACC over Melbourne property deal

KOTA BARU: Documents relating to the acquisition of assets by Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) overseas have been submitted to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for investigation.

Mara chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa said the documents were in connection with the allegedly purchase of three properties in Melbourne, Australia.

"So, let investigation be carried out. We have nothing to hide," he told reporters after presenting alms to 380 recipients in Ketereh parliamentary constituency here on Tuesday.

Annuar, who is also the Ketereh Member of Parliament, said his officers would not cover up anything relating to the purchase of Mara assets abroad and would cooperate with the various parties if required to.

Australian newspaper The Age had reported that a top Mara officer, senior official and former politician had allegedly spent millions in government funds to buy an apartment block in Melbourne in a property scam.

It alleged that "a group of extremely rich Malaysian officials" had overpaid by A\$4.75m (RM13.8m) for the apartment block in the city in 2013.

The trio had allegedly "overbid" for the building, called Dudley International House, from A\$17.8m to A\$22.5m (RM65.3m), with the difference pocketed as bribes back home.

Dudley International House is a student hostel, bought by Mara. The five-storey building located in suburban East Caulfield currently accommodates 115 Mara students studying at Monash University.

2. Najib: Fitch upgrade a reflection of Govt economic policies

PETALING JAYA: Fitch's upgrade on Malaysia's outlook is a reflection of the Government's financial and economic policies, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (*pic*).

"I am pleased that Fitch, the international ratings agency, has maintained Malaysia's credit rating and revised our outlook upwards to stable.

"In view of the many uncertainties in the external sector, the newly-announced ratings are indeed a reflection of our Government's financial management and economic policies," the Prime Minister said in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

The ratings agency had maintained Malaysia's long-term foreign currency default rating (IDR) at A- and local currency at A, with the outlook revised to Stable from Negative previously.

It said Malaysia's fiscal finances have improved and that it views progress on the GST and fuel subsidy reform as supportive of the fiscal finances.

In July 2013, Fitch had attached a "negative" outlook to Malaysia and suggested earlier this year that there was a 50% chance of a downgrade in the rating.



Thursday July 2, 2015

3. 1MDB: Will PAC probe 'missing RM42bil'

PETALING JAYA: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) wants the Public Account Committee to confirm if it will investigate the allegation of the "missing RM42bil" in the same way other allegations against 1MDB are to be investigated.

Its president Arul Kanda Kandasamy said this must be done in "fairness and due process" owing to PAC member Tony Pua's recent statement published online on why no action has been taken against 1MDB by the authorities.

"In the interest of fairness and due process, 1MDB trusts that YB Tony Pua will confirm that the PAC will investigate this specific allegation of "RM42 billion missing" in the same way he is insisting that other allegations against 1MDB are to be investigated," Arul said in a statement on Thursday.

Arul said the PAC "is the lawful authority to verify allegations such as whether the RM42bil has 'disappeared' from 1MDB.

Pua had questioned the Home Ministry's action of issuing a show-cause letter to The Edge for its reports on 1MDB although no action has been taken against those named in the daily's reports.

Pua, the Petaling Jaya Utara MP, described the move as "intimidating the business daily."

Arul noted that Pua had conveniently ignored to highlight that 1MDB "is currently the subject of inquiries by a number of authorities, including the Auditor-General, Bank Negara Malaysia and police."

"And last but not least, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), a committee that YB Tony Pua himself is a member of.

"1MDB is fully cooperating with these inquiries," he said.

He added that 1MDB had been providing evidence and proof relating to the company and will continue to do so in the course of ongoing investigations by the authorities.

He also noted that 1MDB had repeatedly issued clarifications to address allegations made by various parties, including Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Pua and The Edge media group.

Arul reaffirmed 1MDB's stand that action must be taken by the lawful authorities based on the due process of the law if any wrongdoing was uncovered.



Thursday July 2, 2015

4. Rafizi questions RM63mil in Mara's Aussie property deal

PETALING JAYA: Mara Inc declared a higher purchase price on its fourth property in Melbourne than the actual price it paid for, said the National Oversight and Whistleblowers (NOW).

NOW executive director Rafizi Ramli (*pic*) said based on internal documents presented to Mara chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa on May 20 last year, the 281 residential units at 746 Swanston Street were bought for RM138.6mil on Aug 28, 2012.

"However, checks by NOW on property website OnTheHouse showed that the business transaction for the 281 units in November 2012 was only for AUD\$23.5mil (RM75.7mil).

"This means a difference of RM63mil from the amount approved by Mara," Rafizi said in a statement on Thursday.

He said if the RM63mil was not paid by Mara, "then where is the money and who profited from this purchase?"

Following an expose by an Australian daily on the controversial Dudley House purchase by Mara, NOW alleged that there were further misappropriations in two other Mara properties involving more than RM50mil missing.

Rafizi added that another press conference would be held Monday to reveal the individuals behind the deals.



Thursday July 2, 2015

5. Interim audit on 1MDB completed according to schedule, says Auditor-General

KUALA LUMPUR: The interim report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has been completed according to schedule, that is June 30.

The Auditor-General's (AG) office, in a statement on Thursday, said the report will be handed over to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) at a briefing scheduled for July 9.

The interim report is the result of the audit conducted by the AG from March 10-June 15.

The AG's audit on 1MDB is still ongoing and a complete report will be handed to the PAC as soon as possible this year.



Thursday July 2, 2015

6. 'Mara overpaid for three properties in Melbourne'

KUALA LUMPUR: Mara Inc has overpaid by A\$19.1mil (RM66.2mil) for three properties purchased in Melbourne, claimed National Oversight and Whistleblowers (NOW).

After exposing two of the four controversial purchases, NOW executive director Akmal Nasir revealed in its latest findings that Mara (Majlis Amanah Rakyat) had overpaid about A\$5.35mil (RM18mil) for the 51 Queen Street property it purchased in March 2013.

The three alleged controversial properties were Dudley House apartment, 333 Exhibition Street and 51 Queen Street properties.

On Tuesday, NOW also revealed that Mara Inc had bought a property on 333 Exhibition Street for A\$31mil, although its market value was only A\$22mil some six months prior to the purchase.

Last week, Australian daily *The Age* reported that top Mara officials overpaid A\$4.75mil for the Dudley House apartment block in 2013, with allegations that kickbacks were offered to selected Malaysian officials.

"The purchase of the properties was made using the same method as the purchase of the Dudley House where the price paid by Mara Inc was far higher than the market value," said Akmal in a press conference yesterday, questioning whether the fourth property, 746 Swanston Street, which it purchased for A\$41.8mil (RM138.6mil), was also overpaid.

"It was impossible for the price of properties to increase to such an amount within three months for 51 Queen Street and six months for 333 Exhibition Street," he said, adding that the details of the purchase could be found at www.quintessential.com.au.

He also alleged that the buildings were sold by Quintessential Group of Companies to an unnamed buyer before it was sold to Mara.

"Tan Sri Annuar Musa (Mara chairman) should immediately release information about the unnamed buyer. Who are they? The people want to know," he said.

He also urged the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate the matter.

Annuar had said that it was proper for NOW to report to the MACC instead of going to the press.

He is expected to address the press today.



Friday, 3 July 2015

7. Najib didn't take our money, insists 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) insists that none of its funds went to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

The Finance Ministry-owned company said this in response to a Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report on Friday which claimed almost US\$700mil in funds from 1MDB went into Najib's personal accounts.

"In reference to media reports published earlier today, 1MDB wishes to make clear that the company has never provided any funds to the prime minister.

"To suggest otherwise, as some media outlets have done, is highly irresponsible and a deliberate attempt to undermine the company," it said in a statement.

Below is the statement issued by 1MDB:

1MDB never provided funds to PM

In reference to media reports published earlier today, 1MDB wishes to make clear that the company has never provided any funds to the Prime Minister. To suggest otherwise, as some media outlets have done, is highly irresponsible and a deliberate attempt to undermine the company.

Recent revelations have raised concerns about the veracity of a number of 'leaked' documents which certain media outlets, and online blogs such as Sarawak Report, have used to mislead the public and justify spurious allegations against the company and the government.

According to press reports, these documents were found to have been tampered with, and were being used by an individual - who is currently under arrest in a foreign country - to extort and blackmail his former employer.

We are therefore surprised that documents such as these, whose existence and authenticity have not been publicly verified, continue to be used as a basis to create new unsubstantiated allegations against 1MDB.

1MDB is currently cooperating with a number of enquiries being conducted by lawful authorities including the Auditor General, the Public Accounts Committee and Bank Negara. These authorities have all the relevant information, and we request all parties to await the outcome of their findings before making further allegations and rushing to judgement.

8. 'Keep the public informed on 1MDB probe'

PETALING JAYA: Investigative agencies must keep the public informed of their ongoing investigation into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) issue, said Bersih 2.0 chief Maria Chin Abdullah.

The civil society movement, she said, was giving the authorities until the end of August to show some form of progress in their investigations.

"We hope the investigations are made public to allow for scrutiny," she told reporters here yesterday.

Bersih, added Chin, wanted to see a response from the authorities to their request and how they were going to present the findings of their investigations.

She said she would not discount street demonstrations - Bersih 4.0 - if the investigations were found not to be impartial.

In a statement on Saturday, Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail had said that a special multi-agency task force was probing 1MDB's money trail, which allegedly ended in the Prime Minister's personal bank accounts.

The task force comprising officers from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Bank Negara, were going through documents taken from the premises of SRC International Sdn Bhd, Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd and Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd.

The Wall Street Journal had named the three companies in its report on July 2, claiming that US\$700mil was funnelled into what it believed to be Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's personal bank accounts.

Also probing 1MDB's dealings which resulted in the company running into RM42bil in debts is Parliament's bi-partisan Public Accounts Committee.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said police had yet to send investigators to Thailand to interview Swiss national Xavier Andre Justo.

"Once Thai police have concluded their investigations, we will send a team over to question him," he told reporters after handing over 300 new helmets to city traffic personnel yesterday.

It was reported that Thai police were open to the idea of their foreign counterparts interviewing the former PetroSaudi International executive arrested for allegedly attempting to blackmail his former employer.



Wednesday July 8, 2015

9. Task force investigates bank accounts, seizes documents

PETALING JAYA: The probe into claims that funds were channelled into the personal accounts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak heated up when the task force investigating the matter froze six bank accounts and said it was looking into 17 others.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) meanwhile revealed documents that it claimed were the basis of its controversial story.

The freeze on the six accounts was issued on Monday, according to a statement issued jointly by Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

"Several documents over the issue of non-compliance with Bank Negara's rules and procedures have also been seized," it read.

"As the investigations are still under way, we appeal to all parties to give their fullest cooperation to complete the probe."

It is learnt that the 17 accounts belonged to various companies and individuals.

Special Task Force Investigation on Allegations of Transfer of Funds Into Prime Minister's Accounts

MEDIA STATEMENT

(translated into English)

Following the media statement dated 4 July 2015, the Special Task Force wishes to provide a progress update on actions taken by the Task Force to date.

An order to freeze six bank accounts of the parties suspected to be involved with the case was issued on 6 July 2015.

In addition, the Special Task Force has seized documents relating to 17 accounts from two banks to facilitate investigations.

The Special Task Force has also seized documents pertaining to non-compliance of Bank Negara Malaysia's rules and procedures by the banks involved.

Investigations are still ongoing. The Special Task Force requests all parties to provide their full cooperation to complete the investigations.

Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail

Attorney-General of Malaysia

Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz

Governor, Bank Negara Malaysia

Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar

Inspector-General of Police, Royal Malaysian Police

Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed

Chief Commissioner, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission

7 July 2015

While neither the banks involved nor the holders of the accounts were named, several portals claimed they had received confirmation that three of the accounts belonged to Najib.

Hours after the statement was released, WSJ uploaded nine documents on its claim that US\$700mil (RM2.6bil) were channelled into three personal accounts of Najib.

The nine documents comprised three flow charts, three remittance forms, two credit transfer notices and a letter of authorisation by Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, the former chief investment officer of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

However, Najib's name appeared only in the flow charts. It was not in any of the banking documents in which the last few digits of the account numbers were blanked out.

A banker said it was normal that entire bank account numbers were not made public for fear that the accounts could be hacked.

"What is important is the codes in the documents are correct," said the banker.

The charts detail funds flowing from SRC International Sdn Bhd, a company that used to be under 1MDB but was subsequently taken over by the Finance Ministry in 2012, into personal accounts supposedly belonging to Najib.

According to the charts, the funds flowed into AmPrivate Banking in AmBank Islamic and the beneficiary, it claimed, was Najib.

Based on one chart, the funds flowed out of SRC International's account in AmBank Islamic into Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd, also in AmBank Islamic.

Subsequently, the money was transferred to Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd, whose account is in Affin Bank. From there, the funds were moved to AmPrivate Banking in AmBank Islamic.

There were three accounts under AmPrivate Banking in AmBank Islamic supposedly belonging to Najib. The last few digits of the accounts were blanked out.

The Prime Minister's name was not to be found in any remittance transfer forms from Affin Bank to AmBank Islamic.

The total amount transferred from Affin Bank to AmBank Islamic was RM42mil and the transactions were done in three tranches.

There were two transactions on Dec 26, 2014 and one on Feb 9, 2015. The reasons for the transfer of funds by Ihsan Perdana to the AmPrivate Banking account were stated as CSR programmes.

Najib's name is also not visible in the two credit transfer notices from Wells Fargo Bank in the United States to the AmPrivate Banking account under AmBank Islamic.

But a banker said it was normal for the beneficiary's name to be left out of remittance forms or credit transfer notices.

"The identity of the beneficiary does not need to appear if it is a familiar name. The banks only need the necessary codes and account numbers," said the banker.

The funds from Well Fargo amounted to US\$681mil and were transferred in two tranches, on March 21 and March 25, 2013, according to the documents.

The transaction order came from Tanore Finance Corp in British Virgin Island.

The funds were transferred to AmPrivate Banking account in AmBank Islamic under the Swift Output Code of Single Customer Credit Transfer.

"A Single Customer Credit Transfer means the account is held by an individual," said the banker.



Friday July 10, 2015

10. PAC: 1MDB needs to submit more documents to aid probe

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee is unable to form an immediate opinion on the preliminary report submitted by the Auditor-General after his forensic audit of 1MDB and believes the investment fund needs to furnish more documents.

PAC chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said they were satisfied with the A-G's probe and noted that aside from not responding to the request for some documents, 1MDB had been cooperative.

"It has given us a lot of information and questions to ask in our own investigations," he said at a press conference here yesterday, adding that it was too early to make any conclusions of wrongdoings by 1MDB.

"Issues were raised where the A-G did not get good cooperation from 1MDB with regard to some documents which were requested.

"Please give cooperation to the A-G on what is required."

In response, 1MDB president and group executive director Arul Kanda Kandasamy said 1MDB would immediately contact the Audit Department to seek clarification on which documents Nur Jazlan was referring to.

In a statement, he said 1MDB had submitted all documents in its possession to the department.

"As the interim report has not yet been shared with 1MDB, we are unable to comment on the PAC chairman's statement that certain documents appear to have not been submitted," said Arul Kanda, adding that 1MDB would continue to cooperate with the A-G.

"We note in particular the PAC chairman's comments on the thoroughness of the A-G's investigation."

Nur Jazlan had said earlier that the bi-partisan committee was satisfied with the transparency used by the A-G in conducting the interim audit, which included interviewing both past and present 1MDB chiefs, its directors and Finance Ministry officials.

Asked if 1MDB's documents and materials seized by the special task force on Wednesday had any bearing on the A-G's audit, Nur Jazlan said he could not make a premature judgment.

"At the end of the day, the A-G needs those documents to complete the report," he said.

Asked if there were concerns that documents which had yet to be given to the A-G would disappear or be tampered with, Nur Jazlan said "No", adding that 1MDB was under the Finance Ministry and should be able to provide the documents.

On *The Wall Street Journal's* expose of an alleged money trail into several accounts, Nur Jazlan said the PAC would recommend that the A-G look into it.

The special task force made it clear that the documents used by the A-G were provided by its investigators and not taken from material published by the WSJ.

Nur Jazlan also noted that the PAC did not want to impede the special task force's investigations, which could also aid the A-G's audit.

The A-G's audit covers a period between Feb 23, 2009, and March 30, 2014, which includes the formation of the Terengganu Investment Authority, its takeover by the Federal Government and subsequent conversion into 1MDB.

The PAC will call 1MDB's past and present chiefs Datuk Sharol Halmi and Arul Kanda on Aug 4 and 5. Also to be called are 1MDB's board of directors on Aug 17.

It has not discounted the possibility of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and businessman Low Taek Jho being called to testify.



Friday July 10, 2015

11. PAC to call Jho Low over 1MDB probe

KUALA LUMPUR: Businessman Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low, will be summoned to face the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) over probe into 1Malaysia Development Board (1MDB) funds.

PAC chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said Jho Low was special adviser to the Terengganu Investment Authority (TIA), which was set up in 2009, before it was taken over by the Federal Government also in the same year.

"He's got an official capacity in TIA and we want him to clarify certain issues," said the Pulai MP at a press conference here on Friday.

Nur Jazlan said the decision was made after listening to the Auditor-General (A-G) about the investments made by 1MDB. This includes investments with PetroSaudi.

"It's up to him," said Nur Jazlan when asked if Jho Low, who is believed to be overseas, could refuse to attend.

Nur Jazlan said PAC did not want to reach the stage where it had to compel him to come.

PAC will also recall auditors from Deloitte Malaysia, KPMG as well as Ernst & Young to answer further questions which had surfaced after the tabling of the A-G's report.

Nur Jazlan said the PAC intended to call current and previous top executives of 1MDB.

He said the letters would be issued next week.

He said the cooperation of the Finance Ministry would be sought to contact the individuals to attend the PAC hearings in September.

"We are giving enough time for them to attend," Nur Jazlan added.

On Friday, the PAC wrapped up its meeting over the tabling of the A-G's interim report on 1MDB.

Nur Jazlan said the PAC was satisfied with the way the A-G's office had carried out its work including the scope and depth of the interim report.



Tuesday July 14, 2015

12. 1MDB: Pua's claim of tampered financial statements baseless

PETALING JAYA: 1Malaysia Development Board (1MDB) has questioned the allegations made by Public Accounts Committee (PAC) member Tony Pua that it had tampered its bank financial statements.

It said that it was unclear what basis Pua was making such unsubstantiated and damaging allegations as he was not privy to the company's internal dealings.

"We note that Tony Pua has declined to elaborate further on the 'valid reasons' behind his statements," said 1MDB in a statement Tuesday.

Pua had earlier said that the alleged tampering by 1MDB would trigger it to default on its loans.

"In any event, interaction between 1MDB and its bankers, including confidentiality obligations, are governed by contract and national law.

"No lender to 1MDB has declared an event of default for the reasons highlighted by Tony Pua," said the statement.

It added that 1MDB's official financial statements were publicly available from the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) website.

"1MDB regrets that such statements on the company are being made by a third party such as Tony Pua and reported as fact on social media and online news websites.

"Such actions impact the day-to-day operations of 1MDB, a 100% Government-owned company, and the implementation of the 1MDB rationalisation plan," it said.



Friday July 17, 2015

13. A-G not involved in 1MDB probe, says task force

PETALING JAYA: The Attorney-General is not part of the special task force investigating 1Malaysia Development Berhad.

This was clarified in a statement signed by MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Bakar Kassim Mohamed, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar and Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz yesterday.

The statement said the task force is managed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Royal Malaysian Police and Bank Negara.

It said their organisations had their own scope in the investigations, based on their respective legal provisions.

The statement added that the issue of Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail interfering and influencing the investigations did not arise because he was only referred to for guidance and advice.

"This is to ensure the investigation is conducted in a holistic and legal manner.

"The giving of guidance and legal advice as is done in the 1MDB case is in line with all other cases that are investigated," it added.

The statement said inter-agency discussions were held from time to time to ensure that investigations were carried out smoothly, and this was a common practice by enforcement agencies when investigating a case.

The statement was in response to a media report quoting former A-G Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman as saying that Gani should withdraw from the task force.

As of yesterday, all statements on the probe had been issued by Abu Bakar, Khalid, Zeti and Gani.



Monday July 20, 2015

14. 1MDB: The Edge article 'unsubstantiated and recycled'

PETALING JAYA: 1Malaysia Development Berhad described a report in The Edge Financial Daily entitled "How Jho Low, PetroSaudi schemed to cheat Malaysia of US\$1.83 billion through 1MDB" as "old, unsubstantiated and recycled."

"We are surprised that these old and unproven allegations are being recycled yet again, when in fact there are multiple ongoing investigations being conducted by the lawful authorities on the issues raised previously," 1MDB said in statement on Monday.

In the statement titled "Irresponsible reporting," 1MDB said any party which could assist investigators should do so under the purview of the law, without resorting to such irresponsible and unnecessary sensationalism.

"1MDB reiterates our trust in due process as evidenced by the professional and thorough ongoing investigations being conducted by the lawful authorities."

In the footnote of its report, the publisher of *The Edge* said they had a public duty to find and report the truth.

"After this report, which could be our last, we will hand over everything we have to the authorities investigating 1MDB and assist them in anyway we can," the publisher said.

The Home Ministry had issued a [show-cause letter](#) to the financial daily over its reports on 1MDB.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had also stated that The Edge Media Group owner Datuk Tong Kooi Ong should be held responsible for "inaccurate reports" on 1MDB.



Friday July 24, 2015

15. Nur Jazlan: PAC works on basis of consensus

PETALING JAYA: Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed has dismissed certain quarters from the Government and Opposition who questioned the independence and integrity of the Public Accounts Committee.

The PAC chairman said the non-partisan committee's integrity should not hinge on the actions of a single committee member, as its findings and recommendations were based on the consensus of all 13 members.

"So far we have agreed on our decisions based on consensus.

"This is the basis of the PAC's integrity," he said.

Nur Jazlan was responding to calls for Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua's removal from the PAC for openly criticising 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), which the committee is in the midst of investigating.

"Pua is just one member. There are still the 12 of us in the PAC," the Pulai MP said, adding that Pua could only be removed by way of a motion in Parliament, akin to the removal of an MP due to bankruptcy or conviction of a crime.

He said PAC's decision to summon business tycoon Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, over his involvement in 1MDB's financial dealings was proof that the committee was "acting without fear or favour".

"A test of our integrity is also that the PAC's findings and recommendations will become a public document that will stand up in a court of law," Nur Jazlan added.

Several Barisan Nasional MPs had recently called for Pua's removal from the PAC over his public criticism of 1MDB.

They questioned whether there would be transparency in PAC's inquiry into the state investment arm, given Pua's attempts to discredit the company before investigations have been completed.



Monday July 27, 2015

16. MACC: 17 arrests made in Terengganu this year

KUALA TERENGGANU: Seventeen arrests have been made in Terengganu by the Malaysian Anti Crime Corruption (MACC) until June this year.

State MACC director Zainal Adam said 11 civil servants and six individuals were among those arrested.

"20 investigation papers were opened out of the 128 reports that we received," he told reporters during a Raya open house at its headquarters here on Monday.

Zainal added that there had been a decline in cases compared to the same period last year and urged the public to report any instances of corruption and abuse of powers.

"We can confirm that there have been no cases involving any politicians in the state," he added.

Out of the 17 people arrested, six were charged under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009 for giving or accepting bribe while the remaining 11 were Government servants who committed the offense under Section 18 MACC Act 2009 relating to false claims and documents.



Monday July 27, 2015

17. Company owner remanded in 1MDB probe released on bail

PUTRAJAYA: The third individual to be hauled up by the special task force investigating 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has been released on bail.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Ab Rahman allowed the 28-year-old owner of a Setapak-based trading company to be released on RM50,000 bail with two guarantors.

His four-day remand expired Monday.

A Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) spokesman said the commission had decided not to extend the remand order as it had already taken the individual's statement.

The 28-year-old was the third of five people to be remanded by the special task force to assist in its probe on 1MDB.

He was detained on Thursday at the MACC headquarters and remanded on Friday.



Wednesday July 29, 2015

18. 1MDB probe should be free of interference, say MACC panels

PETALING JAYA: The investigation on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) should stay independent and free from interference, say the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) independent oversight panels.

In a jointly issued statement on Wednesday, the five panels called for the ongoing probe to be conducted in an independent, transparent and professional manner without any interference or pressure.

The special task force, comprising the Attorney-General's Chambers (AG), the police, Bank Negara Malaysia and the MACC "should be given the latitude to conduct the investigations without fear or favour", the statement said.

"In this matter, we strongly feel that it is highly pertinent to ensure that the integrity of the MACC as an independent anti-corruption commission is to be maintained and shall not be compromised. The MACC must be seen as an independent commission entrusted to execute the plans and carry out its responsibilities in line with the public's expectations.

"The panels are unanimous in calling for a thorough investigation and for the findings to be made public as soon as possible. This is necessary in order to reduce the widening gap in the level of perception as well as confidence," it added.

The chairmen of the five panels are Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang (Special Committee on Corruption), Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim (Anti-Corruption Advisory Board), Tan Sri Hamid Bugo (Operations Review Panel), Tan Sri Wilson Baya Dandot (Complaints Committee) and Tan Sri Johan Jaaffar (Consultation and Corruption Prevention Panel).

The panels also urged that in giving legal advice and guidance to the task force, the AG should provide clear updates on developments in the investigations.

It added that upon conclusion of the probe, should there be evidence of any offence under the law, the relevant enforcement agencies must take appropriate action.

"It is important for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to make public the findings of the Auditor-General's report on the 1MDB as soon as possible. By the same token, all other reports on investigations by the other enforcement agencies must also be made public, to restore public confidence in the investigations and the agencies concerned.

"In view of current developments in the country, the panels strongly urge that the investigations be concluded in the shortest time possible," it said.



Thursday July 30, 2015

19. Debate rages over whether PAC can continue 1MDB investigation

KUALA LUMPUR: As the new ministers and deputy ministers took their oaths before the King, debate raged over whether the ongoing Public Accounts Committee probe into 1MDB can continue uninterrupted.

Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee said the present structure of the PAC "does not reflect the composition of the political parties in the Dewan Rakyat" after four Barisan Nasional members of the committee had to vacate their posts.

He cited Standing Order 82(1), which says that "every Select Committee shall be so far as practicable, the balance between the parties within the House is reflected in the Committee".

"The PAC now should seek the opinion of the Speaker before proceeding. The Speaker is the custodian of Parliament after all.

"The way I see it, the present committee doesn't reflect the composition of parties in the House," Kiandee said.

He added that this was the first time four PAC members had been absorbed into the government administration.

PAC had 13 members - eight from Barisan Nasional and five from the Opposition.

Earlier, deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong), William Leong (PKR-Selayang) and Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar (PAS-Tumpat) insisted that the PAC would continue its hearing into 1MDB because there was a quorum despite the departure of the four members.

1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Halmi, president and group executive director Arul Kanda Kandasamy, former managing director and CEO Mohd Hazem Abd Rahman and businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, are among those summoned to appear before the committee.

Dr Tan said the proceedings could go on as long as there was a quorum, citing Standing Order 83(3) which reads: "Unless the House otherwise directs, three members including the chairman shall be the quorum."

Dr Tan said the chairman here referred to any PAC member elected to chair the meeting.

He also cited Standing Order 77(3) and explained that the committee could elect any member to act as chairman to preside over PAC meetings in the absence of the chairman or vice-chairman due to illness or other reason.

Leong said those who had been summoned to appear before the PAC should turn up or risk being in contempt of Parliament.

Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, who was PAC chairman before the reshuffle, said on Tuesday that all proceedings would be suspended until there was a new line-up of members.

Constitutional expert Prof Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi said a committee could not proceed without a chairman or with merely a quorum.

"The absence of a chairman is a serious factor. If the chairman is incapacitated for the day, then it is fine, but in this case the post is vacant," he said.

"Also, the membership must be balanced. The whole idea of a committee in Parliament is that it must have representatives from all sides."

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia could not be reached for comment

20. MACC denies charge sheet against PM



PETALING JAYA: Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has denied the existence of a draft charge sheet against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, saying their investigations have yet to be completed.

Sarawak Report, which on Thursday published an article and a draft charge sheet purportedly with details of charges against Najib, alleged that the charge sheet was drafted by former Attorney General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail.

"Referring to the report by Sarawak Report about the existence of the draft charge sheet, the MACC would like to explain that the investigation report regarding SRC International has not been sent to the Attorney-General Chambers," MACC said in a statement on Friday.

MACC said investigations into SRC International - a company linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad - is still ongoing.

"Therefore, there is no issue on there being a draft sheet relating to a case that is still under investigation," it said.

It said they still need to track down some important witnesses to complete its probe on SRC International.

"The Commission emphasizes that the MACC will not disclose any information relating to any party as it is an act against the law," it said.

MACC reiterated that its responsibility is to investigate corruption cases and not the intention to topple any parties, including the Government.

"As an independent Commission, MACC will carry out an independent investigation that is transparent and professional," it said.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali on Friday said that the [allegations made by Sarawak Report](#) is false.

He said that the alleged charge sheets never reached the Attorney-General's Chambers, and that the format of the sheets is not correct or written by the Chambers.

Sarawak Report alleged that Gani was sacked on Tuesday because he wanted to take action against Najib and had issued a draft charge sheet against the Prime Minister.