

## The Star July 2017

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## 1. Court frees ex-NFCorp man



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has allowed the appeal by former National Feedlot Corporation Sdn Bhd (NFCorp) consultant Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail (*pic*) and acquitted him of cheating and money laundering involving almost RM2mil.

The 51-year-old broke down in tears when the court made the order to acquit and discharge him of all the charges.

In his decision, High Court judge Justice Azman Abdullah said in the appeal, the issue raised was that the amended charges were prejudicial against Shamsubahrin.

"In the principle of a criminal trial, when there is prejudice against the accused, the benefit must be given to the accused," he said.

The five cheating charges against Shamsubahrin were amended by the Sessions Court at the end of the prosecution's case when he was called to enter his defence on Nov 26, 2013.

The amended charges read that Shamsubahrin was "instructed by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to assist (NFCorp executive chairman Datuk Seri) Dr Mohamad Salleh (Ismail) despite it being untrue".

The judge said this amendment was made despite all parties having agreed to the facts that Dr Mahathir had never known the accused and never instructed the accused to help Dr Mohamad Salleh or NFCorp at any time. (The agreed facts were submitted to the court under Section 402C (2)(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code before the trial started.) The court also acquitted Shamsubahrin of 17 counts of money laundering.

In 2015, Shamsubahrin was sentenced to eight years in jail and four strokes of the rotan after he was found guilty by a Sessions Court of five counts of cheating Dr Mohamad Salleh and 17 counts of money laundering involving RM1.755mil in 2011.

Shamsubahrin was accused of committing the offences at Restoran Sids Pub at H2, Taman Tunku, off Langkat Tunku, here on Nov 20, 2011, and at several banks in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Petaling Jaya between Nov 25 and Dec 5, 2011.

He then appealed at the High Court against the conviction and sentence. Lawyer Gobind Singh Deo represented Shamsubahrin while DPP Ahmad Sazilee Abdul Khairi prosecuted.

## 2. MACC traps Customs officer over RM43,000 bribe in Bintulu



PETALING JAYA: A Customs officer was caught red-handed for soliciting a USD\$10,000 (RM42,990) bribe from a company to enable the smooth process of a business transaction.

The bribe was to facilitate the export of the company's "piping and associated facilities."

Acting on a tip-off, anti-graft officers laid a trap on the 53-year-old officer at a bus station in Bintulu, Sarawak.

He was detained at 10.32pm on Thursday and a sum of money was seized from him.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki confirmed the arrest.

He said MACC would not tolerate officials who misused their position for personal gain.

"Our officers will call in more people if there is a need to assist us in the probe," he said.

The officer has been remanded until July 12.

It is learnt MACC received information on the suspect's wrongdoing before planning a trap to nab him.

MACC officers are now investigating if the suspect had been on the take for some time before his ruse was exposed.

A source said MACC officers had been working closely with the company's senior management to gather more information on the case.

"Two cellphones believed to be used by the suspect to ask for money have been seized," the source added.

It is learnt the MACC will also check the bank accounts and other assets belonging to the officer as part of the ongoing probe.

### **3. MACC obtains remand order for contractor**

SEREMBAN: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has obtained a seven-day remand order against a 31-year-old contractor for allegedly abetting his government servant wife to secure two maintenance projects at the Sendayan Horticulture Centre here.

The order was issued by High Court registrar Rahimah Rahim on Wednesday.

The man, who was arrested at 4pm Monday, had allegedly abetted his wife to obtain a maintenance project of an irrigation system of a herbal project at the centre valued at RM10,100 and another project to maintain a nursery at the same centre costing RM19,900.

His 34-year-old wife, who is an assistant agriculture officer at the centre was arrested on July 6 and charged the following day.

She was charged with abusing her position to award both the projects to her husband.

They allegedly committed the offences in August last year.

Both the accused were being investigated under section 23 of the MACC Act 2009.

#### **4. Ex-contractor pleads not guilty to fraud charge**

IPOH: A former contractor claimed trial in a Sessions Court here to submitting a fraudulent claim for an audio-visual upgrading project worth RM246,500 for Muzium Perak in Taiping.

Mohammad Trevor Mohammad Darby, 35, pleaded not guilty yesterday to attempting to deceive museum curator Nor Hanisah Ahmad by submitting the false documentation at the museum's office on Dec 24, 2013.

He was charged under Section 18 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009, which carries a maximum 20-year jail sentence and a fine of up to five times the amount involved or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Sessions judge S. Indera Nehru granted Mohammad Trevor, who was unrepresented, RM12,000 bail with one surety pending mention on July 27.

Mohammad Trevor, who faces a similar charge in Melaka, was also told to hand over his passport to the court.

On July 5, he pleaded guilty at the Melaka Sessions Court to submitting false documentation on a holographic display system for a project worth RM169,500 for the Malaysia Architecture Museum.

He submitted the false claim in December 2013.



## 5. MACC probing FIC's purchase of high-end London property

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is initiating a probe into the purchase of high-end property in Kensington, London by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC).

It is learnt a four-star hotel in the upmarket Kensington area was purchased by FIC between 2013 and 2015.

The hotel was purchased for £60mil (RM330mil), which made it the 12th investment in Felda's Group hospitality portfolio.

The MACC said it had received new information about the purchase which aroused suspicions of corruption.

Following this, MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad directed a special team to open up an investigation paper over the purchase.

Sources said the team had already seized documents in relation to the purchase and are in the midst of scrutinising them.

It is alleged that FIC had paid more than the actual market value of the property, causing it to suffer millions of ringgit in losses.

Investigations will focus on uncovering any alleged elements of corruption or abuse of power in the process of acquiring the property.

Several key witnesses will be called in soon to have their statements recorded.

The said property comprises 62 units of guest rooms and two units of three-bedroom serviced apartments.

The hotel was launched in December 2014 by then Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad.

FIC was established in 2013, with a focus on real estate, hospitality and the oil and gas sectors.

#### **6. MACC obtains remand order for contractor**

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His 34-year-old wife, who is an assistant agriculture officer at the centre was arrested on July 6 and charged the following day.

She was charged with abusing her position to award both the projects to her husband.

They allegedly committed the offences in August last year.

Both the accused were being investigated under section 23 of the MACC Act 2009.

## 7. MACC regrets Penang's refusal to sign pledge against corruption

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is disappointed with the Penang state government's refusal to sign the Corruption-Free Pledge (IBR), which would show the institution's commitment to warring against the country's number one enemy.

Chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the Opposition-led state government should actually show the rakyat that it takes cases of corruption and abuse of power seriously.

"We don't want people to simply talk about how people should say no to bribery and ask the MACC to take action. They should also play their role and show their commitment to fight corruption and abuse of power.

"So I feel it's strange... if other states can (sign the IBR), Kelantan and Selangor have also stated their readiness to implement the IBR, only one state is left (which refuses to sign the IBR). It's up to the rakyat to assess this issue," he told reporters after attending the MACC's Hari Raya celebrations with the Chinese community of Pulau Ketam here on Friday night.

Last Wednesday, the Penang state government said that the principles of its Competency, Accountability and Transparency (CAT) policy, which has been implemented in the state since 2008, is more effective in efforts to eradicate corruption and abuse of power, as opposed to the IBR.

That statement was made following Dzulkifli's statement last Monday, which outlined how the three Opposition-led state governments of Penang, Selangor and Kelantan had yet to take the pledge and sign the IBR.

Dzulkifli added it is up to the Penang state government as to whether it "persists in being stubborn" and not sign the IBR or otherwise, as it is not compulsory to sign the pledge.

#### **8. MACC chief urges Penang to sign anti-graft pledge**

KLANG: The Penang state government must keep up with its CAT (competency, accountability and transparency) slogan and sign the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) anti-graft pledge, says MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad.

He said the state slogan would be meaningless if the Penang state government continued to resist signing the Corruption-Free Pledge (IBR).

"Penang has a slogan but what is the action taken in line with the slogan?"

"If the state government takes the pledge, only then will be there action complementing the slogan," Dzulkifli told reporters at the MACC Hari Raya open house for the Indian community near here yesterday.

He said the MACC hoped the Penang state government will sign the pledge just like the PAS Kelantan government which will be signing it next week.

He added Selangor too had indicated its commitment towards the IBR even though the state government has yet to sign the pledge.

"Why can't Penang do it? I am from Penang, and am ashamed that the state government does not want to sign the pledge," said Dzulkifli.

The Penang state government, in rejecting the MACC pledge, had said last week that the principles of its CAT policy, implemented since 2008, was more effective in eradicating corruption and abuse of power, as opposed to the IBR.

On the MACC's anti-graft programmes involving the community, Dzulkifli said it was an initiative to build a bridge between the commission and the general public.

The MACC had a similar event with the Chinese community in Pulau Ketam on Saturday.

He said this was necessary to involve the public in efforts to stop corruption, especially those involving monies and allocation meant for them.

According to Dzulkifli, the government has good policies for the people but sometimes its implementation did not reach the target group.

He said this was because there were greedy government officers who abused their power and have forsaken the people's trust.

#### **9. MACC raiding Felda Investment Corporation office**



**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is currently conducting a raid on the Felda Investment Corporation (FIC) office here.

Several uniformed officers from the national anti-graft body arrived at Balai Felda here at 10.20am on Monday in two separate vehicles.

The raid follows the discovery of fresh information obtained by the MACC which showed that a piece of property located in London's upmarket Kensington area was purchased at a high price, resulting in huge losses amounting to millions of ringgit.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad had ordered a thorough investigation into the purchase of the high-end property focusing on possible elements of corruption or abuse of power.

FIC - Felda's investment arm - was said to have acquired the four-star hotel between 2013 and 2015.

The hotel was purchased for a total £60mil (RM330mil), making it the 12th investment in Felda's group hospitality portfolio.

#### 10. MACC not ruling out more FIC-related arrests



PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is not ruling out more arrests over its investigation into Felda Investment Corporation's (FIC) purchase of a London hotel.

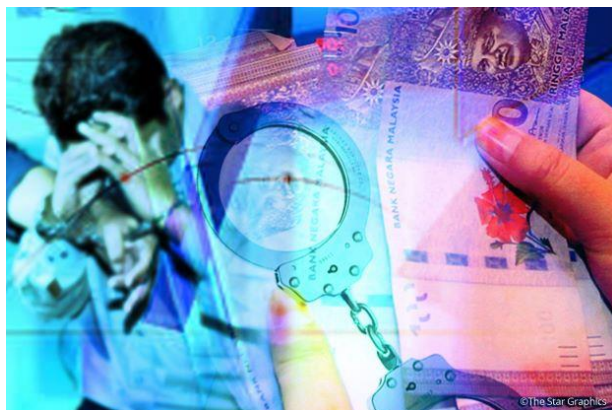
MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki (*pic*) said that more arrests in the near future are possible due to the information gathered during the investigation.

On Tuesday, four senior officers of FIC had their statements recorded by the MACC in connection with the probe, following a raid by the MACC on the FIC offices at Jalan Gurney.

The raid comes after fresh information was obtained by MACC that showed that the property, located at the upmarket Kensington area in London, was purchased at a much higher price, resulting in huge losses amounting to millions of ringgit.

FIC was said to have acquired the four-star hotel between 2013 and 2015 for a total of £60mil (RM330mil), making it the 12th investment in Felda's group hospitality portfolio.

#### 11. MACC: More arrests expected in FIC probe



CYBERJAYA: More arrests will be made in the probe over Felda Investment Corporation (FIC)'s purchase of a London hotel, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) confirmed.

Its chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the arrests would be made soon, following the latest information gathered by the MACC's investigating team.

"Based on what has been gathered, there will be some arrests made, in the near future.

"We will make some arrests, and if there is a need for further action after that, we will do it," said Dzulkifli, after attending the launch of new TV series 'Banteras'.

So far, four FIC officers have been hauled up for questioning, following a raid at FIC's offices in Jalan Gurney, Kuala Lumpur.

MACC discovered information which revealed that the hotel in Kensington, London, may have been purchased at an inflated price, causing millions of ringgit in losses.

FIC was said to have purchased the hotel between 2013 and 2015 for £60mil (RM330mil), making it the 12th investment in Felda's group hospitality portfolio.

## **12. Johor Department of Environment unit head arrested for alleged corruption**

JOHOR BARU: A 40-year-old development unit head from the Johor Department of Environment has been arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly accepting bribes.

Johor MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias confirmed the arrest of the man, who is also the department's Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) enforcement head.

He was arrested at 4pm at the Johor MACC office on Tuesday.

"The initial investigation showed that RM4,000 was transacted into the suspect's company account on Dec 1 last year from another company involved in preparing EIA, Environment Management Plan (EMP), Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) and other environment-related auditing works.

"The money was said to have been paid to the suspect as inducement to approve the company's EMP for a developer's project in Pulau," Azmi said.

The case is being investigated under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009, which carries a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine of RM10,000 or five times the amount of the bribe, whichever is higher.

Azmi said the suspect would be brought to the Johor Baru magistrate's court on Wednesday for remand.



### **13. Ex-MIC veep, son claim trial to RM13mil false claims charge**

KUALA LUMPUR: Former MIC vice-president Tan Sri S. Balakrishnan and his son claimed trial to making false claims of nearly RM13mil over a river restoration project to the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

Balakrishnan, 63, was accused of submitting false claims of RM12,888,000 relating to the supply of some 358 geotubes to carry out the restoration works for the DID.

The actual number of units supplied is said to be just 89 units costing RM4mil.

The offence allegedly took place at the DID headquarters in Jalan Sultan Salahuddin here between Apr 27 and Oct 23, 2012.

Balakrishnan's son, B. Ashok Kumar, who was charged separately in another Sessions Court, pleaded not guilty to abetting his father.



S. Balakrishnan (back) and his son Ashok Kumar (front) being escorted to court.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission deputy public prosecutor S. Thangavelu proposed bail at RM1mil with two sureties and for Balakrishnan's passport to be impounded.

Both the accused were represented by Ashok Athimulan and John Dass.

Athimulam later asked for a RM250,000 bail with two sureties. He also made an oral application for his client not to surrender his passport as he needed to attend his child's graduation ceremony in Australia.

Bail was fixed at RM500,000 with two sureties for each accused.

The courts also ordered Balakrishnan and Ashok Kumar to surrender their passports. They may apply for the documents should they need to travel.

Both courts fixed Aug 28 for mention.

#### **14. MACC now investigating FIC purchase of Kuching hotel**

PETALING JAYA: A four-star hotel in Kuching bought by Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FIC) is being investigated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Sources said the MACC is probing the purchase, which is said to be much higher than the actual market price.

"This is based on a follow-up and information obtained in relation to the ongoing high-end property purchase in Kensington, London, between 2013 and 2015, said a source.

The source added that the purchase of the property in Kuching led to losses of hundreds of millions of ringgit for FIC, Felda's investment arm.

MACC director of investigations Datuk Simi Abdul Ghani confirmed that anti-graft officers were looking into the matter.

The London property comprised 62 units of guest rooms and two units of three-bedroom serviced apartments.

It is learnt that FIC overpaid the purchase by at least £20mil (RM110mil).

FIC was established in 2013, with a focus on real estate, hospitality and oil and gas sectors.

#### 15. MACC spends four hours gathering evidence over FIC's Kuching hotel purchase



KUCHING: Officers from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) spent four hours gathering evidence during a visit to companies here as part of investigations into the purchase of a hotel by Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FIC).

The officers began their visit to the three companies - including property agents and a developer - at about 10am on Friday.

Four officers visited the office of Raine & Horne International Zaki + Partners Sdn Bhd at Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce and emerged at 2pm with a box of documents.

Another four officers visited the office of an international asset consultant firm Henry Butcher Malaysia (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd at Jalan Petanak and left the building with some files around 1pm.

However, MACC officers could not visit the office of developer Gagasan Abadi Properties Sdn Bhd at Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg as it was closed.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki, confirmed that officers visited the three companies to collect documents and evidence relating to the purchase of the 213-room, four star hotel in Kuching.

These investigations follow the probe carried out by the MACC on a high-end hotel purchase in Kensington, London.

The hotel in London, comprising 62 guest rooms and two three-bedroom serviced apartments, was reportedly overpaid by at least £20mil (RM110mil).

Two people have been detained to assist with investigations into the London hotel purchase and several top ranking Felda officers have given their statements to the anti-graft body.

It is learnt that the investigations would look into the elements of corruption and abuse of power, resulting in FIC, Felda's investment arm, paying a higher price than the actual market value.

#### **16. MACC probes three firms over FIC purchase of hotel in Kuching**

KUCHING: Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officers visited three firms here as part of investigations into the purchase of a hotel in the city centre by Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FIC).

Several officers were seen entering the office of Raine & Horne International Zaki and Partners Sdn Bhd in Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Aduce around 10am Friday.

Officers were also at the office of international asset consultancy firm Henry Butcher Malaysia (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd in Padungan and the office of property developer Gegasan Abadi Properties Sdn Bhd at Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki, when contacted, confirmed that anti-graft officers visited the three offices to gather documents and evidence and to interview staff relating to the hotel purchase.

The four-star hotel, comprising 213 units of guest rooms and apartment suites, is strategically located in the city.

The investigations followed the probe carried out by MACC on a high-end hotel purchase in Kensington, London.

The hotel, comprising 62 guest rooms and two three-bedroom serviced apartments, was reportedly overpaid by at least £20mil (RM110mil).

Two people have been detained to assist with investigations into the London hotel purchase and several top ranking Felda officers have given their statements to the MACC.

It is learnt that the investigations would look into elements of corruption and abuse of power, resulting in FIC paying a higher price than the actual market value.

#### **17. MACC teams visit six offices to gather evidence on Kuching luxury hotel purchase**

KUALA LUMPUR: Six offices - three in the Klang Valley and three in Kuching - were visited simultaneously by anti-graft officers as they sought to unearth evidence relating to another property deal by Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FIC).

The company's 2014 purchase of a posh Kuching hotel, comprising 213 units of guest rooms and apartment suites, has raised suspicions of corruption and abuse of power.

Sources said it is believed that FIC paid RM40mil to RM50mil more than the actual market value.

Felda chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad told *The Star* that the hotel was purchased for RM160mil.

"It was during the tenure of the previous FIC board members," he said. "What I did when I took over Felda was to order all of them to resign. Now, FIC is run by an entirely new team of professionals who started work this month."

Shahrir added that the new team included two senior officials from Khazanah Nasional Bhd, a lawyer, an accountant and an auditor.



**Work in progress: MACC officers carrying a box of documents seized from one of the offices in Kuala Lumpur.**

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is now sifting through stacks of documents seized yesterday, which included papers taken from FIC's main office in Jalan Semarak here.

In a statement, audit and consulting firm Deloitte Malaysia confirmed receiving a visit from MACC officers at its Menara LGB office in Taman Tun Dr Ismail here.

"Deloitte Malaysia is not under investigation with respect to the FIC's London hotel probe or any other matters," its country managing partner Tan Theng Hooi said in a statement.

"The MACC officers requested our assistance in providing information relating to their investigations. We are cooperating fully with them."

The third company visited in the Klang Valley was Mohamed Ridza & Co in Damansara.

It is learnt that MACC will look into the involvement of the previous FIC board members in the Kuching hotel deal.

"We may be calling them in to assist in the probe," a source added.

In a statement, the MACC said its chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad had ordered a new probe to be carried out in relation to the Sarawak hotel deal.

This follows leads obtained during the ongoing probe into FIC's acquisition of a high-end property in London's upmarket Kensington area.

The statement said the Kuching hotel is suspected to have been bought for a much higher price, resulting in huge losses to FIC.

"Several key witnesses will be called in very soon to assist in the probe over this second FIC-owned property," it said.

Earlier this month, three boxes of documents were carted away in connection with the Kensington hotel, comprising 62 units of guest rooms and two units of three-bedroom serviced apartments, also said to be overpaid by at least £20mil (RM112mil).

Last week, two former key officials of a valuation firm were arrested in relation to the London property probe. Their remand has since been extended till Monday.

So far, 11 key witnesses - mostly FIC senior officials - have had their statements recorded.

FIC was established in 2013 with a focus on real estate, hospitality, and the oil and gas sectors.

In Kuching, two four-man teams spent about four hours gathering evidence at Raine and Horne International Zaki + Partners Sdn Bhd at Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce and Henry Butcher Malaysia (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd at Jalan Petanak.

They left after several hours with boxes of documents and files.

Another team tried to visit a third firm, Gagasan Abadi Properties Sdn Bhd at Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, but the office was closed.



### 18. Three officers remanded over alleged RM600 bribe



Facing the law: One of the enforcement officers being led by MACC officials into the magistrate's court in Kota Kinabalu.

KOTA KINABALU: Three enforcement officers from the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's Beaufort office have been remanded for five days to facilitate investigations into a RM600 bribe.

Kota Kinabalu Court Registrar Rita Kunsoi granted the five-day remand application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission prosecutors to investigate the civil servants.

State MACC director Datuk Sazali Sabli said the officers allegedly demanded RM600 from a Beaufort shopkeeper as an inducement for them to not take action against him for failing to display price tags, among other purported offences, during an inspection on July 14.

The three officers, aged 35, 37 and 39, were arrested at their office about 100km from here on Thursday after the shopkeeper lodged a report.

They were brought to the Kota Kinabalu Court for remand proceedings at 10.30am yesterday.

### 19. Three detained in MACC probe into FIC's Kuching hotel deal

PETALING JAYA: Three men were arrested over Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd's (FIC) purchase of a posh hotel in Kuching.

This came barely 24 hours after Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officers visited six locations - three in the Klang Valley and three in Kuching - to gather evidence on the investigation.

It is learnt that two of the suspects, aged 47 and 51, were directors of a company appointed as the agent to handle the purchase back in 2014.

Both men were summoned to the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya to give their statements.

They were immediately arrested at 9am yesterday and later taken to the court to be remanded.

The other suspect was also detained yesterday at the Kuching MACC office.

He will be brought to the Putrajaya court today to be remanded.

The 57-year-old is also the director of a company which owns the hotel.

Sources said he had appointed the two other suspects to negotiate the hotel's purchase with FIC, which was suspected to be higher than the market value by between RM40mil and RM50mil.

The hotel, strategically located in the heart of Kuching, was bought by the FIC for RM160mil.

"We will investigate if there are any links between the Kuching hotel deal and the other FIC-owned hotel in Kensington, London.

"Checks will also be conducted to see if the three suspects had any connection with the former FIC board members," said the source in an interview with *The Star*.

MACC director of investigations Datuk Simi Abdul Ghani said the MACC had obtained a one-week remand order until Aug 4 for two of the men.

He said investigations were focused on both corruption and abuse of power.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad had directed a new probe after leads were obtained during the ongoing probe into FIC's acquisition of the hotel in the upmarket Kensington area.

The London hotel, comprising 62 units of guest rooms and two units of three-bedroom serviced apartments, was also said to be overpaid by at least £20mil (RM112mil).

Last week, two former key officials of a valuation firm were arrested in relation to the London property probe.

Their remand has since been extended until tomorrow.

**20. FIC probe: Company director remanded six days**



- Bernama pic

PUTRAJAYA: A company director has been remanded for six days to assist in investigations into the purchase of a hotel by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC) in Kuching, Sarawak, in 2014.

The remand order was issued by Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman after the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) filed the remand application on Sunday.

The 57-year-old director arrived at the Magistrate Court here for the remand proceedings at 10.40am, while handcuffed and clad in orange lock-up attire.

The man, who also owns the hotel, was detained at the Kuching MACC office at 1.30pm on Saturday.

He was one of three individuals detained by the MACC to assist in investigations into the case.

The two other men were detained at the Putrajaya MACC office after they turned up to give their statements.

The duo, aged 47 and 51, are directors of a company which had been appointed as the agent to manage the purchase of the hotel.

Two days ago, MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad ordered an investigation paper to be opened into the purchase of the hotel which was suspected to have been bought at a fee that was much higher than market price.

## **21. MACC quashes rumours Sabah Water Dept trio cleared of graft**

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has denied rumours that there was no wrongdoing involved in the Sabah Water Department's power abuse case.

It said such claims, which were being spread online by irresponsible parties, would only confuse the public.

It said three individuals - former director of the Sabah Water Department, his wife and a former deputy director - have been charged with corruption and money laundering at the Kota Kinabalu Sessions Court and the cases would be mentioned on Aug 8.

"The MACC requests all parties not to take the opportunity to twist this issue.

"We will monitor and review all unverified reports that are uploaded on social media to ensure that there is no attempt to tarnish MACC's reputation," the commission said in a statement on Sunday.

It said it would lodge a police report on the matter against those spreading false information.

The department's former director Ag Mohd Tahir Mohd Talib, 54, was charged with 12 counts under Section 4(1)(a) and Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing, and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

His wife, Fauziah Ag Piut, 51 and former deputy director Lim Lam Beng, 62, have been charged with 19 counts for money laundering amounting to RM2.2mil and four separate counts totalling RM2.38mil under Section 4(1)(b) of the same Act.

The three were charged on Dec 30, last year over RM3.3bil in Federal funds meant for development of water facilities in the state.

## 22. MACC quashes SWD rumours

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has denied rumours that there was no wrongdoing involved in the Sabah Water Department power abuse case. It said such claims were being spread online by irresponsible people and would only confuse the public.

When contacted, MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki confirmed that an officer from the department had lodged a police report at Putrajaya police station at 10am yesterday.

Azam added that the allegations were untrue and had compromised the commission's image, and it wants the police to find the culprits and put a stop to such malicious acts.

On Saturday, a person using the name of "Cikgu Aming" uploaded a posting on Facebook titled: "*SPRM sahkan skandal Jabatan Air Negeri Sabah tiada unsur rasuah*" (MACC confirms the Sabah Water scandal was devoid of any corrupt elements).

In a separate statement, the anti-graft body said three individuals - the former department director, his wife and a former deputy director - have been charged with corruption and money laundering at the Kota Kinabalu Sessions Court and the cases would be mentioned on Aug 8.

"The MACC will monitor all unverified reports that are uploaded on social media to ensure that there is no attempt to tarnish MACC's reputation," the commission said in a statement yesterday.

The Water Department's former director Ag Mohd Tahir Mohd Talib, 54, was charged with 12 counts under Section 4(1)(a) and Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing, and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

His wife Fauziah Ag Piut, 51, and former deputy director Lim Lam Beng, 62, were charged with 19 counts of money laundering amounting to RM2.2mil and four separate counts totalling RM2.38mil under Section 4(1)(b) of the same Act.

The three were charged in December over RM3.3bil in Federal funds meant for development of water facilities in the state.

### 23. Kuching hotel owner in FIC probe remanded



**Nabbed:** The director being escorted away by MACC officers after the remand proceedings in Putrajaya. **PUTRAJAYA:** A company director has been remanded for six days to assist investigations into the purchase of a hotel by Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FIC) in Kuching, Sarawak, in 2014.

The remand order application by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) was granted by magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman.

The 57-year-old director was escorted by MACC officers during the remand proceedings at 10.40am yesterday, while handcuffed and clad in orange lock-up attire.

The man, who also owns the hotel, was detained at the Kuching MACC office on Saturday.

He was among one of three people arrested by the MACC to assist in the investigation.

The other two men, aged 47 and 51, are directors of a company which had been appointed as the agent to manage the purchase of the hotel.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad ordered for an investigation paper to be opened to investigate the purchase of the hotel which was suspected to have been bought at more than the market price.



#### **24. Auditor-General makes 353 proposals to overcome weaknesses**



KUALA LUMPUR: The Auditor-General's Report 2016 Series 1 tabled at the Dewan Rakyat contains 353 recommendations to assist the federal government, federal statutory bodies and state governments in rectifying identified weaknesses.

Auditor-General Tan Sri Dr Madinah Mohamad (*pix*) said two of the recommendations pertained to Federal Government Financial Statement 2016; 90 to federal government ministry and department activities; and 244 to financial management of state government departments, agencies and companies.

"As usual, the department heads concerned have been informed beforehand, for the purpose of confirmation," she said in a statement to Bernama.

She said federal government revenue for 2016 amounted to RM212.421bil, compared to RM219.089bil in 2015. This downward trend was the result of the drop in world crude oil price.

On financial management performance rating, she said 25 ministries, 18 federal departments, 38 federal statutory bodies, 138 state ministries/departments, 41 state statutory bodies, 41 local authorities and six Islamic Religious Councils had been audited.

Madinah said 63 performance audits were conducted on government projects/activities/programmes and 21 management audits, on government companies at federal and state level.



She said the Finance Ministry had also given feedback on the report with comments from the secretary-general and relevant department heads on the latest action undertaken.

According to her, 187 of 307 ministries, federal departments and statutory bodies, state ministries/departments, state statutory bodies, local authorities and Islamic Religious Councils received 'excellence' (5-star) rating.

"Twenty-five ministries achieved excellence compared to 16 in 2015," she said.

Madinah said the report and synopsis could be accessed through the National Audit Department's website.

She said a session with the media on the Auditor-General's Report would be held at noon on Thursday (Aug 3) at Auditorium Kompleks C, Putrajaya. - Bernama