

The Star June 2019

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1. Petronas Q1 profit up 9%



PETALING JAYA: Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) registered a net profit increase of 9% year-on-year to RM14.2bil for the first quarter ended March 31, mainly due to a higher revenue of RM62bil recorded during the quarter.

In a statement yesterday, the national oil company said the net profit achieved during the quarter was partially offset by increased net product and production costs, lower net write-back of assets impairment as well as a higher contribution to the National Trust Fund.

Petronas president and group CEO Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin said the improved financial performance in the first quarter of 2019 demonstrates the strength of the group's three-pronged strategy and resolute execution, which focuses on continuous overall business improvement and commercial and operational excellence.

The oil and gas industry will continue to operate in a challenging environment arising from market uncertainties and geopolitical risks, the statement said.

"Petronas will maintain its efforts in instilling strong cost discipline and to drive operational excellence in pursuit of its growth strategies.

"Looking ahead, while facing market uncertainties, we will continue to invest for the future.

"(We) have recently expanded our Upstream portfolio through our equity acquisition of the Tartaruga Verde field in Brazil.

"Our strategic intent to venture beyond oil and gas has also made significant progress with our recent investments in renewables and specialty chemicals," he said in a press release yesterday.

The revenue growth of 7% year-on-year to RM62bil from RM57.9bil a year ago was primarily attributed to the higher sales volume for petroleum products and liquefied natural gas (LNG), coupled with the effect of the weakening ringgit against the US dollar exchange rate.

However, these were partially offset by lower average realised prices, mainly for petroleum products, crude oil and condensates.

Petroleum product sales volume during the first quarter of the year was 64.3 million barrels, a rise of six million barrels from a year ago, on the back of higher trading activities and improved marketing volumes. Crude oil sales volume was down by 2.1 million to 31.2 million barrels during the quarter under review due to lower crude oil marketing activities. Cash flows from operations rose to RM23.2bil, an increase of 6% from RM21.9bil in the same quarter last year.

The group's gearing ratio increased to 20.8% as at March 31, 2019, compared to 19.7% as at Dec 31, 2018 due to the recognition of additional lease liabilities following the adoption of a new accounting standard.

2. NFC queries suit against it

PETALING JAYA: The National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) has questioned the suit filed in court against it by the Attorney General, saying that it offered last year to pay in full the RM250mil loan it took more than 10 years ago.

NFC chairman Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail said they had started the process of redeveloping and restructuring the organisation.

He said several discussions were held with the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry, and these had been positively received.

He said a letter on the full repayment of the loan had been sent to Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng on May 17, but NFC had yet to receive any response.

Like all Malaysians, Mohamad Salleh said he wanted the issue to be resolved as soon as possible with the agreement of the government.

He added that they would fully cooperate with the government.

Mohamad Salleh said he was confident that NFC would be able to pay back the amount owed to the government and the aspirations of the project would be fulfilled.

The Edge had reported that the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) filed a statement of claim against NFC for RM253.62mil owed to the government with the Kuala Lumpur High Court last Friday.

Named in the claim are Mohamad Salleh and his three children, and six other companies owned by the family. Mohamad Salleh is the husband of former Wanita Umno chief Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

The claim against NFC and the Salleh family amounts to RM253.62mil and represents the amount owed to the government, together with interest of 2% per annum and default interest on RM224.77mil.

It was reported that the government would also be seeking a declaration from the court to have Mohamad Salleh's family personally liable for the debt repayment, the sum of RM118.04mil misappropriated from the loan and secret profits arising from it, as well as Putrajaya's entitlement to claim equitable title to the properties bought using NFC's RM250mil loan from the government.

The NFC, set up in 2007 with its subsidiary National Feedlot Centre to expand the local beef industry, was meant to reduce dependency on imported beef.

However, the project became embroiled in controversy for being poorly managed as noted in the Auditor-General's Report 2011.

3. Sole link between Najib and SRC was its CEO Nik Faisal



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here was told that SRC International Sdn Bhd CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil was the sole link between the company and the then-prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Tan Sri Ismee Ismail, who was the chairman of SRC International's board of directors, told the court that any decision by its board of directors must have the advice of Najib, who was the advisor emeritus.

"If there was a matter that needed to be brought to Najib's attention, it would only be done by Nik Faisal as he acted as the link between the board of directors and Najib.

"The act of reporting any discussion or decision relating to SRC International would be done by Nik Faisal to Najib," the witness said.

The witness said he had once raised the issue of SRC's governance to Nik Faisal, who would always reply that the matters raised had been discussed and agreed by the "government".

"In my opinion, the 'government' that Nik Faisal was referring to was Najib," he added.

He said he disagreed with the way SRC International, a 1MDB subsidiary, was run by Nik Faisal, especially in terms of the company's accounts and finances which made him decide to quit.

"I tendered my resignation in SRC International on May 6, 2014 and officially resigned on Aug 15, 2014," he said.

Between May and August that year, Ismee said he was not actively involved in the management of SRC International.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Monday afternoon.

4. Bung Moktar and wife's graft case re-mention fixed for July 4



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The Sessions Court here has fixed July 4 for re-mention of the case of Kinabatangan MP Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin and his wife Datin Seri Zizie Izette for corruption charges involving RM2.8mil to obtain approval for Felcra Bhd to invest RM150mil in Public Mutual Berhad Unit Trust.

Judge Rozina Ayob fixed the date after Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) deputy public prosecutor Allan Suman Pillai told the court that there were some documents still incomplete.

"Today the prosecution submitted a document under Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code to the defence team.

"However, the prosecution needs another date for the submission of further documents in this case," he said at the mention of the case on Monday (June 10).

The prosecution also informed that they would make an application for the cases of Bung Moktar and Zizie Izette to be tried together and transferred to the High Court.

"The prosecution has submitted a document under Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code to the defence team today and we will also request that the case (Bung Moktar's) be tried together in the forthcoming mention," Pillai said.

Kumarendran who was also representing Zizie Izette, 41, said his side needed time to examine the document.

On May 3, Bung Moktar pleaded not guilty at the Sessions Court on three counts of receiving a total of RM2.8mil in bribes for obtaining approval for Felcra to make a RM150 million investment in unit trust products of Public Mutual.

According to the first charge, Bung Moktar, then the Felcra non-executive chairman, was accused of taking a bribe of RM2.2mil in cash from Public Mutual's investment agent, Madhi Abdul Hamid, 38, through the wife of the accused, Datin Seri Zizie Izette A. Samad.

He was accused of committing the act as a reward for obtaining approval from the Minister of Finance II for Felcra to make an RM150mil investment in Public Mutual unit trust products.

The offence was allegedly committed at Public Bank Bhd, Taman Melawati Branch, No. 262-265, Jalan Bandar 12, Taman Melawati here, between 12.30pm and 5pm, on June 12, 2015.

For the second charge, Bung Moktar was accused of taking for himself a bribe of RM262,500 in cash from the same individual, Madhi, through an account of the bank's investment product Public Islamic Treasures Growth Fund (PITGF) numbered 044797816 and registered under the name of Zizie Izette for the same purpose.

Bung Moktar was also accused of taking for himself a bribe of RM337,500 from Public Mutual's investment agent, Norhaili Ahmad Mokhtar, 42, through a Public Ittikal Sequel Fund (Pitseq) account numbered 044797824 registered under the name of Zizie Izette for the same purpose.

Both offences were allegedly committed at the same location at 12.16pm and 12.28pm, on June 19, 2015.

The prosecution is filed in accordance with Subsection 17(a) of the MACC Act and punishable under Section 24(1) of the same Act which provides for imprisonment of not more than 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000 whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Zizie Izette, a former actress, pleaded not guilty to three counts of abetting her husband on the same offences, at the same place, date and time under Section 28(1)(c) of the MACC Act and punishable under subsection 24(1) which provides for imprisonment of not more than 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000 whichever is higher, upon conviction.

5. SRC trial: Witness says Najib had influence over KWAP loan decision



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court here was told that former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had influence over the Retirement Fund Incorporated's (KWAP) decision to grant a loan to SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Former KWAP chief executive officer Datuk Azian Mohd Noh, 66, said Najib, who was also the finance minister at the time, was her ultimate boss and thus had influence over KWAP's decision to grant a loan to SRC International.

Azian, the 38th prosecution witness in Najib's trial, said this Monday (June 10), the 21st day of the trial, when re-examined by deputy public prosecutor Datuk Ishak Mohd Yusoff.

She said although there was no legal compulsion on the part of the accused, he still wielded a certain degree of influence, given that he was the finance minister and the fact that the Ministry of Finance Incorporated owned SRC International.

Azian: The words compulsion and influence give different connotations. There was no legal compulsion, but I cannot say the same for the word "influence". The annotation in the (SRC International loan application) letter came from the prime minister and finance minister in charge of KWAP. He is my ultimate boss, so I cannot deny there was a certain amount of influence.

Ishak: Why was it that after KWAP considered to give RM1bil, you had to see the prime minister and convey that KWAP could only give RM1bil?

Azian: That was requested by the investment panel ... one of the investment panel members but I don't know which one.

Najib, 66, is charged with three counts of criminal breach of trust, one count of abusing his position and three counts of money laundering involving SRC International funds amounting to RM42mil.

The hearing before High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali continues.

6. Najib had full control over SRC, says witness

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had full control over the administration of SRC International Sdn Bhd based on the amendment to the company's Articles of Association.

Tan Sri Ismee Ismail, 54, a former member of SRC International Sdn Bhd's board of directors, said this after deputy public prosecutor Datuk Ishak Mohd Yusoff referred him to the amendment to Article 117, which was added into the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company by Najib, who was also SRC advisor emeritus.

Ishak: What does Article 117 imply?

Ismee: Article 117 implies that SRC must take into consideration the advisor emeritus' advice in material and strategic matters as well as execute the advice.

Ismee: Najib, who was also prime minister at the time.

Ishak: Did the advisor emeritus have control over SRC's board of directors and the company?

Ismee: Should have control.

The 39th witness said Tuesday (June 11) he was not told why there was an amendment to Article 117 in the minutes of the company's extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on April 23, 2012.

Cross-examined by Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh, Ismee admitted he did not witness Najib signing the minutes of the EGM on April 23, 2012, which passed the amendment to the company's Memorandum of Association.

The amendment was to add Article 117 into SRC's Memorandum of Association, which led to Najib's appointment as advisor emeritus of the company.

The witness also admitted that he was only relying on what SRC director Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil had told the company's board of directors in a meeting on June 8, 2012.

Ismee said he only realised that the meeting minutes did not contain his signature when Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigating officer Rosli pointed it out to him.

Harvinderjit: Did the MACC officer request from you any specific document?

Ismee: No, but Rosli asked me whether I had any more documents related to SRC at home. So, I went back home to search and I found the document in my briefcase.

Najib, 66, faces three counts of criminal breach of trust, one charge of power abuse and three counts of money laundering involving SRC funds totalling RM42mil.

The trial continues before High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali. - Bernama

7. Najib had control of SRC, court told

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had control in the management of SRC International Sdn Bhd after an amendment was made in the company's articles of association, the High Court heard.

Article 117 was added into SRC International's Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A) that stated "the prime minister shall be appointed and hold office as adviser emeritus to the company".

It further said the adviser emeritus shall advise the board of directors on material matters and matters of strategic interest to Malaysia.

The board, it said, shall give due consideration to and implement any advice of the adviser emeritus in the best interest of the company.

"The implication from Article 117 is that SRC International must take the advice of the adviser emeritus in material and strategic matters of the company," he said during examination-in-chief by Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Ishak Mohd Yusoff here yesterday.

The witness was testifying in the corruption trial of Najib.

He said he was not aware of why the amendment relating to Article 117 was made during the company's extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on April 23, 2012.

Cross-examined by Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh, Ismee admitted that he did not see for himself that Najib signed the EGM's meeting minutes to approve the amendment in the articles of association.

He said he depended entirely on the information given by former SRC International CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil when the matter was reported to the board in a meeting on June 8, 2012.

Ismee also testified that the source of SRC International's funds came from Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP) and a start-up grant from the government.

"The company received a loan of RM4bil from KWAP and RM20mil from the government. The funds were used for investment and working capital," he said.

Najib is facing seven charges involving RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International, formerly a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

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

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

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

8. Mindef lodges report with MACC over purchase of helicopters



An Afghan Air Force MD-530F helicopter during a media demonstration on April 9, 2015, at a training range outside of Kabul, Afghanistan. - US Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Perry Aston/Released

PUTRAJAYA (Bernama): The Defence Ministry has lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over the purchase of six helicopters worth more than RM300mil in 2015, which has yet to be received by the Malaysian Armed Forces to date.

The report was filed by the ministry's representative at the MACC headquarters here on Thursday (June 13).

According to a ministry source, the McDonnell Douglas MD530G lightweight combat helicopters were supposed to be received in two phases - two in July 2017, and the rest in December 2018.

The source said the terms of the purchase agreement did not safeguard the interests of the government, which included clauses such as 'the contract is valid for two years, or, until the local company appointed as the agent successfully delivers the helicopters.'

According to the source, the approval for the purchase of the military assets in November 2015 was also not done according to set procedures.

"The contract was done via direct negotiation with the agency, while many terms of the contract were not favourable to the government. For example, the contract was approved without any military specifications, a mandatory requirement in the purchase of military assets," the source said.

He said McDonnell Douglas had also cancelled the local company's contract as its agent in Malaysia by the time the helicopter purchase agreement was signed.

The source added the Malaysian government had already paid RM112.65mil, which was 35% of the total cost of the acquisition, to the company.

9. SRC trial: Despite CEO's contrary claims about 2013 accounts, board didn't inform Najib



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has been told that although the 2013 accounts of SRC International Sdn Bhd were not audited, contrary to chief executive officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil's claims, the board of directors did not raise the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Former chairman Tan Sri Ismee Ismail said this under cross-examination by Harvinderjit Singh, Najib's counsel, on Thursday (June 13).

Ismee said because Nik Faisal was the communications link between SRC International's board of directors and Najib, who was adviser emeritus of the company, he (Ismee) did not have any contact with Najib during his tenure as chairman.

When he found out that the company's 2013 accounts were not audited despite Nik Faisal asking the board to sign a resolution to approve the accounts, claiming they had been audited, Ismee said he took it upon himself to resolve the issue.

This was despite his telling the court that it was implied (tersirat) that Najib was his "boss".

Harvinderjit: Would you accept that at some point in time, it would have been incumbent on you to escalate the matter to either to Ministry of Finance (Incorporated) or a department in MoF (Inc) or the Prime Minister directly when you got the impression that Nik Faisal was not telling the truth?

Ismee: Agreed.

Harvinderjit: (Referring to the unaudited accounts). And in that point in time, you did not think it was serious enough to doubt Nik Faisal?

Ismee: I investigated why the accounts were not audited.

Ismee said he contacted Deloitte - which was SRC International's external auditor at that time - to resolve the issue, successfully closing the accounts.

Harvinderjit: In your mind, the chief executive officer lying to the board about the fact that the accounts have been audited was not serious enough to be escalated (to Najib)?

Ismee: I can't say.

Ismee had earlier told the court that he resigned from SRC International due to issues related to the unaudited accounts.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah later made an application for the court to be adjourned to give time for the defence team to look over resolutions and transcripts due to alleged discrepancies between Ismee's written and oral testimonies.

Deputy public prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram did not object, saying both sides would make use of the day to go through Ismee's transcript before deciding on the next course of action.

Proceedings will continue on Friday (June 14) in front of Justice Mohd Nazlan Mihd Ghazali.

Najib is facing seven charges involving RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International, formerly a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

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

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International.

On Aug 8 last year, he was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

10. Bank's chief cashier wanted for CBT involving mosque (updated)

SIBU: A bank's chief cashier has allegedly committed criminal breach of trust involving RM70,467 belonging to a mosque.

Sibu deputy OCPD Supt Martin Koo said on Saturday (June 15) that the treasurer of the mosque had found discrepancies in the account on April 15 for transactions between 2017 to March 2019.

"The treasurer discovered that there was a shortfall of RM70,467 after going through the 21 bank-in slips," he added.

The suspect had been entrusted by the bank to handle deposits from the mosque.

"The initial investigation revealed that the suspect had used the money for personal purposes," said Supt Koo

The case is being investigated under Section 408 of the Penal Code for criminal breach of trust.

11. Two executives linked to 1MDB scandal jailed in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI (BLOOMBERG): Two executives linked to a Malaysia wealth fund scandal were convicted of financial crimes and sentenced to prison in Abu Dhabi, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Khadem al Qubaisi, who once headed Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), was handed a 15-year prison sentence and Mohammed Badawy al Hussein, a US citizen who ran a subsidiary of IPIC, was sentenced to 10 years, according to the report.

They jointly must pay about US\$336mil, the WSJ reported, cited a statement from the emirate's court.

The court statement didn't identify the men by name, but people familiar with the judicial actions told the *Journal* that the unidentified defendants were Al Qubaisi and Al Hussein.

It also cited people familiar as saying the convictions weren't related to the Malaysian fund scandal.

Lawyers for both men and a representative of the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court declined to comment on the charges, the *Journal* reported.

The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), set up by former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to attract foreign investment, accumulated billions of dollars of debt after its 2009 inception and is at the centre of multiple investigations in relation to alleged corruption and money laundering.

IPIC and Aabar Investments last year alleged in a court filing that Goldman Sachs Group Inc paid bribes to former fund officials, who in exchange "agreed to manipulate and mislead IPIC and Aabar, and to misuse the companies' names, networks, and infrastructures to further the criminal schemes and to personally benefit."

12. SRC trial: Witness insists the word 'govt' refers to Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: A witness and Datuk Seri Najib Razak's defence team clashed over the word "government" the during the latter's corruption trial involving RM42mil of SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Former SRC board chairman Tan Sri Ismee Ismail, 54, insisted that in his state of mind, the word "government" in his written statement referred to the former prime minister.

The witness was questioned during cross-examination by Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh here on Monday (June 17).

Last Monday (June 10), the High Court heard Ismee's written statement where he said that he had once raised the issue of SRC's governance to former CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, who would always reply that the matters raised had been discussed and agreed by the "government".

Harvinderjit argued that a prime minister could not be the government as it involved a whole machinery.

He suggested that in August, 2011, Nik Faisal said matters in SRC were facilitated by the Finance Ministry (MoF), the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and the Minister of Finance Incorporated (MOF Inc).

Harvinderjit: If Nik Faisal says these are all decided by the government, you would agree that he suggested that it is not decided by Najib, but at the government level by either the MoF, EPU or MOF Inc.

Ismee: We know the government is the prime minister. There were visions and aspirations.

Harvinderjit: Yes, when we talk about vision, it is the vision of the prime minister. If we talk about aspirations, it is the aspirations of the prime minister. But it cannot be the government is the prime minister because the government is not the prime minister. Those decisions should go through the whole machinery.

Ismee: As far as I am concerned, it was the prime minister. When the word 'government' is mentioned, in our minds (the board) we understood that it referred to the prime minister.

Najib is facing seven charges involving RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC, formerly a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

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

He allegedly misappropriated RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC.

On Aug 8 last year, he was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Tuesday (June 18).

13. Najib did not declare interests in SRC before chairing Cabinet meeting on company, court told

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak did not declare his interests in SRC International Sdn Bhd despite chairing a Cabinet meeting that discussed a memorandum relating to a RM2bil in government guarantee for the company.

The High Court heard this on Tuesday (June 18) when former Cabinet deputy secretary-general Tan Sri Mazidah Abdul Majid testified in the SRC International case.

He said that based on the minutes of the meeting on Feb 8, 2012, Najib - who was the advisor emeritus of SRC International - did not make any declaration of his interests in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) subsidiary.

She said neither did any of the Cabinet members ask him to leave the meeting before the memorandum was discussed.

According to Mazidah, after the meeting ended, a draft of the minutes was prepared by a team under her supervision on the same day and finalised in the same week.

The minutes indicated that the Cabinet ministers did not object to the loan.

Mazidah testified during the examination-in-chief by Deputy Public Prosecutor Muhammad Izzat Fauzan that it was a practice for Cabinet members to declare their interests in any matters that would come up before the Cabinet.

"The declaration would be noted in the meeting's minutes. The minister would have to leave the meeting during the discussion," she said.

The witness gave three instances where ministers, including Najib, had excused themselves from Cabinet meetings due to conflict of interest.

She said former youth and sports minister Khairy Jamaluddin and former defence minister Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Hussein had left meetings.

"Based on a Cabinet record, Najib had left a meeting in November, 2012, that involved a memorandum regarding CIMB Bank Berhad," she added.

Najib's brother Datuk Seri Nazir was the chairman of CIMB Group Holdings Bhd.

Mazidah explained that there was an article under the code of ethics which governed ministers and deputy ministers that spoke about conflict of interest.

"It listed that for things to be tabled before Cabinet, ministers with conflicts of interest must leave and this must be recorded in the minutes. The article was amended by Cabinet in 2013 but did not affect the part on conflicts of interest," she said.

Najib is facing seven charges involving RM42mil in funds belonging to SRC International, formerly a subsidiary of 1MDB.

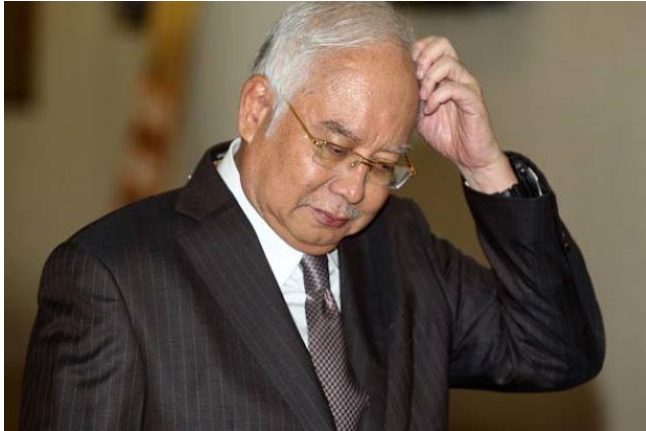
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The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Wednesday (June 19).

14. SRC did not comply with procedures involving CSR grant of RM250mil, court told



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court was told that SRC International Sdn Bhd had broken compliance in its operations relating to corporate social responsibility (CSR) involving a RM250mil grant to help flood victims in the east coast.

Former SRC director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin, 68, said SRC had appointed Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd to head its CSR programmes in a letter dated Sept 3, 2014.

"I, myself and former CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil had signed the letter," he said on Thursday (June 20).

The witness said Nik Faisal had suggested for SRC to help the east coast flood victims.

A CSR grant of RM250mil was subsequently approved by the board of directors.

"The board discussed about it and agreed to hasten the process so the money could be used to help flood victims immediately," he said.

The key witness was giving his explosive testimony under examination-in-chief by Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Ishak Mohd Yusoff at Datuk Seri Najib Razak's corruption trial involving the misappropriation of RM42mil in SRC funds here.

However, Suboh said it was in his opinion that the grant involved a huge amount and should have gone through the existing procedure of getting a written approval through the board's resolution

first.

"I raised the issue about the company's regulation and other issues pertaining to compliance as the grant would involve SRC's funds.

"Nik Faisal said 'it will be taken care of' and this matter was approved by 'pihak atas' (superior)," he said.

Suboh said he had thought that the superior in question was Najib, who was the advisor emeritus of SRC.

"Therefore, I kept quiet and the matter was never raised," he added.

Suboh, who is now retired, said if there was a balance to the grant which was unused, Ihsan Perdana must return the money to SRC after the grant expired.

"But to my knowledge, Ihsan Perdana had never given a feedback on the expenditure of the RM250mil.

"I do not know if there was any balance from the grant that was returned by Ihsan Perdana to SRC," he said.

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

On Aug 8 last year, he was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same RM42mil.

The hearing before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali continues on July 1.

15. **Goldman Sachs' compensation offer not reasonable, says Dr M**

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The Government has been offered a compensation by multinational investment bank, Goldman Sachs, over the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister, however, said the sum was not reasonable.

In a Bloomberg interview at the Asean Business Summit in Bangkok on Friday (June 21), he said the amount that was stolen was about US\$6.9bil in total including fees for Goldman Sachs.

"Goldman offered RM1bil (but) they made 10% from it," he said.

"In this case (1MDB), from 90% from the money raised but, we (the country) will be facing an interest of 100%," he said.

When asked if the Government is mulling a civil suit on top of the criminal suit, he said that it depends on the Attorney General.

"We would have to examine the case, before taking any action. It is up to the AG to take action," he said.

On Dec 17, the Government filed criminal charges against three subsidiaries of Goldman Sachs Inc over their handling of bonds totalling US\$6.5bil (RM27bil) issued by 1MDB.

This was the first time a country has filed criminal charges against the US investment banking giant itself.

It was reported that Goldman Sachs made US\$600mil (RM2.5bil) in fees for handling the bonds related to 1MDB.

In terms of recovering the lost money, the Prime Minister said that it was difficult to get all of it back because the money was stolen and the Government does not know where it is.

"If the money is invested in something, we can go to the company and ask for the money back, but the money is stolen and we don't know where it is.

"They are not telling us (where the money is) and a number of people had handled the money. Unless we can squeeze them, we would not know where it is," he said.

According to AG Tommy Thomas, Malaysia has thus far recovered US\$322mil; equivalent to about RM1.3bil worth of assets belonging to 1MDB.

16. Najib: MACC must establish source of fund in civil forfeiture suit



KUANTAN: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak says the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has to establish where the money came from in the 1MDB civil forfeiture suit.

The Pekan MP said it could be seen that the source was foreign even in the proceedings of the SRC International case.

"In the SRC case, a large chunk of money actually came from the Saudi Ministry of Finance, as well as donations from princes.

"We cannot assume everything is 1MDB money," Najib said after visiting the Teluk Chempedak beach here Saturday (June 22) in response to the MACC's announcement the day before that it aimed to recover RM270mil misappropriated from 1MDB.

It named 41 individuals, political parties, trust funds and business entities said to have received monies from Najib's personal AmBank account.

According to Najib, those who received the money should not be blamed.

"They didn't know the source of the money. Like myself, I didn't know the source as well when I received it. "The key element in this whole thing is knowledge.

"Now, it has to go through the process and we have to let the court decide," he said.

When asked about the various Umno state liaison committees, as well as Pekan Umno, being "implicated", Najib said: "Not implicated. That's part and parcel of receiving donations.

"Let them establish the facts first," he said.

17. Selangor Umno: MACC action against us like a bolt from the blue



KLANG: Selangor Umno has been taken by surprise by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) civil forfeiture action against the party.

Selangor Umno was one of the 41 entities named in the civil forfeiture suit filed by the MACC on Friday (June 21) for allegedly receiving RM2,738,525.08 of 1Malaysia Development Board (1MDB) funds.

Its acting chairman Datuk Mat Nadzari Ahmad Dahlan (*pic*) said Selangor Umno was in the dark about what could be coming their way.

"For now, we will wait and see. Once we receive something in writing from the MACC, we will plan our course of action," he said.

The state liaison committee's secretary Datuk Johan Aziz said the move by MACC was completely unexpected.

"We will first discuss it at state level before bringing the matter to the party headquarters," said Johan.

Selangor Wanita Umno chief Datuk Rosni Sohar said she had no knowledge of the issue as she only took over the leadership of the wing in January this year.

"I was called up by the MACC and queried about this. I told them that I was new and did not know of any financial transactions," she said.

Selangor Umno Youth chief Rizam Ismail said he was a newbie and had no knowledge of the issues involved.

"Many of us were not there when these transactions allegedly transpired. We have no clue and are merely caught in the crossfire," he added.

According to Rizam, he did not see why the action was being done at a time when the nation's economy needed strengthening.

"I don't know why the MACC thinks this is an important move at this point of time," said Rizam, who is also Selangor Opposition chief.

Most of the people currently heading the Selangor Umno liaison committee are fairly new and may not have been around when the alleged fund transfers transpired.

Previous Selangor Umno chiefs Tan Sri Noh Omar and Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob were not available for comment.

Noh had assumed the Selangor Umno chairman's position from Datuk Seri Najib Razak in 2014.

After Noh stepped down, Ismail took over the helm before quitting on May 17 this year.

18. Hisham: Probe all ex-defence ministers over Mindef land swaps, not just me



PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein is urging the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) not to be selective and probe all previous defence ministers over any dodgy land swap deals involving the ministry.

The former defence minister, who was questioned for close to seven hours on Sunday (June 23) by the MACC, said only one land swap deal - in Paloh - occurred during his tenure.

"If you want to talk about the land swap case, make sure you talk about all 16 land swaps.

"If you want to talk about procedure, let's see what was the procedure used by the previous leadership, either by the then prime minister or minister of defence.

"I answered questions about the Paloh land swap in detailed today. But don't stop there because there are 16 land swaps in all.

"Let's see who the culprits are. Let's see who is at wrong because we want to get to the truth.

"If I'm guilty, then charge me. But don't charge me alone. We want justice and not selective prosecution," he told reporters after exiting the MACC headquarters.

Hishammuddin was defence minister from 2013 to 2018. The land swaps concerned go as far back as 1997.

He also claimed that he did not gain anything from the Paloh land swap deal.

"I have said categorically I've not benefited even one sen from this. All I did was in the interest and the welfare of soldiers and their families," he said.

Hishammuddin arrived at the MACC headquarters here at 11am and only left the building at 6pm.

An MACC source said he was questioned from noon to 5.30pm.

Hishammuddin thanked the MACC for their professionalism and said he was treated well during the interrogation.

In February, Mindef revealed that the Government had lost more than RM500mil in land swap deals since 1997.

The ministry revealed that as of last December, five projects had been completed, two were under construction, and nine failed to meet the completion deadline. The other agreements have yet to be signed.

It also concluded that 13 of the 16 projects - including the construction of army camps in Bera, Segamat, Paloh and Hutan Melintang - were approved due to political consideration and not in national interest.

On May 17, Mindef handed over 14 reports on allegedly dubious land swap, after surrendering two reports earlier.

Besides the land value, the cost of the projects was estimated at RM4.88bil.

Findings on one of the audit reports stated that a former prime minister and former defence ministers were found to have been involved in the land swap deal for the development of the Muara Tuang and Penrissen camps in Sarawak.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak was prime minister and while Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was defence minister at the time.

19. Zahid expected to face fresh corruption charges



PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is expected to face 40 counts of corruption involving the foreign visa system (VLN) when he is brought to court this week.

With these fresh charges, the former deputy premier will have close to 90 cases against him.

He is already facing 47 counts of criminal breach of trust and money laundering cases.

On Wednesday (June 26), Zahid will face seven charges at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court.

Sources said that he will face 33 charges under Section(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti Corruption-Commission Act (MACC) where he is accused of bribery.

The remaining seven charges are under Section 165 of the Penal Code, relating to corruption.

"Yes, we will be taking him to court to face corruption charges," a source told The Star Monday (June 24).

According to earlier reports, the former deputy premier had been summoned by MACC investigators who are conducting a probe involving a private company dealing in bringing in Chinese tourists to Malaysia.

He was seen entering the MACC headquarters at 9.30am on Monday and left around 12.30pm.

20. MACC: Loopholes within foreign visa system will be reported to Home Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will immediately send a report to the Home Ministry if any loopholes and disadvantages were found in the overseas visa (VLN) system and procedures.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (Operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki said his officers would submit the report on the flaws for the ministry to review and take further action.

"The MACC Inspection and Consultancy Division will send a report as soon as possible to the Home Ministry for them to take necessary actions pertaining to whatever loopholes and disadvantages in the system and procedures, as well as on how the system is being used in this case," he added.

Azam said this to reporters after attending the proceedings of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi who was slapped with seven fresh charges of accepting bribe totalling SGD4.24mil (RM12.8mil) from a company over the VLN system, at the Sessions Court here Wednesday (June 26).

Dr Ahmad Zahid was accused of accepting the bribe as an inducement for him as a public officer at that time, that is as the Home Minister, to extend Syarikat Ultra Kirana Sdn Bhd's contract as the operator of the One Stop Centre (OSC) in China and the VLN system.

He is alleged to have committed the offence at Seri Satria, Precinct 16, Putrajaya, between March 28, 2017 and March 2, 2018.

21. MACC dep chief: More entities received 1MDB monies than 41 named so far



KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission deputy chief commissioner has indicated that there are more entities involved in the commission's civil forfeiture move to recover monies allegedly from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Datuk Seri Azam Baki said more entities would be called over the matter but declined to elaborate.

"I will update on that later," he told the press when met at the Kuala Lumpur Court Complex here on Wednesday.

Azam was asked to comment on a statement by Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng on Tuesday (June 25) in which he said he believed there were more entities - other than the 41 individuals and entities, named in MACC's forfeiture claims list released last week - which had received monies from 1MDB.

To this, Azam said the commission would call any parties that received the money.

"If we find there is basis or merit for us to call them, we will call. Not just the press clubs," said Azam had earlier attended the proceeding against Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who was slapped with seven new graft charges involving S\$4.2mil.

He said that there had been companies that offered to return the 1MDB-related monies through their lawyers after the MACC filed a forfeiture suit against 41 individuals and entities.

"I can't say more, I will inform later," he said.

On June 19, the MACC filed a civil forfeiture against 41 recipients and entities to recover RM270mil related to 1MDB.

The monies that was disbursed to these 41 recipients and entities all came from former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank account.

22. MACC to announce another list of 1MDB civil forfeiture respondents within two weeks



BANTING (Bernama): A new list of individuals and entities involved in the civil forfeiture action by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will be released within two weeks.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki (*pic*) said the list of respondents was extensive and his team needed time to undertake detailed checks concerning witnesses and the location of assets.

He also said they needed to handle other aspects such as a shortlist of names and discussions with investigators and the Attorney General's office.

"For those we can take legal action against, we will do so," he said after a basic training course as well as a management and professional course for MACC officers here Thursday (June 27).

He declined to give an estimate of the number of individuals and entities to be summoned in the next civil forfeiture application.

Azam, however, urged all those who had received funds from 1MDB to return the money, adding "they themselves know they are recipients of 1MDB funds as they received them in the form of cheques, not cash".

He said legal action could be taken against them under the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

On Wednesday (June 26), Azam said that more summonses would be issued following MACC's civil forfeiture suit filed on June 19 at the Kuala Lumpur High Court against 41 individuals and entities to recover 1MDB funds worth RM270mil.

Among the 41 are political parties Umno, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah and MCA, and organisations such as Pertubuhan Kebajikan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (Pekida).

23. Marine cops arrest three men, seize diesel and other goods worth RM110k

MUAR: The marine police here have detained three local men and seized some 1,200 litres of subsidised diesel worth about RM2,400 after surveillance on their illegal activities.

Marine Police Southern Region Two deputy commander Supt Noor Azman Jamal said the suspects, aged between 27 and 42, were arrested on Wednesday (June 26), at around 12.30pm.

He said apart from the seized diesel, police also seized a one tonne lorry worth RM30,000, a 4WD truck (RM73,000), 18 jerry cans (RM360), two large containers with 1,000 litres capacity (RM2,000) and two pumps worth RM2,000.

"All the seized items were worth RM110,000," said Supt Noor Azman.

Supt Noor Azman said the offences were committed at a premises located at Jalan Temenggong Ahmad, Parit Bakar here.

"We trailed the truck from the Parit Jawa fishermen jetty to the premises where the transferring of the diesel took place," he said in a statement Thursday (June 27).

Supt Noor Azman added that initial investigations showed the owner of the premises, who is one of the suspects, failed to produce the relevant documents when demanded.

The case is being investigated under the Supply Control Act 1961 and has been forwarded to the Muar Domestic Trade and Consumerism Ministry.

24. Kojadi will write to MACC over RM15mil grant

KUALA LUMPUR: The Koperasi Jayadiri Sdn Bhd (Kojadi) board will write to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency over a RM15mil grant received by the cooperative from Yayasan 1MDB in 2012 to set up a micro-credit scheme for youths.

It said the board, which met on Wednesday, had decided to write to the MACC again and to further discuss the matter with the MCA leadership.

In a joint statement issued late Thursday (June 28) signed by 11 board directors, Kojadi refuted a statement made earlier by its chairman Datuk Ng Peng Hay that the MCA leadership had interfered with their decision.

"The decision made by the board yesterday was to: one, write in again to MACC to follow up on the earlier correspondence; and two, to further discuss it with the MCA leadership.

"Therefore, it is simply false for Ng Peng Hay to say that the Board had directed him to meet with MACC today," they said. Kojadi was formed by MCA in 1981 to provide student loans for higher education.

Earlier, Ng accused MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong of preventing him from meeting anti-graft authorities to declare RM15mil received from Yayasan 1Malaysia Development Bhd in 2012.

Ng, who was an MCA member, had reportedly said the board agreed that he should meet with the MACC in light of its recent filing of civil forfeiture suits to recover 1MDB funds.

He claimed the Kojadi board held an emergency meeting yesterday during which the board directed him to meet MACC today "to clarify our position and seek its direction and guidance".

In a statement, Ng said he objected to the interference by the MCA president in the day-to-day running of the cooperative.

But the 11 directors, in refuting Ng, said Wee's "wish to have a discussion with the Board complies with the outcome of the Board meeting."

"Moreover, MCA laid the bedrocks of Kojadi over 30 years ago, hence, it is concern to Kojadi's operation," they added.

They were vice-chairman Datuk Hoo Seong Chang, treasurer Datuk Ng Fook Heng, assistant secretary Datuk Seri Chow Liong, assistant treasurer Datuk Lim Chin Hai and directors Datuk Wira

Koh Nai Kwong, Datuk Ooi Saw Choo, Woon Ching Fatt, Datuk Lim Si Cheng, Datuk Goh Ah Ling, Datuk Toh Chin Yaw and Dr Loke Sim Fatt.

"Kojadi has, and shall continue to uphold the principle of professional management. Whether it is in the past, present, or future, let it be known that the entire Board abide by a strict code of professionalism, transparency, integrity and lawful operating practices.

"The fact that Kojadi has established itself as one of the most successful cooperatives in the nation is evidence enough," they added.

They said "Kojadi upholds professional management; grant for youth's micro-credit scheme has nothing to do with (Datuk Seri) Najib's (Razak) accounts.

They further said that in the Kojadi board meeting on Wednesday,"there was no resolution for chairman to meet MACC Chief Commissioner Latheefa Koya or any officials today.

"Early this year, Kojadi had informed-in-writing the MACC regarding the details of the RM15mil grant received by the cooperative from Yayasan 1MDB in 2012 to establish a micro-credit scheme for youths, in addition to report the developments of said project.

"In response, MACC had also written back indicating that all matters (regarding) 1MDB are still undergoing investigation.

"The RM15mil grant received by Kojadi in 2012 to set up the micro-credit scheme for youth came from Yayasan 1MDB, which has nothing to do with Razak's accounts. Thus, they should not be lumped together."

25. MACC clears Azmin of graft allegations



PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has cleared Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (*pic*) of any wrongdoing following an investigation into allegedly illegal fund transfers.

In a statement on Friday (June 28), MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki said that the investigation conducted together with Bank Negara Malaysia and other financial bodies found that the allegations were false.

"It is hoped that this statement will provide clarification on the matter," said Azam.

He was referring to an allegations from Umno supreme council member Datuk Lokman Noor Adam, who claimed that cash was transferred from a construction company to the personal bank account of Azmin as well as the existence of an offshore bank account, which Azmin allegedly opened in 2012.

Aside from graft allegations, Azmin is also implicated in a viral sex video involving 27-year-old Santubong PKR youth chief Haziq Abdullah Abdul Aziz.

Haziq had confessed to being one of the men in the video and claimed that the other was Azmin.

Azmin has since denied any involvement in the sex video, dismissing it as a "nefarious" plot to destroy his political career.

26. We returned RM1mil linked to 1MDB funds, says Upko



KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Parti Upko returned the RM1mil it received from former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's account that has been linked to the 1MDB scandal.

Upko president Datuk Madius Tangau said the party returned the money a month before the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC) started the civil forfeiture suit to recover some RM270mil from some 41 entities under the Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001. "We did not know the source of the money. It was given to us to undertake community projects

"Our accounts were also frozen following the investigations, and we decided to return the money to avoid any civil action suits," said Tangau. Upko, which was part of the Sabah Barisan Nasional government, left the coalition to form a pact with Parti Warisan and the Pakatan Harapan state government after the 2018 general election.

Tangau, who is Sabah Deputy Chief Minister, said the money was not sufficient to fund their planned programme.

"We decided to run the programme our way and kept the money (RM1mil) in fixed deposit," he said and added they have no problems returning the money to the government.

Tangau was replying to questions by other political parties on why Upko was not prosecuted by MACC for accepting the 1MDB money.

MACC had pushed to recover money from two other former Sabah Barisan components Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) led by Tan Sri Joseph Kurup (RM1mil), Liberal Democratic Party (RM509,560) and Sabah Umno (RM1.25mil). Former federal minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam was

the only individual from among the 41 people, companies and political parties listed by *MACC*. It is learnt he received RM154,757.