

The Star February 2019

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
1	Sunday, 3 February 2019	Socso working with police and MACC to probe fraudulent claims	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	3
2	Tuesday, 5 February 2019	MACC probes RM90mil alleged payment to PAS	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	5
3	Tuesday, 5 February 2019	Probe PAS for allegedly receiving RM90mil from Umno, says Amanah Youth	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	6
4	Wednesday, 6 February 2019	MACC confirms it's probing allegation PAS received 1MDB-linked funds from Umno	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	8
5	Thursday, 7 February 2019	NYC's Park Lane Hotel Stake Sold as Part of 1MDB Recovery	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	10
6	Friday, 8 February 2019	Hadi: We like being investigated by MACC	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	12
7	Saturday, 9 February 2019	MACC nabs a former Johor MP and Felda board member	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	13
8	Sunday, 10 February 2019	Najib to go on trial over 1MDB scandal	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	14
9	Sunday, 10 February 2019	Former Kota Tinggi MP slapped with two charges of accepting bribes	Former Kota Tinggi MP Datuk Noor Ehsanuddin Mohd Harun Narrashid	17
10	Sunday, 10 February 2019	Be patient over MACC investigation, Husam tells Idris	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	18
11	Monday, 11 February 2019	MACC report lodged over permit granted to develop forest plantation projects in Perak	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	19
12	Tuesday, 12 February 2019	Equanimity buyer can negotiate directly with govt, 1MDB, says lawyer	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	21
13	Monday, 18 February 2019	MACC to look at Hamid's affidavit before deciding on investigation	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	22

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
14	Tuesday, 19 February 2019	RM500mil from land swap deals	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	23
15	Wednesday, 20 February 2019	Zahid slapped with another CBT charge involving RM260k	committing breach of trust (CBT)	25
16	Thursday, 21 February 2019	Civil servant remanded over MACC probe into supply of souvenirs	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	27
17	Thursday, 21 February 2019	Mindef lodges MACC report over iffy land deals, more expected	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	28
18	Friday, 22 February 2019	S'wak MACC says alleged power abuse by state asst minister a priority	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	29
19	Saturday, 23 February 2019	US DoJ seeks to recover RM154mil in assets from 1MDB case	1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB)	30
20	Saturday, 23 February 2019	Perak exco man: Usas land may have been mismanaged	state executive councillor Dr Abdul Aziz Bari	31
21	Sunday, 24 February 2019	MACC: No 1MDB funds found in PAS' accounts	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	32
22	Monday, 25 February 2019	Dr M: MACC may not have all details on alleged RM90mil Umno-PAS transfer	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	33
23	Tuesday, 26 February 2019	Investigate how RPK obtained information on Penang tunnel, says Annuar Musa	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	34
24	Wednesday, 27 February 2019	Project manager pleads not guilty to making false claims in flood mitigation projects	False claims	35
25	Wednesday, 27 February 2019	Former law firm clerk hit with CBT charges	criminal breach of trust (CBT)	36
26	Thursday, 28 February 2019	Three companies charged with fraud over sand export	Fraud	37

1. Socso working with police and MACC to probe fraudulent claims



PETALING JAYA: The Social Security Organisation (Socso) has warned that it will take action over fraudulent claims or any abuse of its benefits

Its chief executive Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed said Socso was working closely with the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate any suspicious cases.

He said Socso viewed any false claims as a serious offence as it not only involved fraud but was unfair to other contributors.

"In its mission to provide the best social security protection to employees and their dependants, Socso continuously monitors all claims for fraudulent elements.

"Each claim for benefits will be processed in accordance with the provisions and conditions stipulated under the laws enforced by Socso," he said in a statement on Sunday (Feb 3).

According to Socso's statistics, there were 159 suspected cases of various forms of fraud in 2018.

"Of the total, 100 cases have been investigated and closed, six cases are still under investigation and 53 are new cases.

"This year, Socso will be more aggressive in combating fraud involving claims," said Mohammed Azman, adding that he expected more people to be charged in court this year for this.

"We would like to remind the public with information related to fraudulent claims or have been victims of middlemen in claiming Socso benefits, to come forward with information so that the fraudulent activities can be eradicated and legal action can be taken against the perpetrators," he added.

He also said that Socso services are provided free of charge and there was no need to engage a third party when submitting claims.

"As an organisation that administers a social security fund comprising mandatory contributions from employees and employers, Socso manages the fund with highest integrity and good governance," he said.

2. MACC probes RM90mil alleged payment to PAS

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has opened an investigation paper following a report lodged by an individual that RM90mil was allegedly paid to PAS, *Free Malaysia Today* reported.

"We have classified the case under the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001," a source told the news portal.

The source said the MACC received the report from police on Tuesday (Feb 5) afternoon.

Earlier, Amanah deputy Youth chief Faiz Fadzil urged the authorities to open an investigation against PAS to determine if the allegation that the Islamist party received RM90mil from Umno or funds from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was true.

He made the call after PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang opted for an out-of-court settlement with Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown.

Terengganu Amanah chairman Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah had also called the PAS leadership to give a full explanation why it opted for an out-of-court settlement with Rewcastle Brown over the defamation suit.

Abdul Hadi sued Rewcastle Brown for libel over an article she published on Aug 6, 2016, alleging the party received RM90mil in bribes from Umno.

She filed a counterclaim in October 2017 but last Friday (Feb 1), the case was settled out of court.

According to PAS treasurer Razman Zakaria, the increasing cost of legal fees is one reason why PAS opted for the out-of-court settlement.

Najib also said that the current Pakatan Harapan administration had thoroughly investigated Umno's bank accounts since GE14.

"If there was any payment from me or Umno, the Pakatan-led government would have frozen either Abdul Hadi's or PAS' bank accounts," he said on his Facebook post.

3. Probe PAS for allegedly receiving RM90mil from Umno, says Amanah Youth



Faiz called for a fair, detailed and quick investigation into the matter.

PETALING JAYA: The authorities should open an investigation against PAS to determine if the allegation that the Islamist party received RM90mil from Umno or funds from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was true, says the Youth wing of Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah).

Amanah deputy Youth chief Faiz Fadzil said that no party should escape from scrutiny if they are found to be involved in the mega scandal and the misappropriation of huge amounts of public funds.

"Nobody can escape the investigation pertaining to the 1MDB mega scandal because the abuse of its funds was humongous and dirty," he said in a statement on Tuesday (Feb 5).

Faiz made the call after PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang opted for an out-of-court settlement with Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown.

Faiz added that PAS and its party leadership should be investigated by the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

He said the party's accounts should be frozen in line with Section 44 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act (Amla).

"This is because the issue involves the abuse of 1MDB funds, which contained elements of corruption and money laundering, therefore PAS and the leader who received the purported funds must also be probed by the MACC and the police," he said.

"Section 44 provides that an enforcement agency may issue an order to freeze any property believed to be proceeds from unlawful source.

"The PAS leadership suspected to be involved can be investigated under the MACC Act to determine whether the RM90mil pushed PAS to support Umno," he said.

"The rule of law should be upheld through a fair, detailed and quick investigation to ensure that the billion ringgit worth of public funds from the 1MDB scandal can be recovered," he added.

Abdul Hadi sued Rewcastle Brown for libel over an article she published on Aug 6, 2016, alleging the party received RM90mil in bribes from Umno.

She filed a counterclaim in October 2017 but last Friday (Feb 1), the case was settled out of court.

According to PAS treasurer Razman Zakaria, the increasing cost of legal fees is one reason why PAS opted for the out-of-court settlement.

On Sunday (Feb 3), former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak denied he gave RM90mil to Abdul Hadi or PAS, as claimed in the Sarawak Report article.

Najib also said that the current Pakatan Harapan administration had thoroughly investigated Umno's bank accounts since GE14.

"If there was any payment from me or Umno, the Pakatan-led government would have frozen either Abdul Hadi's or PAS' bank accounts," he said on his Facebook post.

4. MACC confirms it's probing allegation PAS received 1MDB-linked funds from Umno

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has confirmed that it is investigating allegations that PAS received RM90mil from Umno that was linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The MACC also confirmed it has received a copy of a report on the matter that was lodged with the police on Tuesday (Feb 5).

"A report was made by a civilian to the police, and the police have referred the report to the MACC.

"Therefore, the MACC will carry out investigations based on the authority and regulations given to the commission," it said in a statement Wednesday (Feb 6).

News portal Free Malaysia Today had earlier reported, quoting a source, that the MACC was investigating the case under the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

On Tuesday (Feb 5), the deputy chief of the Parti Amanah Negara youth wing, Faiz Fadzil, urged the authorities to open an investigation to determine if allegations that PAS received monies from Umno or 1MDB were true.

He made the call after PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang opted for an out-of-court settlement with Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown.

Abdul Hadi had sued Rewcastle Brown for libel over an article she published on Aug 6, 2016, alleging the party received RM90mil in bribes from Umno.

She filed a counterclaim in October 2017 but last Friday (Feb 1), the case was settled out of court.

Terengganu Amanah chairman Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah has also called on the PAS leadership to give a full explanation on why it opted for an out-of-court settlement with Rewcastle Brown over the defamation suit.

Earlier Wednesday, the National Patriot Association (Patriot) also called for an investigation.

On Sunday (Feb 3), former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak denied he gave RM90mil to Abdul Hadi or PAS, as claimed in the Sarawak Report article.

He also said that the current Pakatan Harapan administration had thoroughly investigated Umno's bank accounts since the 14th general election last May, which saw Pakatan taking over the federal government.

"If there was any payment from me or Umno, the Pakatan-led government would have frozen either Abdul Hadi's or PAS' bank accounts," Najib posted on Facebook.

5. NYC's Park Lane Hotel Stake Sold as Part of 1MDB Recovery



NEW YORK (Bloomberg): A stake in New York's Park Lane Hotel has been sold to an Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund as part of the U.S. Justice Department's efforts to recover billions of dollars that flowed through Malaysia's scandal-plagued 1MDB investment fund.

Roughly \$140mil (RM572mil) for the interest in the hotel, which sits on Central Park South between Fifth and Sixth avenues near Manhattan's Billionaires' Row, was transferred to the U.S. government around Dec 10, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles. A representative for the buyer, Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Co., declined to comment.

The sale was made possible in November, after fugitive Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, known as Jho Low, agreed to drop his claims to the property in a U.S. forfeiture lawsuit.

The Justice Department agreed that dropping the claims is no admission of wrongdoing or liability, according to a statement at the time.

Prosecutors charged Low with conspiracy and money laundering last year in connection with the looting of 1MDB.

The department had been seeking to seize almost \$1.7bil assets it says were illegally acquired through money diverted from 1MDB, including the super-yacht Equanimity and artwork by Pablo Picasso and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Loan Sought

In recent days, potential new lenders to the Park Lane Hotel were notified of the hotel's ownership change, which hasn't previously been reported. Mubadala, the Witkoff Group and partners hired the Newmark Knight Frank debt team led by Dustin Stolly and Jordan Roeschlaub to refinance the 631-room hotel, according to a document seen by Bloomberg News that shows the group is seeking a \$600 million floating-rate loan.

Mubadala and Witkoff's partners in the Park Lane Hotel are hotel manager Highgate Hotels LP and New Valley, a unit of Vector Group Ltd. Representatives for Newmark Knight Frank and New Valley declined to comment. Representatives for Witkoff and Highgate didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

According to the document, proceeds will be used to pay down the existing loan, as well as for additional air rights and renovations. The value of the land is estimated to be more than \$1 billion, and the hotel itself represents "the last commercial tear-down opportunity abutting Central Park South."

The Park Lane Hotel was developed in 1967 by the late billionaire Harry Helmsley and owned by a Helmsley family trust until its purchase by Witkoff and entities affiliated with Low in 2013 for about \$654mil. Later that year, Mubadala paid Low \$135mil for a portion of his stake in the hotel.

The latest deal for a stake in the hotel follows a settlement between the Justice Department and Red Granite Pictures Inc., which resulted in the producer of "The Wolf of Wall Street" paying \$60 million to settle claims it financed the move with cash siphoned from 1MDB. It also follows Sony Corp.'s acquisition of EMI Music Publishing. Low's \$415mil in proceeds from that deal were deposited in a holding account on Dec. 14, pending the outcome of forfeiture litigation, and could be joined by the proceeds from the sale of other assets, including a Bombardier Global 5000 jet in Singapore.

The civil forfeiture lawsuits, numbering more than a dozen, were stayed in 2017 at the Justice Department's request to protect its criminal investigation of Low and his accomplices. They remain on hold, with the exception of cases that were resolved last year.

6. Hadi: We like being investigated by MACC

PETALING JAYA: PAS is fine with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is investigating the party, says PAS President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

"We like being investigated. We open our doors to MACC to investigate us. We have never been investigated before by MACC and this (investigation) will prove that we are a clean party," said Abdul Hadi.

"Investigate other political parties as well, not just PAS. Investigate DAP also. We assist thousands of Pasti (PAS preschools) everywhere and hundreds of other schools.

"We get our funds to sponsor these from our own members who work hard and donate to the party," said Abdul Hadi.

He was speaking to the media at Rusila, Marang, in Terengganu on Friday (Feb 8) and commenting on MACC opening an investigation into allegations that PAS received RM90mil in bribes.

The anti-graft body initiated a probe into claims that PAS was the recipient of 1MDB money after Abdul Hadi opted for an out-of-court settlement with editor of news portal Sarawak Report Clare Rewcastle Brown.

Abdul Hadi had earlier sued Rewcastle Brown for libel over an article she published on Aug 6, 2016, alleging the party received RM90mil in bribes from Umno.

The MACC has asked for several individuals, including current and former PAS members, to have their statements recorded.

7. MACC nabs a former Johor MP and Felda board member

JOHOR BARU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has detained a former Johor MP, who has a Datuk title, over allegations of bribery.

According to sources, the 56-year-old man is a former member of the Felda board of directors.

He was detained at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya at around 12.40pm on Saturday (Feb 9) and will be charged at the Sessions Court here on Sunday (Feb 10).

It is believed that the suspect had used his position within Felda to approve the appointment of a company he had an interest in, to print the Felda *ISuara* newsletter from 2012 to 2015 in a deal worth more than RM13mil.

MACC deputy commissioner (Operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki, confirmed the arrest, said the suspect faces two charges under Section 165 of the Penal Code.

8. Najib to go on trial over 1MDB scandal



KUALA LUMPUR (AFP): Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will go on trial this week over an extraordinary financial scandal that contributed to the downfall of his long-ruling coalition and reverberated around the world.

Najib and his circle are accused of stealing US\$4.5bil (RM18bil) from Malaysian sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) in a mind-boggling fraud that stretched from Switzerland to the Seychelles.

The money was purportedly used to fund a global shopping spree - a US\$250mil (RM1.42bil) superyacht, high-end real estate, and Monet and Van Gogh artworks - were among the items allegedly bought with cash plundered from public coffers.

The scandal ensnared celebrities, with the fraud's suspected mastermind seen partying with Leonardo DiCaprio and Paris Hilton, while the new Malaysian government has accused Wall Street titan Goldman Sachs of stealing billions during its work with 1MDB.

Public revulsion at the graft allegations played a large part in the election defeat of Najib - who set up the fund - and a coalition that had ruled Malaysia uninterrupted since independence from the United Kingdom in 1957.

Since his shock poll loss last May, the 65-year-old has been arrested and hit with 42 charges linked to the scandal. He has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Far from keeping quiet, the ex-leader has mounted a publicity blitz, seeking to present himself as a man of the people and constantly hurling jibes at the new government.

This week's trial, starting Tuesday (Feb 12), centres on allegations that RM42mil was transferred from SRC International, a former 1MDB unit, into Najib's personal bank accounts.

The case involves three counts of money laundering, three of criminal breach of trust, and one of abuse of power. Najib has pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Mounting allegations

It is just one of several trials Najib is expected to face over 1MDB and involves a fraction of the total purportedly stolen from the fund, and the US\$681mil (RM2.6bil) that allegedly ended up in his personal accounts.

But the start of the first trial is nevertheless a key moment, and may relieve pressure on the new government following criticism that it has been slow to act over 1MDB.

"It's an important moment, albeit a very delayed one," said Cynthia Gabriel, who was a member of a government committee set up to investigate the scandal.

"It is critical for the new government to address and resolve past scandals," added Gabriel, head of the non-profit Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism.

The former leader and his defence team have portrayed the cases against him as revenge by the new government led by 93-year-old Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Najib's mentor-turned-nemesis.

Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, Najib's chief lawyer, labelled the upcoming trial "political".

"If you give me a straight judge, a straight system of justice, and the witnesses are left to themselves without being coached, I'll win this case," he told AFP.

Trial dates have been set until the end of March and prosecutors are expected to call dozens of witnesses.

In recent weeks, Najib has transformed into an unlikely social media phenomenon, gaining a large number of followers online by attacking the new government's policies and posting pictures of visits to homes where he talked to people about economic problems.

In the most bizarre episode, he posted a video of himself crooning a Malay-language version of the 1970s hit *Kiss and Say Goodbye* accompanied by backing singers, in which he accused the new

government of having an "agenda of revenge and slander".

It is a remarkable turnaround for a man who was regularly seen as out of touch with ordinary Malaysians during his nine years as prime minister.

Bridget Welsh, a Malaysia expert at John Cabot University, said that "the new image... is fabricated and not connected to his term in office.

"I believe the trials will cause serious damage to Najib's standing." - AFP

9. Former Kota Tinggi MP slapped with two charges of accepting bribes



JOHOR BARU: Former Kota Tinggi MP Datuk Noor Ehsanuddin Mohd Harun Narrashid was slapped with two charges of accepting bribes at a Sessions Court here.

The 56-year-old, who was formerly a board member of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd, was charge for accepting RM50,000 from printing company Karya Hidayah Sdn Bhd on Sept 6 2013.

Noor Ehsanuddin also faces a second charge of accepting a plot of land said to be valued at RM180,000 from the same company on March 23, 2014, at the Kota Tinggi Land Office.

Noor Ehsanuddin pleaded not guilty and was represented by two attorneys - Datuk Thrichelvam and Vincent Lawrence.

The deputy public prosecutor suggested the court set bail at RM40,000 for the two charges, which was approved.

The court then set March 27 for the case re-mention.

It was reported that the suspect had used his position within Felda by suggesting and then approving the appointment of a printing company that he had an interest in to print the 1Suara newsletters in Felda between 2012 and 2015, worth more than RM13mil.

In return, the one-term MP allegedly received RM50,000 cash in 2013 and obtained a piece of land in Kota Tinggi worth RM180,000 in 2014.

10. Be patient over MACC investigation, Husam tells Idris

PETALING JAYA: Parti Amanah Negara vice-president Senator Datuk Husam Musa took a dig at former PAS ally Idris Ahmad for questioning why he wasn't hauled up in the probe over the alleged RM90mil in 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) funds which PAS allegedly received.

Husam said he checked with an officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to confirm that he had not been called in for questioning.

"I hope Idris Ahmad can be patient," Husam wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

Husam, a former PAS vice-president, had been vocal in alleging that PAS had received the RM90mil.

Idris in his posting had pointed out that two individuals had gone to the MACC for questioning before asking why "another" person was not hauled up.

"Where is this other person?" Idris had asked, in an apparent reference to Husam.

On Friday, PAS central committee member Nik Abduh Nik Aziz and former deputy president Datuk Dr Nasharudin Mat Isa were questioned by MACC over the case.

Investigators also recorded a statement from former Bersih 2.0 chairman Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan on that day.

Husam said it was his responsibility to the country to convey all the information he had on the case to the authorities.

"In fact, I reckon that some of the related documents are already within the knowledge of the MACC," Husam wrote.

In remarks which were apparently aimed at Idris, Husam wrote: "Don't forget which party is being investigated. Don't end up celebrating at the wrong place and wrong time," Husam said.

11. MACC report lodged over permit granted to develop forest plantation projects in Perak



Thomas Su lodged report to SPRM Perak on the Bukit Kledang land clearing issues.

IPOH: A notice of permit given to a company for 400ha of forest plantation development projects has led several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to lodge a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) here.

The state government - through a Forest Resources Committee meeting held in November last year - approved the permit, dated Dec 14, 2018 - for a forest plantation development project at Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve and Bukit Kinta Forest Reserve in the Kinta Manjung district.

Kampar MP Thomas Su, who was with the NGOs, said the permit was granted to a company that was established in July, 2018.

"We had farmers who were stopped from carrying out small-scale farming at state owned land.

"How did a five-month-old company without any record or profile received a permit for 400ha of land to carry out forest plantation?" he asked.

Su said the state government must clarify the status of the land.

"The company was established a few months after the last election.

"We want to know when did they apply for the tender," he said.

Also present was representative of Persatuan Pelindung Khazanah Alam Malaysia (Peka) Naoami Chelliah.

It was reported that some 10ha of land near Kledang Saiong was cleared illegally to plant oil palm trees.

On Feb 10, Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu said he was not aware of the status of the permit and planned to check with the Land and Mines Office and the Forestry Office over the matter.

The permit was addressed to a company in Taiping. However, upon further investigation, the address belongs to a law firm.

An unnamed source revealed one of the company directors had previously held a position in a government-linked company related to the timber industry.

12. Equanimity buyer can negotiate directly with govt, 1MDB, says lawyer



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Parties interested in buying the luxury superyacht Equanimity can now also approach the government and 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), besides the exclusive central agent Burgess, according to lawyer Jeremy Joseph.

Joseph, who acts for the government as well as 1MDB and two of its subsidiaries, namely 1MDB Energy Holdings Limited and 1MDB Global Investment Limited, said, however, that Burgess still remained the exclusive central agent.

"So, now they can come and negotiate with us (the government and 1MDB) directly. Today's hearing is to ensure that this order is given and clarified. They can come to Burgess and come to us directly.

The idea is to maximise the potential purchase," he said when met by reporters after case management in chambers before Judicial Commissioner Datuk Khadijah Idris here Tuesday (Feb 12).

On Aug 24, 2018, the Admiralty Court granted an application by the government, 1MDB as well as 1MDB Energy Holdings Limited and 1MDB Global Investment Limited to sell the superyacht.

13. MACC to look at Hamid's affidavit before deciding on investigation

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission will study information contained in Court of Appeal Datuk Dr Hamid Sultan Abu Backer's affidavit to determine if there is cause for investigation.

"The MACC will initiate a probe should the information in the affidavit contains information about elements of corruption or power abuse," it said on Monday (Feb 18).

The MACC also confirmed that its officers had met Dr Hamid earlier on Monday in his chambers at the Palace of Justice to get further explanation.

"In the meeting, no statement was recorded and Dr Hamid suggested for a special task force to be set up," it said.

The MACC urged the public to channel any information on allegations stated in the affidavit to them and assured that informants would be protected under the Whistleblowers Protection Act.

14. RM500mil from land swap deals



PETALING JAYA: The Defence Ministry lost more than RM500mil from several land swap deals worth RM4.75bil, says Mohamad Sabu

The Defence Minister said they had received the report from the Governance, Procurement and Finance Investigating Committee led by former Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang on the land swap deals, which was discussed in last Wednesday's (Feb 13) Cabinet meeting.

"The committee investigated 16 deals involving 2,932 acres of land belonging to the ministry. In addition to the land value, the cost of the projects is estimated to be RM4.88bil," said Mohamad, who is also Parti Amanah Negara president.

He added that the ministry was informed that a majority of the land swap projects were implemented without detailed planning.

The selection of the developer companies was also not done with due diligence.

When it came to the selection of the land swap locations, Mohamad, also known as Mat Sabu, said that there was also "political interference from certain quarters".

"This resulted in parts of the projects exceeding the contractual duration initially agreed upon.

"Alongside this, some projects were completed, but the construction quality is unsatisfactory," said Mohamad in a statement on Tuesday (Feb 19).

He instructed his officers to file reports with the police, the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and relevant agencies so that investigations can be conducted.

Last April, former minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz publicly alleged that land belonging to the Armed Forces had been swapped by a company supposedly under the control of three key individuals.

Former defence minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein denied the allegations, saying that it was an "outright lie".

15. Zahid slapped with another CBT charge involving RM260k



KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was slapped with another charge at the Sessions Court here on Wednesday (Feb 20) for criminal breach of trust.

The Umno president was accused of using RM260,000 of Yayasan Akal Budi funds to make a payment to TS Consultancy and Resources on Dec 23, 2016.

Dr Ahmad Zahid, who is the chairman of the foundation, was charged with committing breach of trust (CBT) under Section 409 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum of 20 years' jail, whipping and a fine, if convicted.

The former deputy prime minister pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The next mention for the case is Feb 28.

The Umno president had previously faced a total of 46 charges - 11 counts of CBT involving RM20,833,733.69, eight graft charges amounting to RM21,250,000 and 27 money-laundering charges totalling RM72,063,618.15

He pleaded not guilty to all 46 charges.

The investigations on Dr Ahmad Zahid are over allegations of misappropriation of funds belonging to Yayasan Akal Budi.

Among other things, he is said to have used RM800,000 of the foundation's money to settle his credit card bills.

16. Civil servant remanded over MACC probe into supply of souvenirs

SEREMBAN (Bernama): A civil servant is on remand for five days from Thursday (Feb 21) to assist the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) probe into irregularities in the supply of souvenirs valued at RM20,865.

The 33-year-old man is suspected to have used his position to propose and approve an application to appoint a company, in which he is alleged to have an interest, to supply souvenirs to the Kuala Pilah District Baitulmal Office in June 2017.

He was detained at 3.30pm on Wednesday (Feb 20) at the Negri Sembilan MACC office when he came to give a statement in relation to the probe under Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009 which provides for a maximum 20-year jail sentence and a fine of RM10,000 or five times the bribe amount, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Special Remand Court assistant registrar Nur Haryatie Mohd Saini issued the remand order upon an application by Negri Sembilan MACC investigating officer Mohd Khairi Abdul Karim.

The civil servant was present in court with his lawyer A. Kriyshanaa.

17. Mindef lodges MACC report over iffy land deals, more expected

PUTRAJAYA: The Defence Ministry has lodged a report with anti-corruption authorities over the land swap deals scandal, which cost the ministry more than RM500mil in losses.

The report lodged on Thursday (Feb 21) was over the questionable land swap deal involving the army camp built in Paloh in Kluang, Johor and in Hutan Melintang in Perak, frontpaged in *The Star* today (Feb 21).

The report was lodged by Mohd Nasaie Ismail, the special functions officer to Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu.

Mohd Nasaie also handed over the report on the land swap deal by the Governance, Procurement and Finance Investigating Committee led by former Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang.

"We (the ministry) have yet to receive orders from the government to report on the remaining 14 cases mentioned in the report. We will do so when the directive comes," he said when met at the MACC headquarters Thursday (Feb 21).

The committee investigated 16 deals involving 2,932 acres of land belonging to the ministry.

In addition to the land value, the cost of the projects is estimated to be RM4.88bil.

Former minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz had publicly alleged that land belonging to the Armed Forces had been swapped by a company supposedly under the control of three key individuals.

However, former defence minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein denied the allegations, saying this was an "outright lie".

His successor Mohamad Sabu was reported to have said that the Defence Ministry lost more than RM500mil from several land swap deals worth RM4.75bil.

Aside from the Paloh and Hutan Melintang camps, the ones built in Segamat in Johor and Bera in Pahang are also said to be questionable.

18. S'wak MACC says alleged power abuse by state asst minister a priority

KUCHING: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is giving priority to its probe into allegations that Sarawak assistant minister for E-Commerce Datuk Naroden Majais abused his powers for self-gratification.

State MACC director Razim Mohd Noor said investigations were ongoing after two reports were lodged on the matter.

"We have to give priority to this case because it involves a state leader and it is a sensitive matter.

"We have to take it seriously and look into the allegations, but it may take time," he told reporters on Friday (Feb 22).

However, he gave assurance that the investigation papers would be completed in accordance with MACC's standard operating procedures.

Former journalist Joseph Tawie lodged a report at the MACC office here on Feb 8 claiming that Naroden had grabbed land in the Simunjan area.

Lawyer and former Padungan assemblyman Dominique Ng assisted Tawie in lodging the report.

Naroden has said he would give his full cooperation to MACC in the probe.

19. US DoJ seeks to recover RM154mil in assets from 1MDB case

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The US Justice Department on Friday (Feb 22) said it had filed complaints seeking forfeiture and recovery of approximately \$38mil (RM154mil) in assets associated with its 1Malaysia Development Berhad - or 1MDB - case, bringing the assets now subject to forfeiture to a total of about \$1.7bil (RM6.9bil).

These new lawsuits target assets collected by corrupt officials and their associates through a massive scheme that stole billions of dollars from the people of Malaysia and laundered the proceeds across the world, US Attorney Nick Hanna said in a statement.

The complaints filed on Friday in California involve luxury real estate in London and New York, as well as converted equity in a Kentucky facilities management company, and are tied to 2012 and 2013 bond offerings from the sovereign wealth fund, the department said.

Earlier this week, Malaysia's Home Minister said the country may postpone the extradition of a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc banker wanted in the multibillion-dollar scandal so he can face criminal charges in the South-East Asian nation first.

The department has estimated that a total of \$4.5bil (RM18.3bil) was misappropriated by high-level 1MDB fund officials and their associates between 2009 and 2014, including some funds that Goldman Sachs helped raise as underwriter and arranger of three bond sales totaling \$6.5bil (RM26.5bil).

Goldman has consistently denied wrongdoing and said certain members of the former Malaysian government and 1MDB lied to it about the bond sale proceeds.

20. Perak exco man: Usas land may have been mismanaged

IPOH: There is a possibility that over 2,000ha of land allocated to Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah (Usas) by the previous state government had been mismanaged, said state executive councillor Dr Abdul Aziz Bari.

He said the authorities would be investigating the claims on the plots of land allocated to Usas in various locations in Perak.

He said the university in Kuala Kangsar, under the state's purview, had been allocated 2,428ha of land for logging, mining and agriculture, and yet failed to make any profits over the years.

Abdul Aziz said the current state government had assured that Usas, which was riddled with various administration and management inefficiency issues over the years, would be "cleaned up" and get a new board of directors.

21. MACC: No 1MDB funds found in PAS' accounts

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has confirmed that it has yet to find any 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds in PAS' official bank account.

According to a Malaysiakini report, MACC chief Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull confirmed the matter in a press conference in Kuala Terengganu on Sunday (Feb 24).

"MACC's investigation to date has not found the RM90mil in funds, supposedly originating from 1MDB, entering PAS' account," he said.

The portal had previously cited sources in a report that the anti-graft agency could not establish any links between the party's bank account and 1MDB.

A source had also reportedly previously said that the funds that MACC scrutinised were limited to the account specifically registered with PAS, and not the accounts of specific party leaders.

In Aug 2016, the Sarawak Report published an article alleging that the party received RM90mil in bribes from Umno, in an attempt by then-prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to court PAS ahead of GE14.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang sued Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown in for libel in Aug 2017, and she filed a counterclaim in Oct 2017.

However, he later opted for an out-of-court settlement, citing one reason as being the increasing cost of legal fees.

22. Dr M: MACC may not have all details on alleged RM90mil Umno-PAS transfer

KLANG: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) may not have sufficient details regarding the RM90mil that is alleged to have made its way into PAS' bank accounts.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad said it would take time for all the information to be gathered.

"The MACC may not have obtained the full information," he said, alleging that there was so much theft made that "the MACC does not have time to investigate".

He was speaking to reporters after launching Metrod Holdings Bhd's plant extension at the Bukit Raja Prime Industrial Park here on Monday (Feb 25).

He said the delay in completing investigations did not mean that former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was innocent.

"It is just that it's not been investigated yet. We wait (to see) if it is true or not," said Dr Mahathir.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull said on Sunday (Feb 24) that investigations so far have not found any evidence that RM90mil allegedly from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) was deposited into PAS' accounts.

The allegation that PAS had received RM90mil in bribes from Umno was made in a Sarawak Report article on Aug 6, 2016.

PAS central committee member Nik Abduh Nik Aziz and former PAS deputy president Datuk Dr Nasharudin Mat Isa were questioned by MACC about the matter earlier this month.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang sued Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown for libel over the article where the allegations were made but the duo settled the matter out of court recently.

23. Investigate how RPK obtained information on Penang tunnel, says Annuar Musa



PETALING JAYA: Umno is questioning how blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin was able to publish information on the Penang Undersea Tunnel project, which is classified under the Official Secrets Act 1972 (OSA).

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Annuar Musa (*pic*) said that Raja Petra had published an article online alleging graft in the project and implicated DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and several other party leaders.

"How can Raja Petra publish something from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) files, and aren't these investigations papers considered classified under the OSA?" he asked in a Facebook post on Tuesday (Feb 26).

Annuar said this was "surprising" and could tarnish the reputation of the MACC.

"Lim should lodge a police report against the leak of MACC documents. Lim and the DAP leaders should also sue Raja Petra for the article," he said.

Annuar also called on MACC to investigate how he obtained the documents in the first place.

24. Project manager pleads not guilty to making false claims in flood mitigation projects

ALOR SETAR (Bernama): A project manager has pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to a charge with submitting false claims of more than RM415,000 to the Kedah Drainage and Irrigation Department in 2016.

Abdullah Hassan, 57, was charged with making the false claims for tender work in flood mitigation projects, such as upgrading of Sungai Tanjung Pauh and Anak Bukit and canals in the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada).

The offence was allegedly committed at the office of the Kedah Drainage and Irrigation Department, Sultan Abdul Halim Building, Jalan Sultan Badlishah here between July and Sept 2016.

The charge was framed under Section 471 of the Penal Code, which provides an imprisonment for up to two years, or fine, or both, if found guilty.

However, lawyer Abdul Rahim Mohamad, representing Abdullah, requested a lower bail, saying that his client had to support four wives, all not working, and 10 children, four of them schooling.

Judge Murtazadi Amran then set bail at RM25,000 in one surety and ordered Abdullah to surrender his passport to the court.

He also fixed April 1 for mention.

Abdullah, from Permatang Pauh in Penang, posted the bail.

25. Former law firm clerk hit with CBT charges

IPOH (Bernama): A former clerk of a law firm has pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to 138 counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) involving more than RM100,000 between 2012 and 2015.

V. Pathumavethi, 53, claimed trial after all the charges were read out to her by an interpreter before Judge Azman Abu Hassan on Wednesday (Feb 27).

The mother of two is accused of having abused vouchers for payment amounting to RM103,740.55 between January 2012 and January 2015 while working as a clerk for the law firm of Chong and Poh Advocates and Solicitors at the Summit Complex in Jalan Dato Tahwil Azar here.

She faces a maximum jail term of 14 years and whipping as well as a fine upon conviction.

He allowed Pathumavethi bail of RM30,000 in one surety and ordered her to surrender her passport to the court.

DPP Muhammad Fauzi Md Yusof had applied for the bail to be set at RM40,000 but Pathumavethi's counsel K. Nathan asked for it to be halved, saying his client's two children were still studying.

26. Three companies charged with fraud over sand export

KOTA TINGGI: Three companies were charged at a magistrate's court here with fraud for exporting more than the declared quantity of silica sand.

The companies including a private concessionaire faced two charges each on Thursday (Feb 28).

The other two firms are involved in tugboat and barge transportation and freight forwarding.

Their representatives pleaded not guilty.

Magistrate Mazana Sinin set March 12 for the case to be rementioned and for submission of documents.

Bail for each of the company was set at RM10,000 with one surety.

A total of two tugboats and two boats along with 16 crew members were detained during an operation on Feb 8 between 3.45pm and 6.30pm.

According to the charges, the companies allegedly tried to fraud the Malaysian government by transporting silica sand worth RM5,813.32 and RM5230.29 on Feb 8.

They face a fine of up to 20 times the customs duties or a maximum imprisonment of five years or both.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohammad Mohd Nasir prosecuted while lawyer P.S Segaran represented the accused.

In the same court, Mazana also released the 16 crew members, all Indonesians, on bond.