

The Star March 2019

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1. Mindef lodges MACC report over RM550mil payment for AES



PUTRAJAYA : The Defence Ministry has lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on the payment of RM550mil made by the Armed Forces Board (LTAT) for the Automated Enforcement System (AES) for speed traps.

Mindef made the report in the wake of findings by the Governance, Procurement and Finance Investigating Committee headed by former Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang.

The report was lodged by Rafizal Ali, the special duties officer for Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu.

Rafizal said the findings concluded that the AES project was only financially beneficial to the concession companies while putting the government at risk.

"The investigation also revealed that there were concerns over plans for LTAT to take over the AES project which was discussed but not recorded in the minutes.

"The committee also found elements of interference by the previous administration, including former prime minister and several cabinet ministers," he said after lodging the report on Friday (March 1).

Rafizal said the amount which LTAT had to pay for the AES system raised alarm as the original cost was only RM40mil.

He added that an audit firm had valued it at RM250mil.

"We hope the *MACC* will investigate the matter and get to the actual reason why the board had to pay so much to take over *AES*," he said.

2. MACC to call up two more PAS leaders over RM90mil allegation

PUTRAJAYA: The MACC is calling up two more PAS leaders to record their statements pertaining to the alleged RM90mil received by their party.

PAS spiritual leader Datuk Hashim Jasin will give his statement to investigators at the Perlis MACC office on Friday morning (March 1).

In Kelantan, MACC is also expected to interview a PAS leader.

Prior to this, on Thursday (Feb 28), the party's secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan had his statement taken at the MACC headquarters.

After the interview, he said that he would get other PAS leaders who would be called up to cooperate so that the MACC could complete its investigation.

Several individuals whose name was mentioned in Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle Brown's defence statement against a suit by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang are expected to be called up by the MACC.

Hadi, who had sued Rewcastle Brown for libel, opted for an out-of-court settlement.

His suit was over an article published on Aug 6, 2016, alleging that the party had received RM90mil in bribes from Umno.

She filed a counterclaim in October 2017, but then on Feb 1 this year, the case was settled out of court with PAS citing cost of legal fees as one reason it opted for the settlement.

An article carried by the Sarawak Report news portal in 2016 claimed that Umno paid a total of RM90mil to PAS leaders to secure their support, and that the money could have come from 1MDB funds.

3. MACC lodges police report after RPK's tunnel project allegations

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission has lodged a police report over leaked investigation papers.

This followed news that political blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin had allegedly made an expose based on leaked documents on the Penang undersea tunnel project.

"The papers alleged that several DAP leaders, including Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng, received kickbacks from the contractor.

Raja Petra claimed this was revealed by the contractor after the MACC arrested him and took his statement.

The MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki confirmed that a police report had been lodged on the matter on Thursday (Feb 28).

However, he declined to elaborate on the issue.

On Friday (March 1) Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad rubbished the graft claims made by the controversial blogger, calling him a liar.

"Raja Petra Kamarudin is a liar, and you still believe him?" he asked reporters before walking off.

In several articles published in Raja Petra's blog over the past week, the blogger alleged that several Penang state exco were implicated in the MACC's probe into the project and its related road projects, estimated to be worth RM6.3bil.

4. Senior FGV officer remanded five days for alleged corruption

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): A senior officer with FGV Holdings Bhd (FGV) detained by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly accepting gratification worth RM10,000 was remanded for five days.

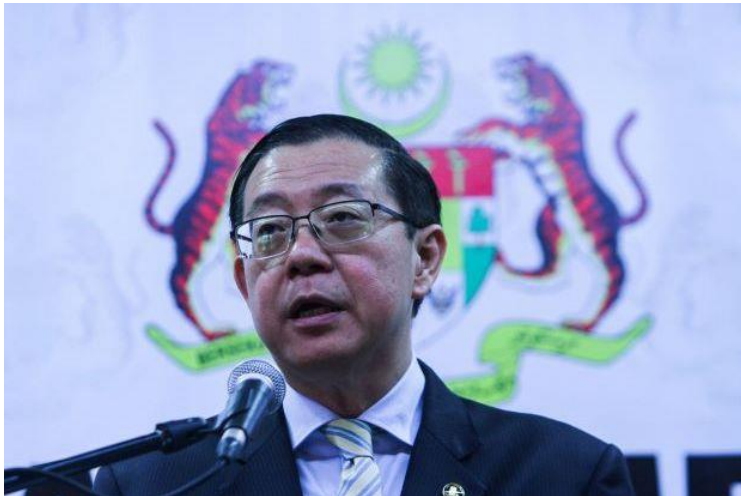
According to an MACC source, the 50-year-old suspect has been remanded until Thursday (March 7).

"Magistrate Maizatul Munirah Abd Rahman allowed the suspect to be remanded for five days to facilitate investigations into the case," the source said when contacted by Bernama here Sunday (March 3).

The senior officer was arrested at a restaurant in Taman Prima Saujana, Kajang near here, at about 11.30am on Saturday (March 2).

The individual is believed to have received the payment as an inducement to recommend extension of the contract of a company carrying international certification auditing of palm oil refineries under FGV.

5. Penang awards projects via open tender, corruption not possible, claims Guan Eng



GEORGE TOWN: Lim Guan Eng (pic) says that the Penang government conducts open tenders for its project, hence there is no issue of corruption when it comes to the undersea tunnel project.

"It was conducted by open tender, how can it be corruption?" asked the former Penang chief minister.

"There was a suit by me against Nasrudin who made a similar allegation, but he withdrew his statement, expressed regret and even paid me RM10,000.

It is believed that Lim was referring to former PAS leader Nasrudin Hassan Tantawi who paid the RM10,000 to settle a defamation suit over the Penang Tunnel project.

"We have explained in great detail about the whole tunnel project before.

"For those who try to raise this, they must also look at not only the facts - there was also a court case.

He added that the allegation was not directed at only one person and implicates four other exco members as well.

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7. Consortium Zenith Construction top exec refutes allegations of graft over Penang tunnel project

GEORGE TOWN: The top executive of Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd has refuted allegations that he tried to bribe a state leader.

This comes after seven screenshots showing excerpts of a written statement he purportedly made to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). They first appeared in a local political blog and was soon shared on social media.

Consortium Zenith Construction is involved in the Penang Tunnel project and three paired roads.

According to its senior executive director Datuk Zarul Ahmad Mohd Zulkifli, the alleged written statement to the MACC is pure fiction.

In a statement on Monday (March 4), Zarul Ahmad said these blog posts are pure fiction and concocted to deceive and defame him, the company and the Penang government.

"My entire company was called for questioning, spending a total of 40 days in and out of the MACC office, cooperating with every single aspect that was being investigated. This includes close scrutiny of our accounts.

"The MACC even hired external consultants to see if we were fair in our pricing. And clearly, given the magnitude of our project, our prices were fair, justified and above board," he said.

Zarul Ahmad said that the case was investigated and completed before the change of government took place last year, and there had been plenty of time for charges to be levelled against him or anyone else allegedly involved.

"My primary goal today is to put all of my resources into this project as soon as possible, so we can kick off with what will be ultimately useful for the people of Penang in the long run," he added.

On Monday, the MACC confirmed that it has six investigation papers over the Penang undersea tunnel project.

The MACC revealed that the first investigation paper was opened in July 2017, and five more in January last year.

"A total of five investigation papers have been completed and referred to the deputy public prosecutor.

"Three have been returned to the MACC for further investigation and the DPP is looking the other two," it said in a statement.

The MACC is still conducting its investigation into the sixth case.

It was reported that the MACC had lodged a police report over leaked investigation papers from a case involving the Penang undersea tunnel project.

Political blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin posted several articles on his blog over the past week, said to contain the leaked information.

The blogger also alleged that several Penang exco members are being probed over the case.

The undersea tunnel project, a bold move to link the densely populated north Butterworth to upmarket sections on the island including Gurney Drive, Pulau Tikus, Tanjung Tokong and Tanjung Bungah, was the subject of wild accusations of corruption during the months leading up to the general election last year.

Despite several people being remanded in connection with the project, however, the MACC never charged anyone after the investigations.

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The 7.2km undersea tunnel is part of a RM6.3bil project which also includes three paired roads.

In a separate statement, Consortium Zenith Construction (CZC) Sdn Bhd senior executive director Datuk Zarul Ahmad Mohd Zulkifli denied claims of bribery, saying that the blog was "pure fiction and concocted to deceive and defame me, my company and the Penang state government".

"I was remanded for 11 days by the MACC for what was billed as an extensive investigation into the project.

"Besides me, my entire company was called for questioning," he said.

Zarul Ahmad said the investigation lasted for 40 days and full cooperation was given, including close scrutiny of their accounts.

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9. MACC investigating GLC head

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is investigating the head of a government-linked corporation, who allegedly paid the RM1.4mil for PAS over an out-of-court settlement between Sarawak Report's Clare Rewcastle Brown and party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, The Malaysian Insight reported.

The online news portal said a MACC source said the individual concerned was being investigated under "money laundering laws, as the funds were moved from several accounts linked to him before being transferred to Rewcastle Brown".

On Feb 1, Abdul Hadi and Rewcastle Brown agreed on an out-of-court settlement for a defamation suit he filed against her on April 21, 2017 in London, and a subsequent counter-suit, over an article alleging that PAS had received RM90mil from then-Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

However, PAS secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan had denied that any payment was made by PAS or Abdul Hadi to settle the suit.

10. Report lodged with Perak MACC over power abuse by state Education Dept officer

IPOH (Bernama): A report has been lodged with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over alleged power abuse by an officer at the Perak Education Department involving the placement of headmasters at three Chinese-national types schools in Kinta Utara district.

The report was lodged by state Education action committee chairman Omar Bakar at the MACC office here on Tuesday (March 5).

Omar, when met by reporters, said the report was lodged after receiving information on alleged corruption by an officer at the primary school unit of the school management sector at the state Education Department.

This is allegedly over the transfer and placement of headmasters at three Grade A schools.

He claimed the officer concerned was alleged to have received payment in doing so.

"It is learnt that the high performing schools have vacancies, so headmasters from Batang Padang and Teluk Intan (in the Hilir Perak district) have filled forms to be transferred to the schools concerned, when there are many teachers in the Kinta Utara district who are more senior and qualified (for the posts)," he added.

11. Cops to quiz Malay Chamber of Commerce senior officials in RM5mil CBT probe



PUTRAJAYA: Connection with an alleged misappropriation of RM5mil funds.

Several Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM) top officials will be called up by Bukit Aman in coBukit Aman Commercial Crimes Investigation Department (CCID) director Comm Datuk Mazlan Mansor (*pic*) confirmed that investigations are underway and the CCID will be looking to record statements of the relevant officials, including DPMM president Rizal Faris Mohideen Abdul Kadir.

"I confirm that we are investigating the matter.

"We will definitely call up the relevant parties to assist with the investigation," he said when contacted on Tuesday (March 5).

In November last year, 18 executive council members of the chambers including its deputy president Datuk Seri Syed Hussein Alhabshee were dropped because they had called for an extraordinary general meeting.

They had called for an EGM to remove Rizal as the president and also sued him as well as secretary-general Don Nazwin Don Najib over the RM5mil, allegedly to be allocation by the Prime Minister's Office to the DPMM before the last general election.

The 18 claimed the money was not deposited into the chamber's account but into another account without the approval of the executive council.

12. Nik Azman named new Auditor-General



PUTRAJAYA: Former Economic Affairs Ministry secretary-general Datuk Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid (*pic*) has been appointed the new Auditor-General.

Nik Azman, whose two-year appointment took effect from Feb 23 until Feb 22, 2021, replaces Tan Sri Dr Madinah Mohamad who retired on Feb 22.

The appointment was announced by Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Bakar yesterday.

Nik Azman has a degree in Applied Economics from Universiti Malaya and a Master's in Economy from the University of Nebraska.

Dr Ismail also recorded the government's appreciation towards Dr Madinah for her service throughout her tenure as Auditor-General.

"This is especially in her efforts to transform and restructure the country's audit system as well as strengthen the government's financial system," he said.

13. MACC seeks more info from Rosmah over solar project



PUTRAJAYA: Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who was charged with graft over the solar project for rural schools in Sarawak, will be interviewed again by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on Monday (March 18).

The wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was supposed to meet investigators on Thursday (March 14), but had requested for the interview to be done on Monday.

Sources said Rosmah will be asked for her statement to be recorded on the same case, as the MACC is seeking more information from "new issues" which have arisen.

"We wanted to see her yesterday, but she asked to meet on Monday instead," said a source, without revealing Rosmah's request for a postponement.

In November 2018, Rosmah claimed trial to two counts of graft involving RM187.5mil relating to projects to provide electricity to rural schools in Sarawak.

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

She was also accused of receiving RM1.5mil from Saidi as a reward for assisting Jepak Holdings in obtaining the same project, involving 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

14. Malaysia to summon two Goldman Sachs units ahead of 1MDB case

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters): Malaysian prosecutors on Monday said they would issue summonses to units of US investment bank Goldman Sachs in London and Hong Kong, requiring them to respond by June to criminal charges filed against them last year.

Soon after being elected in May, 2018, a new government charged three units of Goldman Sachs for misleading investors by making untrue statements and omitting key facts in relation to bond issues totaling US\$6.5bil for state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

On Monday (March 18), only the Singapore unit of Goldman Sachs appeared at a pre-trial hearing in a Kuala Lumpur court as a respondent.

"Fresh summonses will be served on the United Kingdom and Hong Kong offices of Goldman Sachs ahead of the next court hearing on June 24," prosecutor Aaron Paul Chelliah told reporters.

Najib, who has consistently denied wrongdoing, is facing multiple criminal charges, mostly linked to 1MDB, and has been barred from leaving the country.

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) has estimated that a total of US\$4.5bil was misappropriated by high-level 1MDB fund officials and their associates between 2009 and 2014, including some of the funds that Goldman Sachs helped raise.

Malaysia has said it was seeking up to US\$7.5bil in reparations from Goldman Sachs, including US\$600mil in fees paid to the bank for the bond issues.

Goldman Sachs has consistently denied wrongdoing and said certain members of the former Malaysian government and 1MDB lied to it about how proceeds from the bond sales would be used.

A separate Kuala Lumpur court also set April 15 for prosecutors to serve documents to the defence for former Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng.

Ng, a Malaysian, was charged on Dec 19 last year with abetting the bank to provide misleading statements in the offering prospectus for the 1MDB bond sales.

Prosecutor Zaki Arsyad told the court he needed more time to obtain documents as most of them were overseas.

Ng was originally set to be extradited to the United States to face money laundering charges filed against him by the DoJ.

Malaysia, however, has said it may postpone the extradition until Ng can face a domestic trial first.

Tim Leissner, another former Goldman Sachs official, and Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho have also been charged in the United States over the alleged theft of billions of dollars from 1MDB. Leissner has pleaded guilty.

Low, whose whereabouts are unknown, has issued denials of any wrongdoing and has refused to return to Malaysia, saying that the case against him is politically motivated.

15. PAC wants Transport Ministry to investigate Pulau Mentagor public marina project



Kiandee wants the Transport Ministry to look into the Pulau Mentagor public marina project.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) wants the Transport Ministry to investigate if YTL Corporation Bhd should be held accountable for the failure of the Pulau Mentagor public marina project.

PAC chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said the committee viewed the project seriously as it was initially supposed to be built in Lumut, Perak.

"However, after suggestions from YTL, it was moved to Pulau Mentagor.

"The project was awarded to YTL through direct negotiation, worth RM24.27mil.

"We urge the Transport Ministry to look into the accountability of YTL in the Pulau Mentagor project," said Kiandee in a statement Monday (March 18).

The report was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat on the same day.

The Pulau Mentagor public marina was completed on July 31, 2007, and began operations on March 22, 2010.

However, the marina did not get a good response from mariners and no ships entered the marina throughout its operational period, the report read.

The report said the Marine Department of Malaysia (JLM) also noted on June 9, 2010 that there was damage to the pontoons due to strong winds and waves.

Repairs were made in November 2014 at a cost of RM401,600.

On Dec 4, 2015, the Cabinet agreed to lease Pulau Mentagor to the Manjung Municipal Council for a period of 32 years for RM160,000 a year, which it rejected.

In September last year, the Transport Ministry contacted YTL and asked if they were still interested in running the operations at the marina, but a month later, YTL said it was not interested.

Apart from the marina in Pulau Mentagor, the PAC also looked into all public marinas in the country and found that from the 11 built, only five are still in operation.

"However, these public marina projects have failed to encourage the yachting and marine tourism industry," said Kiandee.

The PAC also felt that the weaknesses in the development and management of these public marinas were due to the absence of in-depth feasibility studies before the projects began.

Kiandee said the PAC has urged the Public Private Partnership Unit (Ukas) to expedite feasibility studies on such public marina projects.

"The PAC also urges the government to enhance security at public marinas involving the entry of foreigners.

"The Marine Department also needs to ensure better security and financial management as well as more efficient revenue collection from public marinas," said Kiandee.

The PAC also urged Ministries and agencies to look into maintenance costs and human resources before applying for development allocation.

"The PAC also urges the government to be more careful in planning development activities," he said.

16. Three remanded over RM30mil project scandal involving SSM

PUTRAJAYA (Bernama): Three individuals including a senior officer of a commission have been remanded for five days to facilitate investigations into an alleged project scandal involving the

Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) worth RM30mil.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) obtained the remand order from Magistrate Ahmad Asyraf Mohammad Kamal against the senior officer and two others who were directors of Information Technology (IT) companies.

The three men, aged 44 to 56, were remanded until March 23.

According to MACC sources, the senior officer was alleged to have abetted the two IT companies to obtain approval to offer certified software services without following the regulations as stipulated under the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

The investigations are being carried out under Section 17 (a) of the MACC 2009 Act.

17. Govt announces seven mega projects for Kedah costing RM3bil



ALOR SETAR (Bernama): The government has announced seven mega projects costing over RM3bil for Kedah for development in the state to bring it on equal footing with more progressive states.

Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (*pic*) announced that the projects are the Kulim International Airport (KXP); a manufacturing industries and logistics hub in Sidam near Kulim; two phases of the Northern Corridor highway project over a 70km stretch; a digital library in Alor Setar; a petrochemical industrial park in Gurun and the Kasih Ibu Darul Aman (Kida) programme.

As for the two phases of the Northern Corridor Highway, the first phase is from Bandar Baharu (Kulim) to Sungai Petani and the second phase from Bandar Baharu to the Sultan Abdul Halim Bridge in Penang, at an estimated cost of RM1.7bil, he told a press conference after a special meeting with federal and state government officers and staff here on Tuesday (March 19).

Also present were Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Mahathir and Kedah State Secretary Datuk Ammar Shaikh Mahmood Naim.

18. Sarawak CM: Up to federal govt to decide on Pan Borneo Highway project



KUCHING: It is up to the federal government to decide how to proceed with the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sarawak, says Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg (*pic*).

He said what was important was for the project to be completed on schedule.

"The federal government has been wanting to restructure the project and not to use the present arrangement of project delivery partners (PDP).

"It is up to them because this is a federal government project.

"But what we are concerned is (that) we hope it does not delay the project," he told reporters after witnessing a contract signing ceremony between Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd and Serba Dinamik Sdn Bhd here on Thursday (March 21).

Abang Johari was asked to comment on a news report that the federal government had decided to drop the PDP model for the RM29bil highway project in favour of turnkey contractors.

Citing sources, The Edge reported on Thursday that the Works Ministry would take over the project and hire turnkey contractors to replace the PDPs for the project's remaining construction work.

Lebuhraya Borneo Utara Sdn Bhd is the PDP for the project in Sarawak while the Sabah portion is handled by Borneo Highway PDP Sdn Bhd.

The highway is expected to be completed in 2021 in Sarawak and 2023 in Sabah.

However, Tian Chua, the special adviser to Works Minister Baru Bian, was reported saying that the two PDPs had not been removed yet as the government was still reviewing the entire project.

He added that the government's priority was ensuring that the project was completed on time.

19. Zahid's graft trial to start on July 8



KUALA LUMPUR: The trial of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is facing 47 charges of corruption and money laundering involving funds from Yayasan Akal Budi, is set to commence on July 8.

High Court judge Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah fixed 18 days for trial after the Umno president maintained his not guilty plea when the charges were re-read at the High Court here during case mention on Friday (March 22).

The trial is fixed for July 8-11; July 15-17; Aug 5-8; Aug 19-22; and Sept 10-12.

DPP Datuk Raja Rozela Raja Toran said the prosecution would call about 20 witnesses to testify in the proceedings.

Lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik represented Ahmad Zahid.

The court also fixed May 9 for case management.

The Bagan Datuk MP was slapped with 47 charges, comprising 12 counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), eight counts of bribery, and 27 counts of money laundering.

On Oct 19 last year, he claimed trial to 45 charges of CBT, graft and money laundering involving over RM72mil.

The graft charges were for receiving gratification as inducement to help certain companies obtain contracts from the Home Ministry; Ahmad Zahid was the minister at the time.

The CBT charges were for misusing money belonging to Yayasan Akal Budi, in his capacity as holding trust in the foundation.

The money laundering offences involved alleged deposits of unlawful proceeds into a bank account and buying of two bungalows in Kajang, Selangor.

The CBT and graft charges involved a total of RM42,083,132.99, while the money laundering charges involved a total of RM72,063,618.15.

On Dec 14 last year, Ahmad Zahid was charged again with additional CBT counts involving RM10mil belonging to Yayasan Akal Budi for allegedly providing a loan to Armada Holdings Sdn Bhd on Dec 8, 2015.

On Feb 20 this year, he was slapped with an additional CBT charge involving RM260,000 belonging to Yayasan Akalbudi, which alleged he used the monies to make payment to TS Consultancy and Resources at Affin Bank, Jalan Masjid India on Dec 23, 2016.

20. Former Asian International Arbitration Centre director claims trial to CBT

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) director Datuk Prof Dr N. Sundra Rajoo has claimed trial at the Sessions Court here to three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT) involving more than RM1mil in funds belonging to the centre.

The 63-year-old pleaded not guilty after the charges were read out to him before Sessions court judge Azura Alwi here today.

Dr Sundra was accused of committing CBT over the funds amounting to RM1,011,367.50 at the AIAC Centre, Bangunan Sulaiman, Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin here between Dec 8, 2016 and Aug 17, 2018.

The charges under Section 409 of the Penal Code carries imprisonment between two and 20 years, and whipping, and the accused would be liable to a fine upon conviction.



DPP Kamal Baharin Omar offered bail at RM200,000 for all charges.

Lawyer Datuk Baljit Singh Sidhu, who represented the accused, asked the court to impose a personal bond on his client on grounds that he had given full cooperation to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission during investigation.

"Despite his scheduled appointments to hear cases, he still attended the meetings with the MACC from day one. There is no reason for him to flee," he said.

Baljit also asked the court to allow his client to surrender his passport only on April 2 as Dr Sundra would be out of the country on a business matter and would return on April 1.

Azura allowed this. She also fixed bail at RM100,000 in one surety.

The case is fixed for mention on May 3.

21. Duo claim trial in RM1.48mil graft case

ALOR SETAR: A senior lecturer claimed trial in a Sessions Court here to a total of 33 counts of abuse of power and making false claims amounting to RM1.48mil, while a contractor denied six counts of making false claims amounting to RM492,000.

Assoc Prof Hartini Ahmad, 49, a senior lecturer at a local university in Kedah, and contractor Nazrul Idham Abu Nasir, 42, faced the charges of making false claims (Hartini - 11 charges; Nazrul - six charges) under Section 18 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009.

According to the charges, Hartini and Nazrul allegedly misappropriated funds belonging to the university's Industry Centre of Excellence (ICoE) amounting to RM1.48mil between January 2014 and June 2015.

The false claims were related to the supply of services and training modules from the university to conduct a series of training programmes for ICoE.

However, all the services were allegedly not supplied and carried out according to the order and services form given to three firms.

Hartini also faced 22 charges of abuse of power under Section 23(1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 for certified works given to a company allegedly owned by her nephew.

All the offences are punishable under Section 24(2) of the same Act which carries a maximum of 20 years' jail and fine of not less than five times the value of the false claims made or RM10,000, whichever is higher.

In mitigation, defence counsel Saiful Ambar Abdullah Ambar, who represented Hartini, and Nazrul's counsel Evawani Farisyta Mohammad, requested for a lower bail for both accused, saying that the bail amount should not be a form of punishment to their clients.

The counsels also cited their clients' present income, adding that both accused have dependents to look after.

Sessions judge Juraidah Abbas granted bail at RM65,000 for Hartini and RM25,000 for Nazrul, each in one surety, and fixed April 29 for mention of the cases.

22. RM14.22m spent on Equanimity

A TOTAL of RM14.22mil has been spent for the maintenance of Equanimity since the government reclaimed it in August.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said RM11mil was spent between August and December; and from then until March, another RM3.22mil was spent.

He said Wilson Yacht Management Ltd had been appointed to maintain the superyacht based on its experience and expertise in maintaining luxury ships.

"The RM11mil covered maintenance, repair, legal fees, insurance and other expenses related to the process of selling the yacht," he said in a written reply to a question from Tan Sri Noh Omar (BN-Tanjung Karang).

The Equanimity, which is reportedly worth US\$250mil, is said to be sold for no less than US\$130mil.

On Aug 24, 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 yacht.

Lim said the yacht was currently docked in Langkawi and under the custody of the Kuala Lumpur High Court.

The government, he added, has opted for a private treaty (direct sale) to dispose of the yacht, saying that it was now entering the second phase after bids during the first phase could not be agreed upon.

"The second phase of the sale is made through private treaty or direct sale, and is expected to end on Sunday," said Lim.

It was reported that the proceeds of the sale would be paid to the court and placed in a bank account in Malaysia, as approved by the Accountant-General.

23. Another graft charge for ASP

SHAH ALAM: A senior police officer who was charged with four counts of graft involving RM1.35mil in Kuala Lumpur has been slapped with yet another charge at the Shah Alam Sessions Court.

In the latest charge, ASP Gan Chee Liang allegedly solicited RM1.5mil in return for settling a drug case under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 involving one "Victor Goh" at a police lock-up in Shah Alam on March 10, 2017. The charge under Section 16(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 provides for a jail term up to 20 years, a fine not less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if found guilty.

ASP Gan pleaded not guilty.

Judge Rozilah Salleh set bail at RM20,000 with two sureties and case mention on April 29.

ASP Gan was represented by Choong Kok Seng while the prosecution was led by DPP Wan Ahmad Nidzam Wan Omar.

In addition to the latest charge, ASP Gan is now facing five charges of graft after he was accused of four similar charges on Wednesday for accepting bribes amounting to RM1.35mil, all connected to the same drug trafficking offence allegedly involving Goh.

On the first and second counts, ASP Gan was alleged to have accepted RM800,000 and RM175,000 respectively from Lim Chok Siong, 41, as inducement to dispose of the case.

The offences were believed to have been committed in Kuala Lumpur and in Ampang, Selangor, in March 2017.

For the third and fourth counts, ASP Gan was alleged to have received RM300,000 and RM75,000 from Yeong Kok Wah, 51, also for the same purpose, on April 28 and June 13, 2017.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges and the case has also been set for mention on April 29.

Separately, an enforcement officer with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has been remanded for seven days for allegedly soliciting RM9,000 for releasing the passports of three foreign workers, which were seized during a raid on March 7.

24. Charged over 'fertility treatment claims'



Legal trouble: Mazuin (centre) being brought to the Sessions Court in Kuantan

KUANTAN: An administrative assistant pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to 32 counts of making false claims on fertility medical treatment worth RM209,233.

Mazuin Zulkifli, 33, made the plea before judge Mohd Ghazali Mohamad Taib yesterday.

She was charged with committing the offences between Oct 10, 2014, and Oct 25, 2017, by submitting the claims with treatment receipts ranging from RM3,243 to RM9,000 at the International Islamic University of Malaysia's Fertility Centre.

She was alleged to have committed the offences while serving at the Pahang Forestry Department and the Pahang Agriculture Department.

MACC's DPP Mohamad Fadhly Mohd Zamry offered bail at RM50,000 in one surety with the condition for the accused to report to the MACC office every month.

Lawyer Datuk Syed Azimal Amir Syed Abu Bakar, however, requested for the amount to be reduced as his client only had a monthly income of RM2,500.

Mohd Ghazali allowed bail at RM15,000 in one surety and set additional conditions for the accused to surrender her passport to the court, as well as to report to the MACC office each month.

25. 121 projects worth almost RM14bil to go on after renegotiation, says Guan Eng



PETALING JAYA: A total of 121 infrastructure projects worth more than RM13.9bil nationwide, which were offered directly and through limited tender by the previous administration, will go forward following cost renegotiation by the Pakatan Harapan government, says Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng (pic).

He said the renegotiated cost of the projects will result in RM805.99mil worth of savings.

"It must be stressed that the 121 projects will not involve mega projects such as LRT3 and MRT2, which cost RM31.65bil and RM39.35bil, respectively.

"The cost of both projects have been reduced to RM16.63bil (LRT3) and RM30.53bil (MRT2)," he said in a statement Sunday (March 31).

"Among the measures introduced were re-evaluating projects that were offered through limited tender and direct negotiations by the previous government.

"Based on the studies conducted, the government decided to conduct open tenders for such projects before issuing the Acceptance Letter," he said.

Meanwhile, for the 121 projects offered through limited tender and direct negotiations, of which Acceptance Letters had been issued, additional clauses will be finalised latest by end March after the cost of the projects has been renegotiated, Lim said.

"Currently, all details of the projects will be handled by the respective ministries and not involve the Finance Ministry.

"With the latest developments, the Finance Ministry is confident the procurement implementation through open tender will lead to a reduction in cost and the best interest value to the government and rakyat," he said.