

The Star June 2017

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1. Group reports to MACC over Peel Avenue land deal



GEORGE TOWN: A non-governmental organisation lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over the lease of a piece of government land in Peel Avenue to a private hospital.

Penang People's Association chairman Datuk Huan Cheng Guan (*pic*) said he gave Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng a week to reveal the sale and purchase (S&P) agreement of the land deal, but Lim did not reply.

"An MACC report was lodged because we feel the deal should have been done through open tender process, which was frequently stressed by the Penang state administration, instead of direct negotiation," he said in front of the state MACC office in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah here Thursday.

The state government gave Island Hospital a 99-year lease on the 2.6ha land for RM156mil for the construction of a RM2bil "medical city" project.

Huan added that he was "curious, disappointed and shocked" after learning that the land was leased without any public announcements.

The hospital had paid RM30mil for the land and was given two years to pay the remaining RM126mil, pending its hospital licence application.

Huan hoped that MACC would investigate to ensure that the land deal did not violate the law.

Lim had previously stated that the land deal was decided by the state executive council, and the land was leased to Island Hospital without an open tender because it was treated as a foreign direct investment in a high-value industry.

The Chief Minister could not be reached for comment.

2. Najib confident KWAP fund size can hit RM500bil in 2050



KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is confident that Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP) can reach a RM500bil fund size in 2050.

He said as of Dec 31 last year, KWAP's fund size reached RM125bil.

Najib said KWAP has posted an average gross return on investment of 6.5% over the 10 years since its inception in 2007.

"Despite economic challenges globally, I believe KWAP will continue to show positive and consistent financial performance as what it has achieved this far," he said in his speech when officiating KWAP's new office in Menara Integra here Monday.

At the event, the Prime Minister also launched the MyPesara mobile application that caters to pensioners.

3. Remand extended for four 'Datuks' in Kotamas probe

KUALA LUMPUR: The remand of four Datuks, held in connection with the investigations into alleged graft at Koperasi Telekom Malaysia Bhd (Kotamas) resulting in RM23mil in losses, has been extended.

Two others, including a woman in her 50s, were released on police bail.

The six were brought to the Putrajaya magistrate's court on Sunday morning, on the expiry of their remand period.

Magistrate Nik Isfahanie Tasnim Wan Ab Rahman granted a further remand of six days for the four Datuks while the other two were released on RM10,000 bail with two guarantors each.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) arrested the six on Tuesday over suspected graft involving the cooperative.

Sources said MACC officers were zooming in on the wife of a Kotamas board member. She and her husband were among those arrested.

It is learnt the woman is an assistant director of a division at a ministry and is also suspected to be involved in corruption involving the writing and publication of books.

She allegedly abused her position to secure the deals for herself.

"The initial investigation showed that there were movements of funds between several bank accounts. A sum of about RM300,000 was found parked in the account of one of the other suspects," said a source.

The sum was purportedly deposited into the account of the businessman, who is said to be the main vendor and sole supplier of products to Kotamas over the past two years.

The source said checks showed that the money was not linked to Kotamas.

"We believe the suspect used her connections with the businessman to transfer the money. This was happening at about the same time as the dubious transactions between Kotamas and the main vendor," the source said.

MACC officers had previously visited Kotamas' office and took away some documents to assist in the probe.

Checks are being carried out on the assets, bank accounts and personal belongings of the officials.

The suspects are also alleged to have abused their positions by registering Kotamas borrowers with a multi-level marketing company.

4. MACC officer held in Penang for extortion

BUKIT MERTAJAM: It supposedly started three months ago when a police officer was contacted via WhatsApp to meet up with a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officer.

The 38-year-old MACC assistant superintendent allegedly wanted to meet the police officer in Putrajaya but the latter declined. This was followed by numerous messages over the next few months.

On June 5, the police officer was told by a friend that the MACC officer had asked for RM3,000 a month or else he would be arrested by the MACC.

Central Seberang Prai OCPD Asst Comm Nik Ros Azhan Nik Abdul Hamid said: "The MACC officer claimed he was in charge of monitoring illegal gambling activities.

"The police officer met the suspect at about 9.30pm on Thursday at a petrol kiosk in Seberang Jaya where the demand was made"

The suspect then asked the police officer to turn up with the money the next day, ACP Nik Ros Azhan said in a statement yesterday.

"At 10.20pm on Friday, they met at a restaurant in Taman Machang Bubok where the suspect was handed the money.

"He was subsequently arrested and brought to the district police headquarters for questioning.

"Other than the money, we also confiscated two 9mm SME-type bullet shells, a Volkswagen Polo Sedan, a smartphone, a backpack, a pair of pants, his authority card and MyKad from him," he said.

ACP Nik Ros Azhan said investigations showed that the suspect had served with the MACC for 16 years and was in the Intelligence Unit (Northern Zone) at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya.

He has since been remanded pending investigations into the case classified as extortion under Section 384 of the Penal Code.

The suspect, who is married with three children, hid his face in his orange lock-up attire when he arrived at the court.

Magistrate Nurulrasyidah Mohd Akit then granted a three-day remand until tomorrow.

The MACC said in a statement the commission would not compromise on any wrongdoing, and it would cooperate with the police.

"We (the *MACC*) welcome the stern action by the police and will not interfere in the investigations.

"The *MACC* will also be conducting its own examination to prevent such an incident from recurring.

"Stern action will be taken against those who damage the reputation of the *MACC*," the statement said.

5. MACC to record statements of over 50 witnesses in FGV probe

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 50 people are expected to be called up as witnesses to assist in the ongoing investigation into Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV).

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki said those required to facilitate investigation into the matter would be called up for their statements.

"The statements from these individuals are vital to enable the Commission to complete the probe, which began last week.

"The investigation team will also go to Felda's office again to seize relevant documents," he said when contacted Monday.

Asked on how long the investigation will take, Azam said it depends on the witnesses' cooperation.

"We believe the statements will greatly assist the Commission to wrap up the case as soon as possible. It will also depend on the evidence gathered," he said.

Azam did not rule out the possibility that FGV chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad as well as FGV president and chief executive officer Datuk Zakaria Arshad would have their statements recorded.

He also said investigations on FGV by the anti-graft body and an independent party led by former minister Datuk Seri Idris Jala would not overlap.

"The scope of our investigation is different. Datuk Seri Idris Jala is trying to establish if there are violations of its policies and standard operating procedure.

"In fact, we can assist one another so that we can effectively find out what happened," Azam added.

On June 6, Zakaria and three other senior management staff members were asked to take an indefinite leave of absence, which Mohd Isa said was a decision made by the entire FGV board.

The board's decision came a day after Zakaria was told to resign by Mohd Isa following a series of board meetings since May 31, concerning delayed payments owed to Delima Oil Products Sdn Bhd by Safitex Trading LLC, an Afghan company.

Last Thursday, anti-graft officers went to the FGV headquarters in Menara Felda and retrieved boxes of files and documents.

6. MACC detains PWD engineer over misuse of power

JOHOR BARU: An engineer with the Kulai District Public Works Department was detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over misuse of power and position for personal interest.

The 38-year old suspect was arrested at around 1pm on Monday at the Johor MACC office when he went there to give his statement over the investigation.

"The suspect had awarded several grass cutting and cleaning projects to his brother valued about RM20,000," said sources.

The case is being investigated under Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009.

The offence carries a jail term of up to 20 years and five times the amount of bribes involved.

Johor MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias confirmed the case.

He said the suspect would be produced at the Johor.

7. Longer remand for MACC officer in extortion case

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Police have obtained a further two days of remand against a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officer accused of extorting money from a police officer.

Magistrate Nurulrasyidah Mohd Akit granted the extension after the 38-year-old assistant superintendent was brought to the court here yesterday.

Police are investigating the case which has been classified as extortion under Section 384 of the Penal Code.

The police had earlier obtained a three-day remand order against the officer last Saturday.

On June 5, the police officer was told by a friend that the MACC officer whom they have been in contact with for three months had asked for RM3,000 a month or else the police officer would be arrested by the MACC.

Central Seberang Prai OCPD Asst Comm Nik Ros Azhan Nik Abdul Hamid said the MACC officer claimed he was in charge of monitoring illegal gambling activities and the duo had met up prior to the handing over of the money.

Nik Ros said besides the money, police also confiscated two 9mm SME-type cartridges from the suspect during the arrest.

The officer has served with the MACC for 16 years.

8. MACC records statement of enforcement agency chief over RM45,000 golf set

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded the statement of a director-general of an enforcement agency over a golf set worth RM45,000 which he received.

According to sources in MACC, statements were also recorded on Thursday from three officers, including a personal assistant of the director-general.

"The man, in his 50s, was believed to have received a golf set worth more than RM40,000 from certain parties.

"The MACC has recorded a statement from the man at his office today and investigation is underway," he said.

The source said so far, no arrests have been made.

9. MACC to call up more individuals in probe over RM45,000 golf set

KLANG: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will call up a few more individuals to assist in the investigation into the case of an enforcement agency director-general who allegedly received a RM45,000 golf set.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the individuals include several members of the public and officers of the agency.

He, however, did not elaborate when their statements will be recorded.

"We will call up more people and, if necessary, have their statements recorded.

"This is a normal process for us to complete the investigation," he told the press after distributing 2,500 containers of bubur lambuk (mixed porridge) to community members at the Masjid Asy Syarif in Meru here Friday.

On Thursday night, the director-general went to the Selangor MACC office in Shah Alam to have his statement recorded.

Three officers including his personal assistant were also questioned by the MACC.

When asked if the investigation was related to the RM45,000 golf set given by a car tinting company, Dzulkifli said the details were still being probed.

"We are investigating if it was related to that issue or others. We will find out," he said, adding that no arrests have been made on the case.

10. Court sets July 5 date for decision on NFCorp consultant's appeal

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has fixed July 5 for decision on the appeal by former National Feedlot Corporation Sdn Bhd (NFCorp) consultant Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail against his jail sentence and whipping.

The sentence was for cheating NFCorp executive chairman Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail and 17 counts of money laundering involving RM1.755mil.

The court will also decide the same day on the prosecution's cross appeal against the sentence.

High Court judge Justice Azman Abdullah set the date for decision after hearing submissions from parties Friday.

On May 18, 2015, Sessions Court judge Rozilah Salleh jailed Shamsubahrin for eight years and ordered him to be whipped four times for the cheating and money laundering charges after he was found guilty.

She also instructed him to pay RM611,895.94 as penalty, in default four years' jail.

Shamsubahrin committed the offences at Restoran Sid's Pub at H2, Taman Tunku, Off Langkat Tunku here on Nov 20, 2011, and at several banks in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya between Nov 25, 2011, and Dec 13, 2011.

11. IGP: Let MACC investigate protection racket allegations



KUALA LUMPUR: Let the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigate allegations of police protection rackets, says Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar (*pic*).

The Inspector-General of Police said all parties must give MACC ample room to investigate the case thoroughly.

"If there is any offence committed by any individual, action will be taken," he said, adding that there is no need for news portals to make assumptions or allegations.

"We will wait for the full report by MACC," he told a press conference after witnessing the handing-over ceremony for the Bukit Aman traffic investigation and enforcement department director's post on Friday.

Outgoing director Datuk Mahamad Akhir Darus handed over the reigns to Senior Asst Comm Shahrul Othman.

The Inspector-General was asked to comment on reports that the main suspect in the protection racket case had contact with high-ranking Bukit Aman officers.

Khalid also said that he did not have to divulge the content of conversations with the main suspect in the case.

"The portal is out to paint me and the police force in a bad light. People should not be influenced by lies," he said.

12. MACC: No contact from US DoJ over latest action

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission says it was not contacted by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) ahead of its latest civil action related to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad said the Commission was equally in the dark as the police and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Asked if the MACCC was investigating the case, he said the matter was under the purview of the police.

"We don't want to overlap with another agency," Dzulkifli told reporters after launching the Sahabat SPRM programme at Berjaya Times Square mall, here, Saturday.

The DoJ on Thursday moved to seize US\$540mil (RM2.3bil) of assets allegedly belonging to 1MDB.

However, 1MDB stated it had not been contacted by the DoJ over the latest lawsuit.

This time last year, US prosecutors filed civil asset-forfeiture suits against more than US\$1bil (RM4.27bil) worth of artworks, real estate and other assets owned by several individuals.

13. Kemas director claims trial to two corruption charges

ALOR SETAR: A 54-year-old Community Development Department (Kemas) director in Putrajaya pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here Sunday to two counts of corruption involving RM159,053.22.

Mohd Adnan Md Daud made the plea after the charges were read out to him before judge Azman Abu Hassan.

He allegedly accepted a bribe of RM73,000 from one Sah Hizam Halim as an inducement to appoint his company, Perniagaan Naluri Pertama, to carry out work to supply milk powder to Permata child care centres when he was a development officer with Selangor Kemas.

He was charged with committing the offence at Maybank's Alor Setar branch on Dec 14 last year.

It was also allegedly intended to be an inducement to appoint a company owned by Sah Hizam - Alpha Elite Resource - to supply chocolate milk powder to Permata child care centres.

Mohd Adnan was also charged with accepting RM86,053.22 from Sah Hizam at Maybank's Alor Setar branch on Jan 7, 2015 as an inducement to appoint a company owned by him - Perniagaan Naluri Utama - as the supplier of milk powder worth RM123,786 and biscuits worth RM78,246 to the childcare centres.

It is also alleged that the money was also meant as an inducement to appoint LD Dinamik Enterprise to supply and send Koko Krunch worth RM59,512 and additional food, worth RM61,582.50 to the childcare centres, as well as an inducement for him to appoint One Blue Diamond Enterprise to send additional food supplies worth RM130,410.

The money was also allegedly an inducement for Mohd Adnam to appoint Golden North Enterprise to supply Nestle Koko Krunch cereal worth RM62,505 as well as to appoint Malbery Enterprise to supply biscuits worth RM94,702 to the childcare centres.

LD Dinamik Enterprise, One Blue Diamond Enterprise, Golden North Enterprise and Malbery Enterprise are all owned by Sah Hizam.

He faces a maximum 20-year jail sentence and a fine if found guilty of the offences under Section 17 (a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act.

The court set bail at RM80,000 in one surety and fixed July 31 for mention. -

14. Najib: RM6mil approved to improve infrastructure in Perlis



KANGAR: An allocation of RM6mil has been approved to upgrade infrastructure in Perlis, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Umno president told the party's grassroots members and leaders in Perlis that the allocation will be used to repair houses and upgrade roads within the state.

"RM3mil will be used for house repairs and RM3mil will be used to refurbish roads," Najib announced in his speech at the Dewan Wawasan 2020 in Kangar here on Monday.

It was Najib's first visit to the state this year.

Also present were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Perlis Umno deputy chairman Datuk Seri Azlan Man, who is also Kangar Umno division chief and Perlis Mentri Besar, as well as Perlis Umno secretary Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin who is Padang Besar division chief and MP.

15. MACC investigation into FGV separate from other Govt arrangements

KUANTAN: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigation into Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) is separate from any other arrangements between the Government and FGV, said its chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad.

"We are not tied down to any time frame. Our investigation depends on the progress in getting statements and evidence. After that, we will submit our papers to the Attorney-General for further action," he said.

Dzulkifli said that MACC officers have already recorded statements from 60 witnesses.

"My officers are all working hard on this investigation during this fasting month. We have over a few days," he said after witnessing top Pahang government leaders sign the corruption-free pledge here on Tuesday.

He added that the latest developments in the FGV debacle would not affect the ongoing MACC investigation involving the company.

Dzulkifli was asked to comment on the status of MACC's investigation following the resignation of FGV's chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad.

Isa had been appointed as the acting chairman of the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD).

Asked whether Isa should take a leave of absence while the investigation was ongoing, Dzulkifli said that this was for the Government to decide.

He however said that this decision would not affect the investigation.

16. Isa Samad summoned to MACC headquarters on Wednesday



PETALING JAYA: Former Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) chairman Tan Sri Isa Samad has been summoned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to have his statement recorded.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Azam Baki confirmed that Isa and his wife Puan Sri Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid will be at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya on Wednesday at 10am.

The MACC is investigating FGV over claims of improprieties and abuses of power that were brought to their attention following a management crisis that led to the group president and CEO Datuk Zakaria Arshad and three key executives being asked to take a leave of absence.

On Monday, prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that Isa will be acting chairman of the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) while Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob will be acting chairman of FGV.

On June 8, MACC conducted an eight-hour operation at the FGV headquarters to retrieve documents related to its probe into alleged improprieties involving the company.

MACC previously said its investigation was focused on six issues involving FGV, and the commission will soon call witnesses and those involved to aid in the probe.

Datuk Zakaria Arshad was suspended as FGV group president and CEO on June 6.

17. PWD assistant engineer charged with abuse of power

KOTA KINABALU: An assistant engineer with the Tuaran district Public Works Department (PWD) was charged Tuesday in a Special Corruption Court for abuse of power.

He allegedly awarded his daughter's company a road maintenance project worth RM49,200 in 2010.

Chong Min Hong @ Raymond Chong, 59, pleaded not guilty to the charge under Section 23(1) Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009, which carries up to 20 years imprisonment if found guilty.

Judge Abu Bakar Manat allowed bail of RM10, 000 and directed for his passport to be impounded.

Chong was also told to report to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's office once a month.

Chong was accused of chairing a district tender meeting that awarded "urgent maintenance of Jalan Hamad Kitapol Km1.40-Km6.80" valued at RM49,200 to JR Enterprise that was owned by his daughter Patricia Chong @ Patrecia Raymond.

He is accused to have committed the offence on Oct 29, 2010 at the Tuaran district PWD office.

MACC deputy prosecutor Rustam Samip led the prosecution while Chong was represented by counsel Dominic Chew Ban Huat and Luke Ressa Balang.

The court set July 26 for pre-trial case management.

18. MACC questions Isa Samad and wife for four hours

PUTRAJAYA: Former Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) chairman Tan Sri Isa Samad and his wife Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid were questioned for four hours by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Isa said he was asked to explain certain issues relating to FGV, but declined to reveal details.

"I was asked to provide explanation on several issues. There were many issues but I will not reveal what they are.

"This is normal. When there are allegations, as (former) chairman, I have to explain.

"I gave my statement. Whether I'm wrong or not I don't know. Let MACC investigate and decide," said Isa to reporters as he exited the MACC headquarters.

Isa and his wife arrived at the building at 9.40am Wednesday and went into the MACC headquarters without addressing the media gathered there.

They were summoned by the MACC to have their statements recorded over issues involving FGV.

On Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the appointment of Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob as acting FGV chairman.

Isa, who relinquished his post on Monday, was appointed as acting chairman of the Land Public Transport Commission.

19. A-G: US DoJ civil suit is politically motivated



PETALING JAYA: The civil lawsuit filed by the United States' Department of Justice (DoJ) to seize US\$540mil (RM2.317bil) worth of assets allegedly linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) is politically motivated, says Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali.

Bernama reported Mohamed Apandi as saying that this was because the DoJ had never made any official request to the Attorney-General's Chambers to obtain any clarification or information on the claims made by them.

"If they had asked, it is our responsibility to assist them. Therefore, I have come to a conclusion that it is politically motivated.

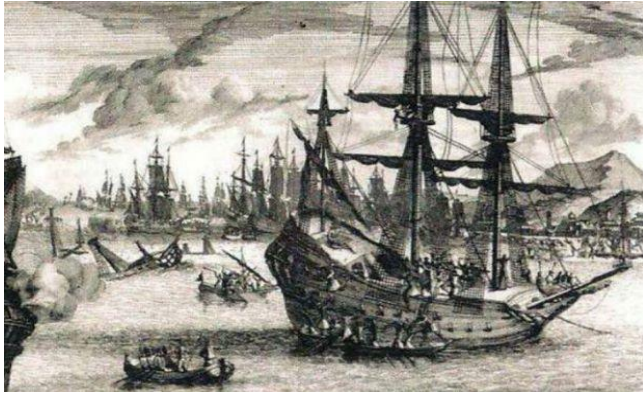
"The actions of the DoJ are also believed to be based on information given by certain individuals from Malaysia," *Bernama* reported him as saying when met by reporters at the Tok Awang Gagah Family Day in Salor on Tuesday.

The event was attended by around 800 descendants of Tok Awang Gagah, a famed Kelantanese warrior from the 1920s, whom Mohamed Apandi is descended from.

Foreign media also reported that Australian supermodel Miranda Kerr had handed over US\$8.1mil (RM34.78mil) worth of jewellery, allegedly given to her by Malaysian financier Jho Low, to US government agents.

Kerr handed over the jewellery, which was in her safe-deposit box in Los Angeles, last Friday.

20. Melaka museum to build RM10mil replica of historical vessel



MELAKA: The Melaka Museum Corporation (Perzim) plans to build a replica of legendary vessel Mendam Berahi worth RM10mil.

Perzim general manager Datuk Khamis Abas said the replica would be built next to the Submarine Museum in Klebang here, and was expected to take about two years to complete.

"The work of drawing up plans, models and exhibitions to be placed in the museum (within the replica) is almost complete, and we are just waiting for the RM10mil allocation from the Tourism and Culture Ministry.

"The Mendam Berahi vessel will feature the history of Malay Malacca ships in the 14th and 15th centuries," he told reporters after a ceremony to fete Perzim's 300,000th visitor at the Royal Malaysian Navy Museum (RMN), here Friday.

Khamis also said the Mendam Berahi museum could accommodate between 100 and 150 visitors at a time.

He said that among the most visited museums were the Maritime Museum and the History and Ethnography Museum in Bandar Hilir as well as the Submarine Museum.

Meanwhile, Perzim's 300,000th visitor Hisham @ Asang Teliban, 57, from Terengganu said he was honoured and happy to be the lucky visitor.

Hisham, who visited the RMN Museum with seven other family members, said they were in Melaka to visit one of his children and they had also been to the Maritime Museum among other tourist destinations.