

1. MACC to study content of pen drive

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) says it will first study the content of the pen drive submitted by Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin before taking any further action.

Khairy had handed over the pen drive, purportedly containing 279 pages of evidence on alleged corruption in the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM).

MACC investigations director Datuk Azam Baki said apart from the content, the authenticity of the pen drive must be taken into account to determine whether there had been any tampering.

"If we find there are elements of corruption and abuse of power, then we will conduct an investigation," he told Bernama here Friday.

Khairy had requested MACC to conduct a study and to review in detail whether the contents of the pen drive had been edited or otherwise.

2. Police seek US' help to question witnesses in 1MDB probe



KUALA LUMPUR: Police have applied for mutual legal assistance to the United States to get help in questioning witnesses there in connection with the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) investigation.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said the application was sent through the Attorney-General and the authorities were waiting for the response.

"These things usually take some time but we have sent the request to interview witnesses," he said after launching the 36th Aseanapol officers' appreciation ceremony in Bukit Aman here Friday.

Khalid said the investigation papers on 1MDB had been sent back from the A-G to the police with further instructions.

"We are following the direction given by the A-G and hope to complete it soon," he said.

It was reported that police had recorded statements from more than 25 people in their investigation into government investment arm 1MDB.

The first phase of the investigation, to scrutinise documents and record the statements of witnesses in the country, had almost been completed.

The second phase would involve sending police officers abroad to record statements from witnesses and obtain documents there.

The investigation into 1MDB was based on a number of recommendations tabled by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in Parliament.

On another case, Khalid told *Gerakan Merah* chief Mohd Ali Baharom to mind his own business after the latter's comments on the lack of action against "Tangkap MO1" rally organisers.

Khalid said Mohd Ali, better known as Ali Tinju, should leave matters to the police.

"We will call him to have his statement recorded as we have received some police reports following his *polis tidur* (police not doing their job) statement," he said.

3. Glove industry expects RM14.3b exports for 2016

KUALA LUMPUR: The rubber gloves industry is expected to record RM14.3bil in export revenue for 2016 with stronger growth seen in the second half due to rising health awareness and outbreak of diseases.

The Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association (MARGMA) president Denis Low said on Tuesday he targets the glove industry to record RM14.3bil in exports this year.

This would be a 9.1% increase from the export revenue of RM13.1bil in 2015.

"Malaysia is expected to export a total of 133.6 billion pieces of glove this year," he told reporters at a press conference at the 8th International Rubber Glove Conference & Exhibition.

4. MACC: More will be charged over RM15mil CBT case

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has not ruled out that more individuals will be charged in connection with the misappropriation of a book publishing fund involving RM15mil.

MACC investigations director Datuk Azam Baki said the details of the parties had been handed over to the deputy public prosecutor for further action.

"I do not dismiss the possibility that more people will be charged in the near future but I cannot reveal any details on who are involved," he told Bernama when contacted Wednesday.

On Aug 25, eight people including Bank Rakyat managing director Datuk Mustafha Abd Razak were detained to facilitate investigations into the case.

Bank Rakyat chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal was detained four days later.

Mustafha and Abdul Aziz were charged in the Sessions Court here Wednesday with criminal breach of trust and abetment, respectively, involving RM14,991,283.20.

Both pleaded not guilty before judge Madiah Harullah.

5. Hacking is on the rise, with victims being fooled to pay scammers millions

PETALING JAYA: Fraudsters are getting away with millions of ringgit by hacking e-mails.

Intercepting e-mail exchanges, they fool their targets into sending money to their bank accounts instead of those belonging to the rightful recipients.

A businessman from a neighbouring country lost RM40,000 to a cyber criminal after his e-mail was hacked.

He was supposed to receive money for exporting a "processed commodity" to the Middle East but the payment ended up in a Malaysian bank account instead.

Panicking, he called his friend - local inventor Bugs Tan - for help.

"The bank account and invoice details were changed. Neither my friend nor his buyer suspected anything amiss.

"Payment was made to a Malaysian bank as instructed in the e-mail. But the account details were different from what my friend had sent. He called me on Aug 10, asking if I could look into it since I live here," he said.

When Tan checked the hacked e-mail, he saw that the Malaysian bank's address was someone's house in Klang.

Tan tried to lodge a police report but was told that his friend would have to fly to Malaysia to lodge the report himself.

"I just want to warn the public that e-mails are not secure. Be careful. Just look at what happened to my friend," he said.

E-mail hacking has been on the rise for the past two years, according to the Bukit Aman Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) and CyberSecurity Malaysia (CSM).

The number of incidents recorded by the police has jumped from just two cases in 2014 to 73 last year. The total amount of losses spiked from RM974,832 in 2014 to RM39mil in 2015.

"Between January and August, there have been 29 cases, with RM11mil in losses," CCID intelligence and operations deputy director Senior Asst Comm Roslan Abdul Wahid told *Sunday Star*.

He said the hacker intercepts an e-mail exchange between two parties, usually when a payment is about to be made.

"For instance, A is supposed to pay B. C, the criminal, impersonates B by using a very similar e-mail address or domain name to communicate with A.

"A is then fooled into paying C instead of B," SAC Roslan said, adding that the hackers would have done research on their victims before striking.

He said most of such scammers have turned out to be Nigerians who abused visas enabling them to stay or study in Malaysia.

Targeting both foreigners and locals, their victims also include large companies.

"So far, no Malaysians were found to be in cahoots with such hackers," SAC Roslan said .

He said the fraudsters use a type of software or malware, usually sold in China or Russia, to aid them.

He urged the public to be careful when dealing through e-mail.

"Always double check the bank account number with the recipient and ensure you are dealing with the right person," he said.

CSM has also seen an increase in e-mail hacking reports - from 25 cases in 2014 to 62 in 2015.

And from January to July, there's been 36 complaints, said CSM chief executive officer Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab.

He said some scammers impersonate business suppliers and send the victim an e-mail, informing him of a new bank account number for payments. This happens after the victim receives an invoice from the supplier.

The e-mail doesn't look suspicious due to the similar domain name and the supplier is usually foreign-based while the victimised companies are normally local, he said.

Urging victims to contact the CSM, Dr Amirudin said the agency could check if the e-mail was fake and guide them on preventing further loss.

Failing to log into your e-mail account, finding your account information changed, your inbox data deleted or logins from unfamiliar locations, not receiving expected e-mails and other users being spammed by your account were signs of being hacked, he said.

"Bosses should provide security awareness training for their staff. They must call the bank immediately if a transfer was made to a fake account number," he said.

6. MACC to question former GM on RM9mil money laundering case

PETALING JAYA: A former general manager of a government agency is expected to be called up by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to assist in a probe of money laundering involving a sum of RM9mil.

It is learnt that the suspect, in his 50s, who previously helmed the agency in Sabah, had been investigated before by the MACC.

A source said the suspect was last detained in 2014 after a public tip-off for alleged involvement in corrupt practices before being released.

He was subsequently placed under the radar as the MACC continues with its probe to gather more evidence.

"We believe the suspect could be involved in an act of money laundering worth millions of ringgit.

"Our investigations revealed that the suspect was said to be behind the approval of a sum of money as a form of compensation to an oil palm firm for a piece of land earmarked for commercial development," said the source Monday.

The land was said to be managed by the government agency but plantation activities were being done without any approval from the authorities and the state government.

It is learnt that documents were submitted by the oil palm firm for some RM9mil in compensation, comprising the value of the land and cost of planting oil palm trees.

The MACC is also expected to pick up the owner of the oil palm firm to assist investigations of alleged abetment in submitting false claims

7. Duo charged with CBT over RM9mil land deal in Sabah

KOTA KINABALU: A businessman and a former senior state official were charged with criminal breach of trust (CBT) at the Sessions Court here for allegedly cheating the Sabah government in a RM9mil land and compensation deal.

Former Sabah Land Development Board (SLDB) general manager George @ Juaari Majid, 63, and plantation owner How Kim San, 55, pleaded not guilty after being produced before judge Abu Bakar Abdul Manap on Tuesday.

George, represented by counsel Erveana Ansari, was accused of approving the RM9mil payment to How in four transactions between March 22 and Aug 14, 2013.

He was accused of approving the payment for 164ha of land at Kampung Babason in Sook at Keningau district, and compensation for the crops without the approval of the SLDB board of directors and the state Finance Ministry.

George, who was charged under Section 409 of the Penal Code, was alleged to have known that the land in question was owned by the state government.

How, represented by counsel Sugumar Balakrishnan, was charged under Section 109 of the Penal Code. He was accused of abetting George.

Court judge Abu Bakar Abdul Manap allowed George and How to be released on a RM100,000 bail each.

He said the amount was reasonable as bail was usually set at 10% of the total amount involved under the charge.

Abu Bakar also ordered the two of them to surrender their passports to the court.

He fixed Oct 27 for the next mention date of the case.

Earlier, Deputy Public Prosecutor Ahmad Akram Gharib of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) proposed that the bail be set at RM500,000 for the duo respectively.

Erveana and Sugumar, however, objected to the amount, saying that the amount was excessive.

8. Developers: Govt needs to step in to solve national housing challenge

PETALING JAYA: It is "too challenging" for private developers to build affordable houses when land price is so expensive and development costs have spiked.

"If the Government wants developers to build more affordable housing, give us cheaper premiums or don't charge at all.

"We will then see more stability in prices, or even a reduction, if compliance costs, development charges and all sorts of other charges imposed on developers come down," said Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda) president Datuk Seri FD Iskandar Mohamed Mansor.

The national housing issue cropped up once again yesterday when Bank Negara Malaysia issued a statement in response to a media report asking to extend loan repayment tenure from the current 35 years to 40 years.

IJM Land Bhd managing director Edward Chong Sin Kiat gave an example of high costs, saying how developers had to build infrastructure such as water pipes and roads to access their projects.

"About 20 years ago, the Government paid for the water pipes to be pulled into my projects, but now, developers do it ourselves.

"These costs are passed on to consumers. We can reduce housing prices, but utility companies should be asked to absorb these costs," he said.

Chong described housing loan as being "a good debt as properties will rise in value, but not car or credit card loans."

He was a participant at the pre-2017 Budget round table discussion organised by StarProperty yesterday.

Another participant, Mah Sing Group Bhd's chief executive officer Ho Hon Sang, said extending repayment by five years would make it easier for buyers.

"I am mindful of the high household debt to gross domestic product (GDP) at 89%, but steps must be taken to help house buyers, especially first timers," said Ho.

He called on banks to consider a reducing scale or a tiered lending system to reduce mortgage burden.

The other participants were Ekovest Project Management Sdn Bhd project director (development) Christopher Yeo, Rehda Penang chairman Datuk Toh Chin Leong and Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents president Erick Kho.



Wednesday, 21 September 2016

9. Former Mardec employee charged with RM18.18mil CBT

IPOH: A former Malaysian Rubber Development Corporation Bhd (Mardec) employee has claimed trial at a Sessions Court here to two charges of criminal breach of trust amounting to more than RM18.18mil.

Muhammad Faizal Sudin, 39, who gave himself up at the Sungai Senam police station here on Tuesday night, pleaded not guilty to misappropriating RM767,466.95 belonging to Mardec Processing Sdn Bhd entrusted to him as factory manager between August and December 2011 and another RM17,412,985.02 between January and October 2012.

Muhammad Faizal, who is in the midst of being sued by Mardec over the same matter at the Kuala Lumpur High Court, was said to have committed both offences at Mardec Processing's rubber factory in Bota Kanan, Bota.

If convicted under Section 409 of the Penal Code, he can be jailed up to 20 years, whipped and fined.

Sessions Court Judge S. Indera Nehru set bail at RM400,000 with two sureties.

She also ordered the accused to hand over his passport and to report to the nearest police station once a month.

10. JPJ clerk, husband nabbed in cloned car probe



ALOR SETAR: A female clerk with the state Road Transport Department (JPJ), her husband and two other men have been arrested in connection with a cloned car syndicate.

The 31-year-old woman is believed to have assisted the syndicate to "legalise" luxury cars, meant for the scrapyards in Singapore, to be brought in and sold as used cars that were auctioned by the Customs.

It is learnt that more than 100 units of the cars, including Mini Cooper, Toyota Wish, Toyota Vellfire and Toyota Estima, were involved.

The woman, attached to the vehicles registration division of JPJ at Jalan Suka Menanti and her husband have been remanded for seven days from Sept 21 to facilitate the investigations.

She was arrested by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission officers on Tuesday at her office while her 36-year-old husband, believed to be a used car agent from Singapore, was detained at their house in Kulim on the same day.

Further investigations on the couple led MACC officers to arrest the third suspect, a 33-year-old man, who is involved in an online business at Kuantan, Pahang on Tuesday afternoon.

The fourth suspect, aged 32, who allegedly brought in the cloned cars from Singapore was picked up in Kuala Lumpur at about 11.50pm the same day.

Investigations revealed that the clerk and her husband received "commissions" of between RM2,000 to RM5,000 for each car sold, some via online.

11. A-G obtains leave for contempt proceedings against Guan Eng

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has granted the Attorney-General leave Wednesday to initiate contempt of court proceedings against Lim Guan Eng.

The A-G said that the Penang Chief Minister had issued media statements with the knowledge it would interfere with the administration of justice, erode the public confidence against the judiciary and insult the dignity and integrity of the Malaysian courts.

Lim, 56, had claimed that the two corruption charges he was facing were a "conspiracy" against him as well as "trumped-up".

High Court (Appellate and Special Powers) judge Justice Hanipah Farikullah allowed application for leave to initiate the committal proceedings against Lim after hearing an ex-parte submission by Senior Federal Counsel Datuk Amarjeet Singh, who led his four-man team in chambers.

Speaking to reporters later, Amarjeet said they would initiate committal proceedings against Lim within two weeks.

According to the originating summons filed on Aug 18, Lim had implied that the court was involved in the conspiracy and was facing jail on "trumped-up corruption charges" in a statement made after the launching of "Simposium Dr Wu Lian Teh" by the Penang Institute in Jalan Brown, George Town Penang in July.

Lim was slapped with and claimed trial to two corruption charges at the George Town High Court on June 30.

The first charge was over the rezoning of two plots of agricultural land in Balik Pulau to residential use, said to benefit the plots' owner Magnificent Emblem.

The second charge was over the purchase of his bungalow on Jalan Pinhorn for RM2.8mil, which was allegedly below the market price of RM4.27mil on July 28, last year from businesswoman Phang Li Koon.

12. ERL wants M'sia Airports to bear RM5.41mil claim

KUALA LUMPUR: [Malaysia Airports Holdings](#) Bhd (MAHB) has been asked by Express Rail Link Sdn Bhd (ERL) to wholly indemnify it against a RM5.41mil claim made by gateway@klia2 shopping mall developer Segi Astana Sdn Bhd.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the airport operator said it and its unit Malaysia Airports (Sepang) Sdn Bhd (MA Sepang) had received a third-party notice dated Sept 9 from ERL to indemnify it for that sum and continuing damages from Sept 9 until the date of vacant possession of "premises" or until such date as deemed appropriate by court for all losses and damages in a civil suit.

Segi Astana is a 70:30 joint-venture between [WCT Holdings Bhd](#) and MAHB to develop gateway@klia2 shopping mall. ERL, meanwhile, has a concession to operate the high speed rail line from KL Sentral to the KL International Airport and klia2,

MAHB's announcement to the bourse did not give background of the dispute and what "premises" are being referred to.

It, however, said it and MA Sepang were taking "all necessary measures" to resist the legal action and that they were confident of success.

"ERL's claims are not expected to have a material impact on the earnings and the net assets of the Company and MA Sepang for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2016," it said.

13. In bold move KWAP invests RM124mil in Uber, a non-traditional asset



KUALA LUMPUR: Taking the cue from Khazanah Nasional Bhd's investment in tech start-ups, the country's second-largest pension fund, Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP), has invested in car-hailing app Uber.

It is believed that the investment by KWAP in the tech start-up is about US\$30mil (RM124.2mil) in the recent G series fundraising round that started last year.

The investment marked a bold step by KWAP to invest in a non-traditional asset, as the low interest rate environment is expected to prevail.

"Technology is one of the sectors that we would like to explore," said KWAP chief executive officer Datuk Wan Kamaruzaman Wan Ahmad to reporters at the Private Equity Forum 2016 recently.

When asked about Uber, Wan Kamaruzaman said the fund had recently invested in a tech company and would make the announcement in due course.

KWAP is managing RM123bil in funds to date and is currently reviewing its fund portfolio to take on riskier investments, including doubling up its investment allocation in private equity (PE).

Wan Kamaruzaman said that around 90% of KWAP's investments are in traditional assets such as fixed income and equity.

The remaining 10% is in "alternative investments" such as PE, property and infrastructure.

KWAP is joining other conservative portfolio managers worldwide in embracing bigger risks to bolster its performance in the current challenging market conditions.

Wan Kamaruzaman had earlier told *StarBiz* that the fund was beefing up its team to look at potential investments in the tech space.

Among the other investors that have been reported to be in Uber's recent fund-raising exercise include the Saudi Arabia-based sovereign wealth fund Public Investment Fund, which pumped in US\$3.5bil.

Uber is touted as one of the most funded start-ups in the world and is in the midst of expanding its operations in more than 70 countries worldwide.

Uber has gone through a total of nine rounds of funding worth US\$12.9bil since its launch.

According to Seeking Alpha, Uber has US\$13bil in cash and available credit and has raised money at a staggering valuation of US\$68bil.

It has also lost at least US\$1.2bil in the first half of 2016.

Uber has also grown into 400 cities in 72 countries. It started its operations in Malaysia in late 2013.

Khazanah was reported to have invested in Uber back in 2014.

It is understood that Khazanah has invested hundreds of millions in start-ups such as San Mateo's Fractal Analytics, a data analysis firm, and Garena, one of South-East Asia's largest gaming platforms.

In 2014, Khazanah recorded gains to the tune of RM3.9bil from divesting some of its shares in e-commerce business Alibaba Group, quite a significant jump considering its cost was only about RM1.3bil.



Friday, 23 September 2016

14. Two JPJ officers held over sale of scrapped luxury cars

ALOR SETAR: Two Road Transport Department (JPJ) officers have been arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for their "insider roles" in a syndicate that 'legalised' and sold scrapped luxury cars brought in from Singapore.

The duo - an assistant enforcement officer and an administration assistant - were arrested at the Petaling Jaya JPJ office on Thursday and brought here to be remanded Friday.

State MACC director Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohamad confirmed the arrests, which were the result of follow-up operations under "Op Piang" conducted by the Putrajaya MACC headquarters in Kedah and Perlis since Sept 20.

Under the operation, MACC officers detained a 31-year-old female administration assistant and her husband, who is a factory worker and used-car salesman, in Kulim on Sept 20.

A 32 year-old car salesman from Kuantan and a 33-year-old online businessman from Kuala Lumpur were also arrested in connection with the case.

MACC Intelligence Division director Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahaya said that investigations showed that the syndicate used agents to promote the luxury cars through social media, especially Facebook, and sold them at cheap prices with guarantees of "legal" documents.

"The cars sold are not considered 'cloned' as they had ownership grants issued by the JPJ administration assistant," he said at a press conference Wednesday.

"False documents from Puspakom, the Chemistry Department and the Customs Department were used to 'legalise' the cars," he added.

All the suspects are being remanded for further investigations.



Thursday, 29 September 2016

15. 16 witnesses interviewed in MACC probe on Tourism Malaysia 'Datuk Seri'

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded statements from 16 witnesses in its on-going probe into a Tourism Malaysia official with the title "Datuk Seri" over alleged abuse of power.

A source said MACC would be calling up the high-ranking official for questioning "very soon."

"So far, we have not made any arrest. But we will be calling up the person in question to assist us in our probe.

"It does not matter the amount involved as we will carry out investigations once there is evidence of corruption," added the source.

Among those who have been questioned are several officials from Tourism Malaysia, a director and former director of a travel company as well as its secretary.

Earlier this month, MACC officers camped out at the Tourism Malaysia headquarters to probe the official's alleged abuse of power, including criminal breach of trust.

The investigations point to possible siphoning of funds via Tourism Malaysia's procurement and advertising divisions.

MACC is also investigating the purchase of domestic and international flight tickets from the travel company, said to be owned by family members of the Datuk Seri.

It is learnt that the company has been operating since 2014 and has been authorised for flight ticket purchases by Tourism Malaysia since last year.

MACC investigation director Datuk Azam Baki confirmed that investigations were still on-going but declined to elaborate.



Friday, 30 September 2016

16. Cop jailed two years for accepting RM4,000 bribe

KUALA LUMPUR: A police officer, who is nine months' pregnant, was sentenced to two years' in prison and fined RM20,000 in default eight months' jail for agreeing to accept a RM4,000 bribe from a woman for the release of her husband.

High Court Judicial Commissioner Ab Karim Ab Rahman handed down the decision after granting the prosecution's appeal against the acquittal of Insp Suriati Mohd Shafie, 35, by the Sessions Court last year.

Ab Karim said that it is a serious offence, especially since it involves someone who enforces the law.

He said if it is not curbed, it can spread in the community and affect organisations, especially the police force.

The judge, however, ordered Insp Suriati's co-accused, Asst Supt S. Ravintharan, 51, who committed the same offence at the same time and place, to enter his defence.

Insp Suriati and ASP Ravintharan were charged with agreeing to accept the money from one Nurullizean Yahya to help seek the release of her husband, a Cameroon national, who was in custody for alleged involvement in a robbery case.

They were alleged to have committed the offence at a Brickfields district CID office at 1pm on Jan 22, 2013.

They were charged under Section 17(a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009.

Ab Karim also ordered Insp Suriati to enter her defence on another charge - of asking for a RM6,000 bribe from Nurullizean at the same time and place.

Earlier, in pleading for leniency, Insp Suriati's counsel G.S. Nair submitted that his client was nine months' pregnant with her third child and due to give birth in October.

Urging that his client be bound over, he said Insp Suriati has been in the police force for 10 years and supports her aged parents.

DPP Nor Azah Kasran said the accused, as a police officer, should not have taken advantage of the victim.

Later, Ab Karim granted Insp Suriati's application for stay on the jail sentence but dismissed her application to pay the fine by instalment.



Friday, 30 September 2016

17. Ministry seeks to exempt childcare operators from minimum wage order

IPOH: The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry will submit a paper to the Government to seek exemption from the Minimum Wage Order 2016 for childcare operators.

Noting that many operators are unable to cope with the implementation of the order, Deputy Minister Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun (*pic*) said Friday the ministry is compiling data to come up with a comprehensive paper.

"Examples of the sort of data that is being gathered include how many children are being taken care of, how many caregivers are there, rental, fees charged and expenditure.

"The paper is to show the Government how much it costs to operate a childcare centre and what operators take in - are they making a profit or are they making losses," she said.

Chew, who was speaking to reporters after opening the 18th National Collaboration Meeting organised by the Association of Registered Childcare Providers Malaysia and Persatuan Taska Negri Perak, said there are childcare centres that have closed shop since the implementation of minimum wage in July, although the exact figures are still unknown.