The Star April 2019

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1. Salahuddin Ayub confirms arrest of his pol-sec



PETALING JAYA: Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub has confirmed that his political secretary has been arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

In a statement, Salahuddin said he had been informed that his political secretary had been detained by MACC to be investigated.

It was earlier reported on Monday (April 1) that a political secretary to a Cabinet minister has been arrested under the suspicion of receiving bribery in the form of a luxury watch, said to be worth RM28,000.

"I would like to emphasise that I will not interfere in the MACC's investigation, and I will allow the law to take its course.

The 47-year-old was arrested at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters here at 5pm on Monday.

Sources said that graft investigators had called the officer to record his statement.

Initial investigations showed that he had allegedly received the luxury watch from a developer.

MACC deputy chief commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed the arrest.

He added that the political secretary would be brought to the Putrajaya magistrate's court to be remanded on Tuesday (April 2).



Monday, 1 April 2019

2. Najib makes another bid to postpone SRC trial



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on Monday (April 1) filed a judicial review application against the Federal Court's refusal to grant him an order to stay the trial of his corruption cases involving SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

The matter was disclosed by one of Najib's lawyers, Harvinderjit Singh, when the former premier's corruption case involving 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) funds of RM2.28 billion, was mentioned before High Court Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah here today.

He said the application was filed at the Federal Court this morning, but no date was set for case management.

On March 27, Federal Court seven-man panel, led by Chief Justice Tan Sri Richard Malanjum, lifted the stay of proceedings order granted by the Court of Appeal to Najib, which he filed on Feb 8, to temporarily stall the trial, pending disposal of his appeals over his interlocutory matters.

"We received her reply today, in which she stated that the decision to put the (1MDB) case on hold is at the discretion of the court," he said.

As such, Judge Collin decided that the trial of Najib's 1MDB case would begin in the first month of May, depending on the schedule of the SRC case, which will begin on Wednesday (April 3).

The 1MDB case trial was initially slated for April 15 to May 3.

On Sept 20, 2018, Najib was charged with four counts under the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act and 21 counts for money laundering, involving 1MDB funds amounting to RM2.28 billion.

He was alleged to have committed the offences at AmIslamic Bank Bhd in Jalan Raja Chulan, Bukit Ceylon, between 2011 and 2014.



Tuesday, 2 April 2019

3. PAC to table report on 'missing' RM19.4bil GST refunds by next week



KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is set to table its findings into the "missing" RM19.4bil Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit refunds in Parliament by next week.

"We are at the last stage of investigations and we hope to wrap up the probe by next week.

"There are a few more things to tie up with the Audit Department and hopefully we can table the report in Parliament by next week," PAC deputy chairman Wong Kah Woh (pic) told reporters in Parliament lobby on Tuesday (April 2).

Last August, the Dewan Rakyat was told by Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng that the former Barisan Nasional-led government had not been able to refund companies their tax credit from GST because 93% of the money had not been placed in the correct account.

Lim claimed then that some RM18bil of the RM19.4bil input tax credit under the GST had been "robbed" by the previous administration.

On a separate case, Wong said that the PAC will begin its probe into land swap deals involving the Defence Ministry (Mindef) which resulted in losses of RM258mil to the government.

"The deal involved Mindef purchasing a piece of land in Paloh at high market rate and later swapping it for a piece of land in Selangor at a lower market rate.

"This resulted in a double loss for Mindef and the government," he said.

Besides the land swap deal in Selangor, Wong said the PAC is also looking at a deal involving land in Negri Sembilan.

Wong said the PAC will be calling former auditor-general Tan Sri Ambrin Buang to shed more light on the land swap deals before conducting the probe.



Wednesday, 3 April 2019

4. Dr Wee asks IGP for a copy of report by MACC on leaked undersea tunnel probe



PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong (*pic*) has written to the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun to ask for a copy of the police report made by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on the leak of its investigation papers into the Penang undersea tunnel.

"I hope all the matters in obtaining a copy of the police report will go smoothly," the MCA president said on his Facebook page on Wednesday (April 3).

The Facebook post was accompanied by the letter Dr Wee sent to Mohamad Fuzi.

He also sent a copy to Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mohamed Hanipa Maidin and MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Shukri Abdull.

It was reported on Tuesday (April 2) that Mohamed Hanipa, in the Dewan Rakyat, told Dr Wee to obtain a copy of the police report by MACC on his own.

Dr Wee said since Mohamed Hanipa had acknowledged in the House that the MACC had lodged a police report over the matter on Feb 28, this proved that the documents were indeed from them.

He added the leaked documents had resulted in the prosecution of a man who had his "Datuk Seri" title stripped for receiving RM19mil as a bribe to help resolve the MACC probe.

Earlier on Wednesday (April 3), businessman G. Gnanaraja, 38, was charged with three counts of deceiving a managing director to pay him RM19mil to help resolve a MACC probe into the Penang undersea tunnel.

Dr Wee added that Malaysians were looking forward to the development of the Penang undersea tunnel investigation.

"The question here is will MACC still be able to take stern action to uphold justice based on the existing evidence," he asked.



5. Equanimity can be used as evidence in 1MDB trial



KUALA LUMPUR: Luxury superyacht Equanimity can still be used as evidence in any court trials involving the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) controversy, says Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Mohamed Hanipa Maidin.

"Let's say Equanimity was sold. They can always call the buyer to produce the documents. They can subpoen the buyer to produce the ship. There are certain mechanisms for the prosecution to do that," said Hanipa.

"It doesn't mean if the ship is sold, it's not possible (to be used as evidence). You can always recall (the ship). Not a problem," he added.

Hanipa was speaking to reporters when met at the Parliament lobby on Wednesday (April 3).

On Wednesday (April 3), the Attorney-General's Chambers announced that Equanimity has been sold to Genting Malaysia Bhd for US\$126mil (RM514.14mil).

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said Equanimity was sold at the best price, so that the government wouldn't have to bear the expensive cost to maintain the superyacht.

The Equanimity was once owned by fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, or better known as Jho Low.

Low, in a statement on Wednesday (April 3), lashed out at Pakatan Harapan, saying that the sale of the superyacht displayed the government's incompetence and disregard for the rule of law.



6. Najib's 1MDB case set for May 14

KUALA LUMPUR: The trial of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who faces 25 corruption and money laundering charges involving RM2.28bil in funds linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), will take place for 14 days beginning May 14.

Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah set the dates during case management at the High Court yesterday.

The dates are May 14, 15 and 17; May 28, 29, and 31; June 10 to 14 and June 18, 20 and 21.

The dates were fixed after Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh told the court the original dates set from April 15 to May 3 would overlap with another case faced by Najib involving misappropriation of funds from SRC International Sdn Bhd.

The Pekan MP also faces 21 allegations of money laundering under the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds from Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (Amla), involving 1MDB funds amounting to RM2.28bil.

Meanwhile, the Federal Court will deliver on April 10 its decision on Najib's and the prosecution's appeals relating to his SRC International Sdn Bhd case.



Monday, 8 April 2019

7. Gnanaraja pleads not guilty to 68 counts of money laundering



KUALA LUMPUR: Businessman G. Gnanaraja, who was implicated in the Penang undersea tunnel scandal, has been charged with 68 counts of money laundering, involving RM11.4mil.

The former "Datuk Seri" was accused of making several payments from illegal activities from bank accounts to two government organisations, 26 different companies, and 10 individuals between July 2017 and January last year.

According to the charge sheets, the highest amount of monies involved were payments of RM2.2mil to the Home Ministry on Sept 19, 2017 and RM2.4mil to Matthew Ong & Associates on Aug 28, 2017.

The offence falls under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 which carries a maximum fine of up to RM5mil, or a maximum jail term of five years, if convicted.

It took two court interpreters and 75 minutes for all the 68 charges to be read out.

DPP Allan Suman Pillai applied for the case to be jointly tried with the accused's previous charges at the Shah Alam Sessions Court.

He also asked the court to impose a RM50,000 bail, and told the accused to surrender a land title to the court as part of his bail conditions.

Lawyer Datuk Geethan Ram Vincent, who represented the accused, did not object the transfer of the case and agreed with the bail amount.

Rozina then fixed bail at RM50,000 in one surety.

She also allowed the case to be transferred to Shah Alam Sessions Court. The case is set for mention May 6.

On April 3, Gnanaraja claimed trail to three charges of cheating the Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd managing director of RM19mil by claiming that he was able to settle the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) investigation into the RM6.3bil mega tunnel project.



Tuesday, 9 April 2019

8. Rosmah to be charged again over Sarawak solar project case



PUTRAJAYA: Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (pic) is set to be charged again with bribery in relation to the rural Sarawak schools solar project case.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said in a statement that it had received the consent from the Attorney General's Chambers to charge the wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

She will be charged under Section 16(A)(a) of the MACC Act at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court on Wednesday (April 10) morning.

On Tuesday (April 9), MACC had detained Rosmah at 1.45pm after she came to the commission's headquarters to help complete investigations into the solar project case.

In November 2018, Rosmah had claimed trial to two counts of graft involving

RM187.5mil relating to projects to provide electricity to schools in Sarawak.

In the first charge, Rosmah was accused of soliciting for herself a RM187.5mil bribe from Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin through her aide Datuk Rizal Mansor.

She was also accused of receiving RM1.5mil from Saidi as a reward for assisting Jepak Holdings in obtaining the same project.



Thursday, 11 April 2019

9. Perak MB lodges report at MACC over theme park funding



IPOH: The Perak Mentri Besar's office has lodged a report with the state Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over discrepancies in funding related to the development of a theme park here.

The report was lodged Thursday (April 11) by one of Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu's special officers, alleging that additional funding had been made when developing the theme park.

"We received information that the amount used to build the theme park had exceeded more than 100% of its initial allocation.

"When we took over the state administration, we noticed that there might be some discrepancies in the funding of the theme park," he told reporters after accompanying his officer to lodge the report.

"The theme park has also agreed to hire a private auditor to conduct an audit of their accounts, which is expected to be ready within two to three months," he added.

Ahmad Faizal said the state would give its full cooperation to MACC in order to get to the bottom of the matter.

"Should there be proof of misconduct, we will definitely take action.

"As the new state government, if we stumble on anything suspicious or odd, we need to take action," he said.

 $\label{eq:meanwhile} \textit{Meanwhile}, \textit{Perak MACC} \ \textit{director Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohamad}, \textit{when contacted}, \textit{confirmed that the report was made}.$



10. Bukit Aman: We have traced pink diamond money trail

PETALING JAYA: Bukit Aman has pieced together the money trail behind the purchase of a pink diamond that allegedly used 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds.

"Even though the diamond was not found during the raids conducted, we have found enough evidence to show that the diamond was purchased," he said in a statement on Saturday (April 13).

He was commenting on the denial issued by Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor regarding the purchase of the pink diamond.



11. Dr M: ECRL renegotiation talks did not include the subject of Jho Low



PETALING JAYA: Locating fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low (*pic*) was not part of the renegotiations with China on the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project, says Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It had nothing to do with Mr Jho Low.

"But, of course we will seek the help of the Chinese government if he is at all in China," Dr Mahathir told reporters at a press conference announcing the resumption of the ECRL project Monday (April 15).

He was asked if the successful renegotiation with China was linked to Jho Low and the possibility of him being tracked down.

"It is not directly related but we are taking advantage of the signing of the agreement to work out purchase of palm oil from China. That will happen," he said.

On the issue that initial cost of the ECRL project was inflated by the previous administration to bail out debt laden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), Dr Mahathir said yes.

He noted that the Barisan Nasional government had given out the ECRL project to a company through direct negotiations and a lump sum payment, resulting in a high cost.

"That was what happened as the price was so high. We have reduced it by RM32bil.

"Had the project been handed out in the usual manner, we would have gotten a better price," he said.

Asked if the renegotiated ECRL terms had allayed fears of the nation falling into a Chinese debt trap, Dr Mahathir said there were initial concerns owing to the high cost of the project agreed by the previous Government.

"There were concerns but there is now a solution to our concerns," he said.

He said that Pakatan Harapan had raised this fear when it was the Opposition before taking over Putrajaya last May.

Asked on his view of Chinese companies being involved in future mega projects, Dr Mahathir said they could do so if their expertise were required.

"If there are mega-projects that we can give to the Chinese, we will.

"But our policy is to give mega-projects to Malaysian companies and if they don't have the expertise, they can call some foreign companies to come in," he said.



12. Najib trial: Ihsan Perdana bank documents handed to MACC almost three years later

KUALA LUMPUR: A central bank analyst told the High Court here that original documents pertaining to the bank account of Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd were handed over to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Ihsan Perdana is a company linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Mohammad Nizam Yahya of Bank Negara Malaysia said that he had kept the documents at a safe place in his department - the Financial Intelligence and Enforcement Department - since July 2015.

"As I remember, several representatives from a special task force came to examine and make copies of the documents," he said.

Mohammad Nizam is the third witness to take the stand in the trial of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is facing seven charges involving SRC International Sdn Bhd and RM42mil in funds.

DPP Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim conducted the examination-in-chief.

The 39-year-old witness earlier told the court that he received an instruction from his department head on July 6, 2015.

"I was ordered to hand over a notice under Section 37(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2001 to obtain banking documents related to an account belonging to Ihsan Perdana," he said.

Ihsan Perdana is a company responsible for 1MDB's corporate social responsibility programmes.

Mohammad Nizam said he went to the Affin Bank headquarters on Jalan Raja Chulan and passed the notice to a bank officer, named Nimma Safira Khalid.

He said while the task force representatives made copies of the documents, the original was handed over to the MACC on June 22, 2018.

Najib faces seven charges involving RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

On July 4, last year, Najib claimed trial to a charge of abuse of power and three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) linked to the 1MDB scandal.

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

On Aug 8, 2018, he appeared in court again for the second time and was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

The trial continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Wednesday (Apr 17).



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On Aug 8, 2018, he appeared in court again for the second time and was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.



14. MACC raids Maika offices in Klang, Brickfields over alleged corruption, abuse of power

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission raided Maika Holdings' offices Tuesday (April 16) as part of its investigation into alleged corruption and abuse of power.

According to MACC sources, the MACC officers raided the Maika Holdings office in Klang and its company secretary's office in Brickfields.

"MACC raided both offices at around noon yesterday. The officers were there for a few hours and left with some documents," the source told The Malaysian Insight.

The news portal reported that the anti-graft body will conduct more raids in the near future, as well as call up several people for questioning.

The source said that MACC was instructed to act against Maika following an exposé by Sarawak Report in February this year.

Sarawak Report had alleged that Maika had passed millions of ringgit in cash and other forms of payments to companies linked to its former chief executive Datuk Seri S. Vell Paari.

It claimed twenty cash payments totalling RM1.6mil by Maika to him between 2003 and 2009, some under the guise of "promotional finder fees".

Vell Paari was reported saying that Maika Holdings had owed him money - claiming that payments remitted to him when he was the fund's chief executive were mere refunds.

Vell Paari, who is now MIC secretary-general, had denied any wrongdoing.

Instead, Vell Paari claimed that he was also blackmailed prior to the expose, with the extortionists demanding payment of RM3.5mil to "resolve the subject matter of the article".



15. Najib SRC trial: Cheques paid for home renovations

KUALA LUMPUR: Cheques issued by an Ambank account belonging to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak were spent on upgrading works of his private residence including a storehouse and plumbing worth more than RM150,000, the High Court here was told.

Sixth prosecution witness, interior designer Zulkarnain (one name only), 46, testified that he had been hired to build a storehouse at a home in Jalan Langgak Duta, between end 2014 and early 2015.

DPP Muhammad Saifuddin Hashim Musaimi: Did you know whose house this was?

Zulkarnain: They told me it was the house of Mr Number One, Najib. I said I was unworthy but (Najib's residence manager) Amirul Hadi said I could do it.

This included building a storehouse with a dry kitchen, clothes cabinet and pantry, plus repairs to the garbage disposal area and guard house.

Asked by defence counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah if the storehouse could have been to store the then-prime minister's official clothing, Zulkarnain said he did not know but added it could fit a lot of clothes with two 12-foot wide closets.

The seventh prosecution witness, plumbing company owner Mohammad Zakariyya Zearat Khan said he was hired to install a 12,000 litre water tank, due to the house having frequent water disruptions.

His company Mox (M) Sdn Bhd was paid with a cheque for RM56,500.

Asked by Muhammad Shafee if he recognised Najib, Zakariyya turned to the dock and pointed, then said loudly: "That's him," causing the courtroom to burst into laughter.

Earlier in the day, the fifth witness, AmBank cheque processing centre senior manager Badrul Hisham Mohamad, 42, confirmed that 17 cheques worth nearly RM30mil were issued by several AmBank accounts, including those linked to Najib and SRC International Sdn Bhd. Among those cheques were two made out to ABS Trend master for RM100,000 and Moz for RM56,500, both on Feb 12, 2015.



One for the album: Najib having a meal at the food court of the court complex in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama

During a break, DPP Muhammad Saifuddin Hashim Musaimi told reporters that only the account belonging to SRC International identified the issuer, though the other account's owners had not been adduced in court yet.

However, the other accounts had been linked to Najib via charge sheets and the prosecutor's opening statement.

The former premier and finance minister faces seven charges involving RM42mil belonging to SRC International.

On July 4 last year, Najib claimed trial to a charge of abuse of power and three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) linked to the 1MDB scandal.

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

On Aug 8, 2018, he appeared in court again for the second time and was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

The trial continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Monday.



16. Najib's SRC trial: Former PM paid RM240k for Malaysian Digest expenses, court told



Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Jalan Duta High Court on Tuesday

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak paid RM240,000 for the expenses of the now-defunct news portal Malaysian Digest.

Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi told the High Court here that the portal received a cheque for RM240,000 under the name Vital Spire Sdn Bhd in 2015.

Onn Hafiz, who is the nephew of Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and great-grandson of Umno founder Datuk Onn Jaafar, took the stand as the 16th witness on the seventh day of Najib's corruption trial here on Tuesday (April 23).

The 41-year-old owned shares in Vital Spire, a consultancy company dealing in leadership and motivation.

To a question, Onn Hafiz said the website was set up to "disseminate news".

DPP Muhammad Saifuddin: Who gave the instruction to set it up?

Onn Hafiz: Najib.

DPP Muhammad Saifuddin: Is it common for you to meet Najib?

Onn Hafiz: Yes. I usually meet him at the Prime Minister's Office.

The witness said the cheque was written and signed by Najib himself in front of him.

During cross-examination by Najib's counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, Onn Hafiz disagreed that the RM240,000 payment was for his core business in leadership at Vital Spire.

Muhammad Shafee: What is the relationship between Vital Spire and Malaysian Digest?

Onn Hafiz: Expenses incurred by Malaysian Digest are paid through Vital Spire.

Muhammad Shafee: Shall I say the owner of Malaysian Digest is Vital Spire?

Onn Hafiz: (pause)... yes.

When queried on the direction of the website, Onn Hafiz said it had a 12-man team that decided on the content.

He said the website intended to provide balanced news for the general public including to combat fake news.

However, Onn Hafiz said the website had been shut down since July last year.

The trial continues on Wednesday (April 24) before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

Najib faces seven charges involving RM42mil belonging to SRC International Sdn Bhd.

On July 4 last year, Najib claimed trial to a charge of abuse of power and three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) linked to the 1MDB scandal.

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

On Aug 8, 2018, he appeared in court again for the second time and was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.



Thursday, 25 April 2019

17. Najib's SRC trial: RM14.5mil transferred into one of ex-PM's AmBank accounts



KUALA LUMPUR: Millions were circulated among Datuk Seri Najib Razak's various AmBank accounts, with RM14.5mil transferred into one account in particular, the High Court was told.

AmBank branch manager R. Uma Devi testified that account statements showed that the amount was transferred into account 211-202-2011898, which is under Najib's name.

The transactions occurred between July 8, 2014 and Feb 11, 2015, and came in three transactions of RM10mil, RM1mil and RM3.5mil.

She also confirmed on Thursday (April 25) that the accounts involved were all under Najib's name and were current accounts.

Nik Faisal had been appointed by the former prime minister as an authorised personnel to manage his three bank accounts in AmBank.

Ihsan Perdana is the corporate social responsibility unit of SRC International.

On July 4 last year, Najib claimed trial to a charge of abuse of power and three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) linked to the 1MDB scandal.

On Aug 8, he appeared in court again for the second time and was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

The hearing before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali continues.



Friday, 26 April 2019

18. Datuk Seri CEO, company advisor remanded four days in alleged bribery



PUTRAJAYA: A chief executive officer and a company advisor have been remanded for four days for allegedly bribing the enforcement officers of a ministry.

Magistrate Shah Wira Abdul Halim ordered for the two to be remanded until April 29 to allow the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to probe the allegations.

The two will be investigated under Section 17(b) of the MACC Act for bribery.

The suspects were brought to the magistrate's court here at 9.30am on Friday (April 26).

The company adviser is a 55-year-old with a Datuk title. He was arrested at 11am on Thursday (April 25) in Kuala Lumpur.

Later at 5.30pm, the 49-year-old chief executive officer, who has a Datuk Seri title, was arrested at the MACC headquarters after she came to give her statement.

Sources believe that the two were working in cohorts to bribe enforcement officers of a ministry to not take action against the company for illegal deposit activities sometime in 2017.



19. MACC nabs Datuk Seri and Datuk

PUTRAJAYA: Two company officials are in hot water for allegedly attempting to bribe a government official with hundreds of thousands of ringgit to stay out of trouble with the law.

However, they made the wrong move as the enforcement officer with a certain ministry reported them to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Sources said the two had collaborated to offer bribes to the officer.

"In return, the company officials want the enforcement officer not to take action against them for carrying out illegal deposit-taking activities sometime back in July 2017," said a source.

The CEO, a 49-year-old woman with the title Datuk Seri was arrested at the MACC headquarters at 5.30pm.

The adviser, a 55-year-old Datuk, was arrested at Dutamas Raya in Kuala Lumpur at 11.30am.



MACC director of investigations Datuk Seri Simi Abd Ghani (pic) confirmed the arrest.

He said they would be brought before a magistrate today for a remand order.



20. Some of RM1.9bil credited into Najib's account a donation from Saudi Arabia, court told

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court was told that RM1.9bil was credited to one of Datuk Seri Najib Razak's private bank accounts between 2011 and 2013.

AmBank manager R. Uma Devi confirmed that parts of the money were purportedly a donation from one "Prince Faisal al Turki" and the Finance Ministry of Saudi Arabia.

She said this during cross-examination by the former prime minister's counsel Harvinderjit Singh here on Monday (April 29).

Harvinderjit: Refer to this email of bank statement ending 694, are these transactions from "Prince Faisal al Turki"?

Uma Devi: Yes.

She agreed that parts of the money - including RM304mil in 2011 and RM756mil in 2012 - came from "Prince Faisal al Turki".

The witness also agreed that another amount was RM324mil which was credited from the Saudi Finance Ministry to Najib's account.

To a suggestion, Uma Devi agreed that a letter of instruction purportedly written by Najib on July 30, 2013 instructed that the donation money be returned to the owner (Prince Faisal al Turki).

Harvinderjit: On the basis of the letter, it was clear the bank knew the amount of money credited was a donation?

Uma Devi: Yes.

To another question by Harvinderjit, the witness agreed that the donation received was a huge amount of money that required compliance from Bank Negara Malaysia.

Najib is facing seven charges of abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering involving RM42mil belonging to SRC International.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Tuesday (April 30).



21. Former officer to ex-minister gets three-day remand in bribery probe

PUTRAJAYA: A former officer to an ex-minister has been remanded for three days as investigators probe allegations that he "arranged" projects involving a certain ministry under the previous administration.

The 50-year-old Datuk will be held until May 2 after magistrate Irza Zulaikha Rohanuddin allowed an application by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) prosecutors for his remand on Tuesday (April 30).

The suspect was arrested on Monday (April 29) when he turned up at the MACC headquarters to answer questions pertaining to the allegations.

He is said to have received money from contractors for helping them to secure projects with the ministry.

This include a contract to supply aircraft equipment valued at RM1.8mil.