

The Star August 2017

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1. 1MDB says payment to IPIC will be made in August



KUALA LUMPUR: 1 Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) said on Tuesday it had written to International Petroleum Investment Co. (IPIC) to inform them that the obligations, due on July 31, would be made in August.

In a three paragraph statement, 1MDB said all payments due from 1MDB to IPIC will be made from the proceeds of the 1MDB rationalisation plan.

"1MDB itself is awaiting funds that were due to be received in July 2017. Due to the need for additional regulatory approvals, the receipt of those funds has been delayed to August 2017.

"As these are the funds which will be used to pay IPIC, 1MDB has written to IPIC to inform them of our commitment to meet the obligations, originally due on 31 July 2017, in August 2017," it said.

2. MACC will weather challenges and pressure, says top man



Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad (second, left) at the launch of Sahabat Gerah MACC. -Bernamapic

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's top graft buster Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad says he and his team will weather the challenges, despite pressures faced by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"I have said it before and I will say it again that I have a target until 2020 to reduce, or if possible, to eradicate malpractice, fraud and dishonesty among civil servants and the private sector," the MACC chief commissioner told the press at the launch of Sahabat Gerah MACC at a hotel here on Tuesday.

Dzulkifli added that at present, the measures taken by MACC have been fruitful in getting public cooperation and on educating them of the ills of corruption.

"We want the public to hate bribery and be our eyes and ears to nip the problem in the bud.

"We will continue with the present system of enforcement and prevention until we become the most feared outfit in Malaysia," he added.

The Gerah (Gerakan Revolusi Anti-Rasuah) campaign was launched in May is held on the first Monday of every month with MACC officers going to the ground.

Some 2,000 MACC officers nationwide have become "agents" of this initiative, and are tasked with meeting the people.

3. Ex-Felda chairman's aide remanded in FIC hotel probe



PUTRAJAYA: A special officer to former Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad has been remanded for five days to help in graft investigations over the purchase of a hotel in Kuching.

The officer, Zahid Md Arip was produced before Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Abdul Rahman on Tuesday and was ordered to be remanded until Aug 5,.

The 51-year-old Zahid was arrested earlier Tuesday at his house by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to assist in its probe into Felda Investment Corp's (FIC) purchase of the hotel in 2014.

Zahid served as a special officer to Isa during the latter's tenure as Felda chairman.

He is the fourth person to be remanded in the ongoing investigations into FIC's purchase of the hotel.

4. One more arrested in FIC Kuching hotel probe

KUALA LUMPUR: An-ex aide to a former Felda chairman has been arrested the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in connection with Felda Investment Corporation's (FIC) purchase of a hotel in Kuching.

"We made another arrest today and we will get a remand order for this person by the evening. He is the special officer to a former chairman," said MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkipli Ahmad on Tuesday.

A company director has been remanded for six days to assist investigations into the 2014 purchase of the hotel.

The 57-year-old director, who also owns the hotel, was detained at the Kuching MACC office on Saturday.

5. A tough year for MACC boss – and it remains uphill

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's top graft buster Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad marked his first anniversary in office on a day which saw two top officers of the Felda Investment Corporation (FIC) being remanded over the overpriced purchase of hotels in Kuching and London.

Dzulkifli Ahmad admitted that it had been tough and was thankful at having completed a year in office.

"I am still surviving. *Alhamdulillah*," he said.

"From the feedback I obtained, the people are happy with MACC's achievements so far."

Dzulkifli said his task remained an uphill one but added that he and his team would weather the challenges despite pressure from detractors.

"I have said it before and I will say it again. I have set a target until 2020 to reduce, or if possible, eradicate malpractice, fraud and dishonesty among civil servants and the private sector," Dzulkifli told pressmen at the launch of Sahabat Gerah MACC at a hotel here.

"We want the public to hate bribery and to be our eyes and ears to nip the problem in the bud.

"We will continue with the present system of enforcement and prevention until we become the most feared outfit in Malaysia," he added.

Dzulkifli and his men distributed pamphlets on Gerah to the public during a walkabout session.

The Gerah (Gerakan Revolusi Anti-Rasuah) campaign was launched in May and is held on the first Monday of every month, with MACC officers going to the ground to engage the public.

Some 2,000 MACC officers nationwide have become "agents" of this initiative, and are tasked with meeting the people.

On another matter, Dzulkifli said a special team would investigate possible corruption and abuse of power that might have been revealed in the Auditor-General's Report 2016 Series 1.

"I promise that the MACC will take action if necessary. From my reading, there are issues that can be scrutinised," he told reporters after the launch of the "Friends of MACC" initiative here yesterday.

The Auditor-General's Report 2016 Series 1, tabled in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday, contains 353 recommendations to help the Federal Government and federal and state statutory bodies rectify weaknesses.

Dzul kifli also said that so far, 1,007 people had applied online over the MACC website to be "Friends of MACC".

The initiative was launched on May 8 to endear the MACC to the people and provide them an opportunity to work with the anti-graft body to fight corruption and abuse of power.

Dzul kifli also said the Whistle Blower Protection Act 2010 was sufficient to protect those who reported corrupt acts to the authorities.

"MACC is not the only agency looking after whistleblowers. There are other agencies like the police, which can protect them.

The Whistle Blower Protection Act 2010 regulates disclosures by any person reporting improper conduct, both in the public and private sectors, and to protect persons making the disclosures from detrimental action.

The Act also provides a reward to be paid to the whistle blowers.

6. MACC investigators remove documents from Menara Felda



KUALA LUMPUR: A team of investigators from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission was seen at Menara Felda on Wednesday, most probably to take possession of documents to assist in a probe into the purchase of hotels in London and Kuching by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC).

The team of four officers arrived at Menara Felda at 10.17am.

Reporters who got wind of the visit by the officers gathered at the main entrance of the building from 9am.

Last Friday, MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad ordered an investigation into the 2014 purchase of the hotel in Kuching that is believed to have been bought at a price way above the market value.

So far, five individuals have been detained to assist in the investigation.

The MACC probe into the purchase of the Kuching hotel followed information received by the investigation team during its probe into the purchase of the hotel in London.

7. Party lodges MACC report on fake awards

GEORGE TOWN: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has been urged to investigate the European Business Assembly (EBA) awards that were given to the two local councils.

Penang Front Party (PFP) president Patrick Ooi said that both the Penang Island City Council (MBPP) and the Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) should be investigated for any corrupt practices.

"This a total embarrassment as it involved two entities under the state government led by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng," said Ooi, after lodging a report at the MACC office in Penang yesterday.

Both the MBPP and the MPSP received the awards from the EBA in 2012 and 2013.

City council mayor Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif had since apologised, saying that the two councils were not aware that the awards were fake.

8. MACC now targets bauxite mining

PETALING JAYA: Illegal bauxite mining is the latest issue on the radar of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) when anti-graft officers detained officers from the state Land and Mines Office (PTG) and the Customs Department suspected to be involved in illegal bauxite mining activities in Kuantan.

Nine staff members from the Pahang Land and Mines Office and an officer from the Customs Department were detained in an operation after the MACC discovered that a syndicate was involved in illegal mining activities. Also seized were at least 18 lorries used to transport bauxite from illegal mining sites in Bukit Goh and Bukit Sagu.

All the suspects are believed to be part of a protection syndicate and had played an active role in allowing the illegal mining of the commodity to take place in the district.

It is learnt that the suspects were receiving payments and a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of bauxite.

Sources said the first suspect, a senior Customs officer, aged 56, was picked up just after midnight on Tuesday.

In follow-up raids, nine PTG officers, aged between 29 and 59, were detained at about 3.30pm yesterday.

It is learnt that anti-graft officers also raided the PTG office in Kuantan to seize relevant documents to assist in their probe.

"This came after information was obtained during raids on the Customs office in Kuantan Port and Kuantan Port Consortium. Anti-graft officers have been monitoring the activities of the suspects for the past few months," said a source.

It is learnt that the illegal bauxite mining activities have slowed down after the MACC carried out several raids last year.

But the culprits have since resumed their activities over the past few months. Their actions did not go unnoticed by the MACC.

MACC director of intelligence Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahya (*pic*) confirmed the arrests, saying that his officers had been watching over the syndicate for the past three to four months.

The Customs officer has been remanded for a week for investigations, while the nine PTG officers were held overnight at the Kuantan MACC office and are expected to be brought to court today to be remanded.

The Government earlier announced an extension to the moratorium on bauxite mining in Kuantan until Dec 31 this year.

9. Former Rapid Penang COO charged with corruption



GEORGE TOWN: A former chief operating officer claimed trial in the Sessions Court here to allegedly accepting RM70,000 in bribes from a company, two years ago.

Former Rapid Penang COO Mohd Shukri Abdul Rahman, 54, allegedly received the bribe from Jayonik MSC Sdn Bhd through a Maybank account belonging to Nor Jasmin Mustafa as an inducement to issue a letter awarding the company a project worth RM8.4mil.

He is accused of committing the offence at Maybank, Times Square branch at Lot 77-G-13, 14, 15 and 16, Penang Times Square here, on April 20, 2015.

The charge under Section 17(a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 carries upon conviction, a jail term not exceeding 20 years, and a fine of not less than five times the amount, or value of the bribe.

On Thursday, Judge Norsalha Hamzah set RM50,000 as bail with one surety and Aug 16 for re-mention.

DPP Ahmad Ghazali Muhamad Nadzri prosecuted while counsel Datuk Shukri Mohamad represented the accused.

10. Kuching hotel graft probe: Three FIC directors to give statements

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has called up three Felda Investment Corp (FIC) directors to give their statements on the company's purchase of a hotel in Kuching in 2014.

The trio are expected to give their statements on Tuesday morning.

MACC sources confirmed that the three, who are still serving members on FIC's board of directors, have been requested to come to the commission's headquarters here.

To date, four people, including an aide to former Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, have been arrested in connection with the case.

MACC is investigating the purchase as it is believed to have been bought at between RM40mil and RM50mil above its actual value.

The hotel was bought by FIC for RM160mil.

11. 1MDB gets extension for US\$603mil payment to Abu Dhabi fund



KUALA LUMPUR: Embattled state investment company 1Malaysia Development Bhd. received an extension to make a payment of more than \$600 million to an Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund after missing a deadline last month.

1MDB is in talks with International Petroleum Investment Co. on the new arbitration settlement date, Malaysian Treasury Secretary General Irwan Serigar Abdullah told reporters on Tuesday. Irwan is also the chairman of 1MDB's board of directors.

"It's a question of time," Irwan said. "In due course when the time comes, we will pay off."

1MDB was due to make a payment to IPIC by the end of July and had a five-business day grace period to meet the obligation. The settlement would have been made from proceeds of a 1MDB rationalisation plan that involved the monetization of so-called investment fund units.

The money that was expected to arrive last month had been delayed till August, 1MDB said in a statement last week. The holdup was due to the need for additional regulatory approvals, it said. 1MDB didn't foresee the time it would take to sell the units and meet regulatory requirements, Irwan said Tuesday.

The payment to IPIC is part of a US\$1.2bil settlement over a debt dispute and is half the amount 1MDB and the Malaysian finance ministry agreed to make to IPIC. The second installment is due by the end of 2017.

12. MACC to call 'key person' in Felda probe next week

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will call a key individual next week in connection with the purchase of a hotel in London and another in Kuching, Sarawak by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC).

Its deputy chief commissioner (Operations), Datuk Mohd Azam Baki, however, declined to reveal the identity of the individual.

Speaking on Bernama News Channel's 'Ruang Bicara' programme, Azam said so far, nine individuals had been detained and more than 30 witnesses called in connection with the purchase of the two hotels.

"With regard to the hotel purchase in London, the investigating officer will record statements from witnesses who include lawyers and bank officers," he said.

Asked whether the MACC would investigate the purchase of other hotels by FIC, he said, so far, the commission was only investigating the hotel purchases in London and Kuching.

"If there are others, we will see whether there are elements of corruption or abuse of power in these purchases," he said.

The MACC opened an investigation paper on the purchase of the four-star hotel in Kensington, London between 2013 and 2015, which was paid for at a much higher price than the original price, causing the Felda subsidiary company to lose millions of ringgit.

It commenced investigation into the purchase of the hotel in Kuching following information received by the investigating team while probing the purchase of the hotel in London.

On Wednesday, three individuals reportedly gave their statements on the purchase of the hotel in London at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya.

According to a source in the MACC, one of the three was a former member of the FIC board of directors.

The others are the director of a division in Felda and the legal partner of a lawyer who had earlier been remanded over the handling of the documentation process in the sale and purchase of the hotel.

13. LGE denies Penang govt sold land and assets worth RM37bil

GEORGE TOWN: Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has denied that the state government sold land and assets worth RM37bil since 2008.

"I do not know where he (Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan) got the figure from. If we sold assets worth that much, we must have RM37bil in our accounts.

"We do not have RM37bil in our accounts," Lim told a press conference in Komtar Wednesday.

Abdul Rahman, who is Barisan Nasional Strategic Communications head, had said he would release details of land assets amounting to RM37bil that were sold by the state government since 2008.

Lim said the RM1.2bil allocation by the Federal Government to expand Mengkuang Dam was not channelled to the state government.

"The money was channelled to their own ministry, the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry, to carry out the project.

"How are we to pay back money we did not even take," he said adding there was no debt involving the RM1.2bil as it went to the ministry.

On Aug 8, Abdul Rahman said the Penang government did not cancel the 2011 water restructuring agreement because it could cause state debts to balloon to RM1.89bil.

He said Lim did not take into account that the Federal Government also gave the state a RM1.2bil grant to expand the Mengkuang Dam as part of the 2011 water restructuring agreement.

He pointed out that if the water restructuring agreement was cancelled, Penang would have to reimburse Putrajaya the RM1.2bil grant.

14. MACC detains six suspects for alleged RM50K bribery involving personal loan

JOHOR BARU: Six suspects including a financial institution worker here have been detained by the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for bribery.

They have been accused of asking and accepting bribes amounting to RM50,000 to handle a personal loan for a teacher.

Four of the suspects including a woman were detained in Rompin, Pahang as well as Permas Jaya here on Tuesday. They were remanded until Aug 15.

Two other women were nabbed in a house at Permas Jaya on Wednesday, one of whom is a sales adviser for a financial institution in Skudai.

A five-day remand has been granted for the two suspects to assist investigations under Section 16(a)(A) of the MACC Act 2009.

If found guilty, the suspects, aged between 29 years and 33, could face a jail term of up to 20 years or five times the gratification value or RM10,000, whichever is higher.

Initial investigations revealed that the suspects asked for the bribery as an inducement to handle a personal loan for the 38-year-old teacher involving some RM190,000.

Johor MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias, when contacted Thursday, confirmed the arrests and said that the suspects were believed to be part of a syndicate.

15. MACC: There must be basis to probe DPM's wealth

PUTRAJAYA: There needs to be a basis before starting a probe on the wealth of the Deputy Prime Minister, said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Its chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said there was a need to ascertain if the wealth was obtained through corruption or abuse of power.

"If there is a basis, we will investigate. But if there's no basis, how do we investigate?" he said Friday when asked if the MACC would be probing Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, following a police report lodged by DAP Youth.

Dzulkifli said people could make money and become rich, adding that it would only come to the attention of the MACC "if it came from corruption and abuse of position".

He was speaking after a meeting with top leaders from PAS and Parti Ikatan Bangsa Malaysia (Ikatan).

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had accused Dr Ahmad Zahid of having RM230mil in his bank account when he was Umno Youth chief.

In response, Dr Ahmad Zahid said he was ready to be investigated, but urged the MACC to probe both Dr Mahathir and his family's wealth.

MACC deputy chief commissioner Datuk Azam Baki had then commented that the agency would act if there was grounds for an investigation.

On his meeting with PAS and Ikatan, Dzulkifli said he appreciated their support for MACC's fight against corruption.

"We hope to get the backing of all Malaysians, including that of political parties," he added.

PAS was represented by its deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, while Ikatan was represented by its president Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

16. State exco Phee expected to be remanded Saturday



GEORGE TOWN: State executive councillor Phee Boon Poh (pix) will be brought to court on Saturday to be remanded over investigations into an illegal factory.

His lawyer R.S.N Rayer said Phee would give his full cooperation to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's probe into the factory in Kampung Sungai Lembu, Bukit Mertajam.

He said Phee was not involved in the factory's operations.

"Phee had said whatever he did was in his capacity as the state executive councillor and not as part of the factory management," Rayer told a press conference late Friday.

Present were Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Deputy Chief Minister II, Dr P. Ramasamy, other DAP executive councillors, MPs and assemblymen.

Phee, who is Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman, was [detained by the MACC](#) after he went to its office to have his statement recorded.

Phee's office on the 53rd floor of Komtar was also raided by MACC officers.

The factory's manager and his director son have also been detained by the MACC to assist with the investigations.

17. MACC to seize 10 million tonnes of bauxite stockpile in Pahang



A stockpile of bauxite at a Felda estate in Pahang. Filepix

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will seize over 10 million tonnes of bauxite stockpile in Pahang to facilitate investigations into illegal bauxite mining in the state.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (Operations) Datuk Azam Baki said the seizure was to prevent the bauxite from being taken out of the stockpile area for business or other purposes.

"The action to seize the bauxite will involve all bauxite stockpile on government-owned and private-owned land in the state," he said in a statement here Saturday.

Azam said the MACC has proposed to the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to carry out a review on the issuance of Approval Permit (AP) to bauxite mine operators and to revoke all APs issued earlier.

18. MACC to hold bauxite stockpile for 18 months

KUANTAN: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) can hold bauxite stockpiles in Pahang for up to 18 months once notices of seizure are issued.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said the ore would not be removed from the stockpile for any purposes.

He said the action was to allow MACC to investigate allegations of corruption involving the state Land and Mines Office and the Customs Department.

Azam announced on Saturday that over 10 million tonnes of bauxite still stockpiled on government and private land in the state would be seized.

He said MACC had also proposed to the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to carry out a review on the issuance of Approval Permits (AP) to bauxite mine operators and to revoke all previous APs.

19. MACC raids Isa Samad's house

KOTA BARU: Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad's house in Selangor has been raided by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Tuesday night.

Its chief Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad confirmed the raid on the former Felda chairman's house and said that this was normal procedure when investigating any corruption allegations.

"This is the usual process. After an arrest, we will do a search of the suspect's house," he said at the corruption-free pledge signing ceremony by non-governmental organisations and the parent-teacher association at the Industrial Training Institute in Pengkalan Chepa here Tuesday.

Isa was arrested at 4.24pm Tuesday after being questioned for two hours at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya.

He is among a long list of individuals who have been called up by MACC over Felda Investment Corporation's (FIC) purchases of hotels in London and Kuching.

His former aide Muhammad Zahid Md Arip as well as former FIC chief executive officer Zaid Abdul Jalil had previously been held under MACC remand.

The MACC had also called up FIC's former and present directors and lawyers to assist in investigations.

FIC is said to have purchased a hotel in Kensington, London for an inflated price of RM330mil, when the actual value is said to be RM110mil.

Its purchase of a hotel in Kuching for RM160mil is also said to be RM50mil more than its actual value.

20. Two Perlis fire officers nabbed over RM1,200 bribe



KANGAR: Two officers from the Perlis Fire and Rescue Department were arrested on Wednesday for soliciting and accepting bribes amounting to RM1,200.

The two men, aged 45 and 49, were arrested at about 12.15pm in Pauh, near here by the state Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

State MACC director Yaacop Angah said the RM1,200 bribe was meant as an inducement for the officers to not take any action against a premise owner.

"The premise owner was said to have violated a building safety procedure, and the arrest was made after the state MACC received a tip-off," he said.

The suspects are expected to be remanded on Thursday.

21. MACC freezes Phee's bank accounts

GEORGE TOWN: Four bank accounts owned by Penang state executive councillor Phee Boon Poh have been frozen over investigations into an illegal carbon filter-processing factory in Sungai Lembu.

A source from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said the personal accounts of the state Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman, totalling about RM2mil, were frozen before the weekend.

"We are still investigating," he said Sunday, adding that MACC officers are still recording statements from the relevant parties.

It was reported that the MACC had conducted several raids on Phee's two houses in Butterworth, his office in Komtar and his service centre in Sungai Puyu.

Phee, factory owner Edmond Gan Eu Lee and his father Gan Buck Hee were arrested by the MACC on Aug 11.

All three were released on Aug 14 after their remand orders were set aside by the High Court.

The MACC intends to appeal the decision.

22. Isa Samad released from remand

PUTRAJAYA: Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad has been released after being remanded by graft investigators for five days.

Registrar of subordinate courts Datuk Zainal Abidin Kamarudin ordered for the former Felda chairman to be released on RM150,000 bail with two sureties.

Mohd Isa, 68, arrived at the Putrajaya court complex at 9.49am Sunday in a black MPV.

He was closely guarded by investigators as his friends, family members and supporters gathered outside the court.

Among those present was his wife Puan Sri Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid.

Mohd Isa was remanded on Aug 16 as part of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) probe into the purchase of a hotel in London by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC).

He was arrested at 4.24pm on Aug 15 at the MACC headquarters, where he was called earlier to have his statement recorded.

The MACC is investigating claims of discrepancies in the purchase of Park City Hotel in Kensington, London.

FIC is said to have purchased the hotel for an inflated price of RM330mil, when the actual value is said to be RM110mil.

23. Phee: I don't have RM2mil in my bank accounts



GEORGE TOWN: Penang executive councillor Phee Boon Poh, who is under anti-graft investigation over the operations of an illegal carbon filter-processing factory in Sungai Lembu, says he does not have RM2mil in his bank accounts.

He also denied that four of his bank accounts, which contained the said amount, was frozen by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

He added that he has not been served with any notice by the MACC about it.

Phee was responding to reports in several media, such as *Utusan Malaysia*, *New Straits Times*, *The Star*, *Sin Chew Jit Poh* and *Guang Ming Daily* which quoted MACC sources saying that his bank accounts, containing about RM2mil, were frozen.

Speaking at a press conference here Monday, Phee said he would be filing a defamation suit against the media organisations.

Phee, 66, was detained on Aug 11. Factory owner Edmond Gan Eu Lee, 37, and his father Gan Buck Hee, 70, were also arrested.

They were released on Aug 14 after the Penang High Court set aside their remand orders.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk Abdul Wahab Mohamed ruled that the five-day remand issued on Aug 12 contravened Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The MACC, however, intends to appeal the decision.

24. MACC probes Unisel campus

SHAH ALAM: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is currently conducting a raid at Universiti Selangor (Unisel) in Section 7 here.

Six uniformed officers from the national anti-graft body arrived at the campus here at 9.50am on Tuesday in two separate vehicles.

Upon entering the campus' administrative building, the officers were greeted by staff members who brought them up to the offices.

The MACC is simultaneously raiding four other offices of Unisel, Mentri Besar Incorporated (MBI) and Jana Niaga Sdn Bhd offices in connection with the case.



Several uniformed officers from the MACC going in to the Unisel main campus' administration office at 11.10am.

Uniformed MACC officers were also at the Unisel main campus in Bestari Jaya.

They are currently conducting a raid at the university's administration office which is located inside the library building.

Three officers, meanwhile, arrived at the Mentri Besar Incorporated (MBI) office at Bangunan Darul Ehsan, in Shah Alam to conduct a raid.

In KUALA LUMPUR, anti-graft officers are raiding a Jana Niaga office on Jalan 4/76C.

Four officers arrived at 10.25am in a vehicle with heavily tinted windows to conduct the raid.

It is believed the MACC is acting on a report lodged with it against Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali and MBI over a dispute between Unisel and its contractor Jana Niaga.

It had been reported that Jana Niaga allegedly received monetary compensation and a new contract from Unisel, despite failing to complete a previous contract.

25. I don't have RM2mil, says embattled exco member

GEORGE TOWN: Penang exco Phee Boon Poh, who is the subject of an anti-graft investigation over an illegal carbon filter-processing factory in Sungai Lembu, says he does not have RM2mil in his bank accounts.

He also denied that four of his bank accounts, which allegedly contained the RM2mil, had been frozen by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), saying that he had not been served with any notice by the MACC about it.

Phee, in a press conference yesterday, responded to reports in several media such as *Utusan Malaysia*, *New Straits Times*, *The Star*, *Sin Chew Jit Poh* and *Guang Ming Daily*, which quoted MACC sources as saying that Phee's bank accounts, containing about RM2mil, had been frozen.

He added that he would be filing a defamation lawsuit against the media organisations.

Phee, 66, was detained on Aug 11. Factory owner Edmond Gan Eu Lee, 37, and his father Gan Buck Hee, 70, were also arrested.

They were released on Aug 14 after the Penang High Court set aside their remand orders.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk Abdul Wahab Mohamed ruled that the five-day remand issued on Aug 12 contravened Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The MACC, however, intends to appeal the decision.

26. MACC records statements from four people over MBI case

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded statements from four people over a RM16mil alleged payment by Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI) to a private company.

Bernama reported citing MACC's deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki as saying that the probe into the case began two days ago and the MACC was in the midst of gathering statements from witnesses.

He also said the investigation was being conducted following a tip-off.

"When we investigate, that means a report has been lodged," he told reporters when asked to comment about the case after a flag-raising ceremony at the MACC's new headquarters in Precinct 7 on Thursday.

It was reported that the MACC carried out simultaneous raids on five locations in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur in its probe of RM16mil allegedly paid by a Selangor government-owned company to a private firm for maintenance work.

The places raided included the Universiti Selangor (Unisel) main campus and office, two offices belonging to the contractor - Jana Niaga Sdn Bhd - and the MBI office.

Sources said MBI had allegedly made the payment to Jana Niaga via two transactions of RM10mil and RM6mil in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Initial reports received by MACC showed that MBI had paid Jana Niaga even though its contract had been terminated by Unisel.

MBI and Unisel said in a joint statement on Wednesday that the Jana Niaga deal was to ensure Unisel continued to provide good educational service and to protect the students' welfare.

It was also in line with the decision of the High Court and Court of Appeal to settle the dispute between Unisel and Jana Niaga via arbitration.

It also said that both MBI and Unisel would cooperate with the anti-graft body by providing any required evidence and statements.

It added this would help eradicate the allegations of misconduct by MBI and its subsidiaries.

27. MACC questions Phee for seven hours

GEORGE TOWN: Phee Boon Poh was questioned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for seven hours on Friday.

MACC officers questioned the Penang state executive councillor over an illegal carbon filter-processing factory in Sungai Lembu in Bukit Mertajam from about 10.30am to 5.30pm on Friday.

Phee, who is the state Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman, arrived at the state MACC headquarters in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah at 9.45am together with his counsel Ramkarpal Singh and his daughter.

They left the MACC building at 6.15pm.

Penang Island City Council Mayor Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif, who is the former Seberang Prai Municipal Council president, was also present at the MACC headquarters at around 5.30pm.

This was the second time Phee had been summoned to the MACC headquarters over the factory.

On Aug 11, Phee was detained by MACC after giving his statement at the headquarters.

Factory owner Edmond Gan Eu Lee, 37, and his father Gan Buck Hee, 70, were also arrested.

They were released on Aug 14 after the Penang High Court set aside their remand orders.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk Abdul Wahab Mohamed ruled that the five-day remand issued on Aug 12 contravened Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The MACC, however, intends to appeal the decision.

It was reported that the anti-graft officers are investigating letters written by Phee to the Seberang Prai Municipal Council, urging it not to take action against the factory.

28. MACC questions ex-MPSP president

GEORGE TOWN: Former Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) president Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif has been questioned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) which is probing for possible abuse of power involving an illegal carbon filter processing factory.

She turned up at the MACC headquarters at about 5.30pm yesterday.

Maimunah, who is now Penang Island City Council mayor, was supposed to attend a function at Armenian Park at 8pm last night.

However, it was learnt that the event's organisers got a call at about 8.20pm informing them that she would not be attending.

At press time, it was not known whether she had left the MACC building.

State executive councillor Phee Boon Poh was also again questioned by the MACC.

Phee, who is State Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman, arrived at MACC headquarters at about 9.45am yesterday.

His daughter and his counsel, Ramkarpal Singh, accompanied him; they left the premises at about 6.15pm.

Phee, who got back his MyKad, passport and personal belongings which were initially withheld, did not speak to journalists who approached him.

Ramkarpal said MACC had "recorded a long statement" from Phee.

"We were told MACC will not need further statements from him, but we will always come back if needed," he said.

Also seen at the MACC building yesterday was the Central Seberang Prai District Officer's official car, but it is not known when he arrived.

Meanwhile, Penanti assemblyman Dr Norlela Ariffin has produced letters claiming that the smoke-spewing carbon factory in Sungai Lembu was on the verge of being shut down but was allowed to operate for two years. She said she decided to ignore a gag order from a state party leader and revealed the letters yesterday, which show that the Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) had planned to demolish the factory in 2015 because it was an illegal structure.

"A party leader called me last week, telling me to stop talking to the press and posting on Facebook.

"What does that leave me with? Alone. I am a responsible assemblyman and am not about to stop now.

"Since they asked for it, here are the letters," she said.

On Thursday, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and Phee said they did not know about the letters and told her to reveal them.

A letter from MPSP to Dr Norlela on July 10, 2015, said that it had decided to tear down the factory. The council told Dr Norlela that on May 12, 2015, it ordered the owner to demolish the factory themselves, but more than a month later, it continued to operate.

The second letter was from the Department of Environment (DoE) to MPSP on April 24, 2015, with a copy sent to her. The department urged MPSP to take action because the factory was using antiquated methods of burning sawdust to make activated carbon for the filters.

MPSP president Rozali Mohamud refused to comment on the letters, saying that the matter was under MACC investigation.

Penang Gerakan land and anti-corruption committee spokesman H'ng Khoo Leng was disappointed that the state government only revealed the minutes of the state government meeting to "show an inconclusive report from the district health office that favoured them while the DoE had declared the factory was polluting our air".

"We can now only hope that MACC's investigation will show what had happened, why a polluting factory was allowed to thrive for nine years," he added.

29. MACC will reopen DEIG investigation if new information is received



Dzulkifli handing over contributions to a recipient during MACC's Ziarah Kasih programme at SMK Teriang Hilir.

KUALA KLANG: The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) will re-open investigations into Darul Ehsan Investment Group (DEIG) if it receives new information on alleged corruption or abuses of power.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the agency would need time before deciding if the matter needs to be reopened.

"We need to see if there is any new information before reopening the case. We need to have strong reasons for that," he told reporters at the MACC's Ziarah Kasih programme at SMK Teriang Hilir here.

Yesterday, a group of Selangor Umno Youth members urged the authorities to probe how DEIG was given projects worth RM10 billion to develop state-owned lands considering that it is a company with a RM2 paid-up capital.

The Petaling Jaya Utara and Kelana Jaya Umno youth members claimed that checks with the Companies Commission revealed that DEIG shared the same director with Selangor's Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI), which is at the centre of another MACC investigation for alleged abuse of power and corruption.

They claimed that DEIG was only established in June 2015, but issued a statement a month later that they would carry out a project worth about RM10 billion with MBI.

"We reopened the Felda case after we got new information of alleged irregularities.

"I have just been informed about the DEIG case and we will need time before we can decide on the next course of action," said Dzul kifli.

In 2015, the Commission had cleared the DEIG of breaching any laws under the MACC Act 2009.

30. **MACC: Ramkarpal should be careful when making statements**



BAHAU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has advised Bukit Gelugor MP Ramkarpal (*pic*) to be careful when making statements.

Its chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said this in response to a statement issued by the DAP lawmaker concerning MACC's 48-hour ultimatum to Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng to apologise over his "slanderous" words against the anti-graft body.

"Ramkarpal made the statement in his capacity as an MP and not counsel for the Penang Chief Minister. I wish to advise him to be careful because there are slanderous and defamatory elements in his media statement," said Dzulkifli.

He said this on Sunday after visiting settlers at Kg Serampang Indah near here.

Ramkarpal in his statement had among others said that Lim's remark was justified.

Lim allegedly told a press conference on Thursday that it was "penahanan haram oleh SPRM" (illegal detention by the MACC) of Penang exco member Phee Boon Poh.

Phee is being probed over an illegal carbon filter-processing factory in Kampung Sungai Lembu, Bukit Mertajam

Dzulkifli also refuted claims that the MACC was harassing and intimidating the Selangor government.

To this, Dzulkifli said the MACC was the one that was being harassed and intimidated.

"Some people make all kinds of false allegations against us. We are impartial and are merely doing our job," he added.

31. Ex-MB Khalid Ibrahim gives statement to MACC over Unisel probe

PETALING JAYA: Two key witnesses, including former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim, gave their statements in the investigations into payment by Universiti Selangor (Unisel).

Khalid arrived at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters in Putrajaya at 3pm and left around 6.30pm Monday.

The other who was at the MACC office was Pendidikan Industri YS Sdn Bhd (PIYSSB) board member Datuk Nik Suhaimi Nik Sulaiman, who arrived at about 10am and left several hours later.

MACC director of investigations Datuk Simi Abdul Ghani confirmed the details but declined to elaborate as investigations were on-going.

On Aug 22, MACC raided Unisel's Bestari Jaya and Shah Alam campuses, as well as the offices of Mentri Besar Incorporated (MBI) and Jana Niaga.

MBI was alleged to have made payments to Jana Niaga via two transactions of RM10mil and RM6mil in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Initial reports received by the MACC showed that MBI had paid Jana Niaga even though its contract had been terminated by Unisel.

32. Selangor MB's officer questioned for five hours by MACC

PUTRAJAYA: The Selangor Mentri Besar's strategic communications director was questioned for five hours by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over a media statement he made on the Universiti Selangor (Unisel) corruption probe.

Yin Shao Loong (pic) was summoned to MACC's headquarters here at 10am, and was only released around 3.30pm Tuesday.

"I was not initially informed of the reason I was called up when I received a summons letter on Monday afternoon.

"I found out later that it was regarding a press statement I issued in my capacity as the press officer to the Mentri Besar's office responding to the MACC raids on MBI (Mentri Besar Incorporated) and Unisel," said Yin.



Yin told reporters that he was asked to repeat the contents of his statement, adding that he was detained for a further two hours over a tweet he had made earlier containing a photo he took of the summons letter.

"I was asked to explain why I had tweeted it. I said it's up to me to do so, it's my private twitter account," he said.

Yin said while the officers were polite and professional, he felt that the long duration of the questioning was unnecessary.

In his media statement issued last week, Yin said Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali was not personally involved in an agreement between Unisel and Jana Niaga Sdn Bhd, which is currently being probed by the MACC.

He also said the state government would continue to cooperate with the *MACC* in its investigation of Unisel and *MBI*.

33. 1MDB: Second tranche fully paid to IPIC



PETALING JAYA: 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) said it has remitted in full the second tranche due on Aug 31 to International Petroleum Investment Company PJSC (IPIC).

"1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) is pleased to announce that pursuant to the Amendment dated 8 August 2017 to the Settlement Deed with Ministry of Finance Inc Malaysia and International Petroleum Investment Company PJSC (IPIC), 1MDB has remitted to IPIC in full the second tranche due on 31 August 2017.

"All funds were paid from proceeds of the ongoing rationalisation programme," 1MDB said in a statement on Wednesday.

1MDB has already remitted the equivalent of US\$350mil to IPIC as part payment of a settlement that was due on July 31, 2017.

The balance of the payment obligation to IPIC is now due on Aug 31, 2017, 1MDB said in a statement earlier.

IPIC in turn acknowledged receipt of the earlier payment in a statement posted on the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

The Abu Dhabi state-owned fund said: "IPIC has now received the funds required by Aug 12, 2017 for the extension agreed with Minister of Finance (Inc) Malaysia (MoF Inc) and 1MDB to be effective.

"Accordingly, MoF Inc and 1MDB now have until Aug 31, 2017 to complete the performance of the payment obligations that were initially due to be performed by July 31, 2017 under the settlement and the consent award and to pay default interest on the delayed payment."

In an Aug 8 statement on the LSE, IPIC said it had granted an extension subject to MoF Inc and 1MDB making part payment of not less than US\$310mil due by Aug 12, 2017.

Earlier, on Aug 1, IPIC informed the exchange that it "has not received payments of US\$602.725mil and US\$26.025mil that was due to be paid," being the first of a two-part payment due on July 31 under a debt-settlement agreement amounting to US\$1.205bil that was reached in April this year.

The second payment of US\$602.73mil is due at the end of this year.