

The Star October 2019

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
1	Wednesday, 2 Oct 2019	Chief auditor charged with corruption over catering job	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	3
2	Sunday, 6 Oct 2019	Isa Samad's RM3mil corruption, CBT trial starts Monday (Oct 7)	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	5
3	Monday, 7 Oct 2019	Najib's 1MDB trial: Witness says Jho Low wanted all emails, BBM chats deleted to protect 'the Boss'	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	6
4	Tuesday, 8 Oct 2019	Witness: Mohd Isa had RM100mil signing authority on behalf of Felda subsidiary	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	8
5	Tuesday, 8 Oct 2019	Wheelchair-bound admin assistant burst into tears of joy as court upholds acquittal on charge of false medical claims	false claims	10
6	Tuesday, 8 Oct 2019	Witness: Mohd Isa had RM100mil signing authority on behalf of Felda subsidiary	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	12
7	Thursday, 10 Oct 2019	Orang Asli hand over 'logging company' money to MACC	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	14
8	Thursday, 10 Oct 2019	Wee questions delay in payment to RMR1M housing contractors	delays in payments made to contractors	16
9	Saturday, 12 Oct 2019	MACC to kick off phase three of 1MDB fund recovery, targeting recipients of RM500k and below	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	18
10	Monday, 14 Oct 2019	MACC criticises report of senior civil servant being probed for power abuse	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	20
11	Wednesday, 16 Oct 2019	Najib's phone call not to be recorded in minutes of meeting	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	21
12	Friday, 18 Oct 2019	Prosecution withdraws five graft charges against ex-Sabah CM	Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	24
13	Saturday, 19 Oct 2019	Jho Low's superyacht on sale once again	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	26

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
14	Monday, 21 Oct 2019	Isa Samad solicited RM3mil from GAPSB, says witness	criminal breach of trust (CBT)	28
15	Monday, 21 Oct 2019	Submissions on Najib's SRC case to be heard on Tuesday (Oct 22)	SRC International Sdn Bhd	30
16	Wednesday, 23 Oct 2019	AG: Najib was SRC's 'shadow director'	SRC International Sdn Bhd	32
17	Thursday, 24 Oct 2019	1MDB a fool to have paid US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) for 1MDB-PSI joint venture, court heard	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	34
18	Wednesday, 30 Oct 2019	Najib's 1MDB trial: PetroSaudi CEO received US\$85mil commission for joint venture deal	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	35
19	Wednesday, 30 Oct 2019	Chinese national testifies to paying RM400k for M'sian IC, passport	selling a birth certificate and an identity card illegally to a foreigner.	36
20	Thursday, 31 Oct 2019	Dr M: Malaysia to ask US for US\$1bil recovered from Jho Low	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	37
21	Thursday, 31 Oct 2019	Jho Low gives up US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) in assets to settle 1MDB suits	The 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB),	38

1. Chief auditor charged with corruption over catering job



KUALA LUMPUR: A chief auditor with the National Visual Arts Development Board (LPSVN) claimed trial at the Sessions Court here Wednesday (Oct 2) to a charge of using his position to approve a RM17,600 payment to his wife over a catering job three years ago.

Norazmi Jumali, 42, allegedly used his position as the chairman of the National Art Gallery's welfare and recreational club for gratification by approving the payment to his wife Norasmiza Rusli.

The payment was made by using a MyKitchen Food Delivery (Homemade Cook & Halal) food quotation for a lunch catered for conservation workers at the Sultan Suleiman mosque in Klang.

The offence was allegedly committed at the National Visual Arts Development Board office at Jalan Temerloh, off Jalan Tun Razak here, on Sept 6, 2016.

He faces a maximum 20 years in jail and a fine of not less than five times the value of gratification which is the subject matter of the offence or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if convicted under Section 23 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009.

The charge under Section 471 of the Penal Code carries an imprisonment of up to two years or fine, or both, if convicted.

Lawyer Nor Azri Mohd Arif, who represented the accused, said his client could be suspended from work pending the case and would only receive half his pay.

"He would be faced with financial difficulties and he has seven children to feed. My client can only afford to make RM4,000 to RM5,000 bail today," he said.

Sessions Court judge Rozina Ayob then allowed the accused RM6,000 bail in one surety and ordered him to surrender his passport to the court.

2. Isa Samad's RM3mil corruption, CBT trial starts Monday (Oct 7)



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The hearing of the RM3mil corruption and criminal breach of trust (CBT) case involving former Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad (*pic*) will begin Monday (Oct 7) at the High Court here with the prosecution ready with five witnesses.

According to the case list at the court, the hearing of Mohd Isa's case will be before judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali from 9am Monday until Oct 10 when it will be adjourned and continued again from Oct 14 to 25.

On Dec 14, 2018, Mohd Isa pleaded not guilty to one count of CBT and nine counts of receiving gratification, amounting to more than RM3mil, by approving a proposal for the purchase of a hotel in Kuching, Sarawak, by Felda Investment Corporation (FIC) Sdn Bhd.

He was alleged to have committed the offence at Level 50, Menara Felda, Platinum Park, 11, Persiaran KLCC, near here on April 29, 2014.

The charge was framed under Section 409 of the Penal Code, which provides for imprisonment of up to 20 years, whipping and fine, if found guilty.

On the corruption charges, Mohd Isa was charged with committing all the offences at Level 49, Menara Felda, between July 21, 2014, and Dec 11, 2015.

The charges were made under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, punishable under Section 24(1) of the same law, which provides a jail term not exceeding 20 years and a fine of at least five times the bribe amount, or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction

3. Najib's 1MDB trial: Witness says Jho Low wanted all emails, BBM chats deleted to protect 'the Boss'



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Former 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi told the High Court here Monday (Oct 7) that he received instructions from fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low to delete communications between them to protect "The Boss".

Testifying in former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's trial involving 1MDB funds, Shahrol, 49, said Jho Low asked him to delete everything electronically and physically due to political attacks and to protect "The Boss", which referred to the then prime minister.

Questioned by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, the ninth prosecution witness agreed that Blackberry Messenger (BBM) was the most secure form of text communication at that time.

"Jho Low previously gifted me two BlackBerry devices, because he knows I love technology. Also the need to secure the communication between us intensified in 2014 onwards where he would only use BBM for text messages and Skype for voice calls.

"Jho Low kept reminding me 'we don't know who we can trust; we have to keep it secure to protect the boss who is the prime minister'," Shahrol said, adding that Jho Low intended to use only BBM because it could not be tapped.

The witness, however, said he did not feel suspicious of Jho Low's requirement to destroy all evidence because the latter kept talking about "protecting the boss".

Earlier, queried by Muhammad Shafee, Shahrol said none of his phones were taken by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the police when he was called for questioning.

Questioned further on whether he was threatened with civil action due to his action of neglecting 1MDB's management, Shahrol replied "No".

"However, at the end of 2018, Ashwin J. Valiram, who is also a 1MDB Board member, contacted me and told me that he heard the Finance Ministry was planning to take action against the management and the 1MDB board of directors... but I did not check with the ministry itself," he said.

Muhammad Shafee: Is there action taken against 1MDB?

Shahrol: Not yet.

Muhammad Shafee: Why not yet?

Shahrol: We don't know what will happen next.

Muhammad Shafee: Are you worried about the way you answer questions in court, that the authorities will take action against you?

Shahrol: It's the opposite; I'm not worried because I know I'm telling the truth.

Najib was charged with four counts of using his position to obtain a RM2.3 billion bribe in 1MDB funds and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same money.

The hearing before Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah continues Tuesday (Oct 8).

4. Witness: Mohd Isa had RM100mil signing authority on behalf of Felda subsidiary



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court here on Tuesday (Oct 8) was told that former Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad had signing authority for RM100 million in investments, on behalf of Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FICSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Felda.

Former Felda director-general Datuk Hanapi Suhada, 62, said the FICSB board of directors had given both Mohd Isa and Hanapi the same authority, in their capacity as FICSB board members, during a meeting on June 25, 2013.

Reading from his statement on the second day of trial against Mohd Isa, 70, who faces one charge of criminal breach of trust and nine charges of bribery involving RM3 million, Hanapi, the fifth witness for the prosecution, said Mohd Isa had chaired all meetings of the FICSB board.

A former Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar and Umno vice-president, Mohd Isa is alleged to have committed the offences between April 29, 2014 and Dec 11, 2015, at Menara Felda, Platinum Park, Persiaran KLCC.

Hanapi who held both positions of Felda director-general and FICSB board member from 2015 to 2017, added that it was the responsibility of the FICSB board members to have ensured that FICSB's chief executive officer submitted a working paper on the purchase, to the Felda board.

5. Wheelchair-bound admin assistant burst into tears of joy as court upholds acquittal on charge of false medical claims



PUTRAJAYA (Bernama): A suspended administrative assistant from the Defence Ministry's Air Logistics Headquarters burst into tears after the Court of Appeal here upheld her acquittal on seven charges of allegedly submitting false claims for medication totalling nearly RM11,000 in 2013.

Justice Datuk Kamardin Hashim, who chaired a three-member bench, said the prosecution's appeal against wheelchair-bound Siti Nor Hakiki Abdullah's acquittal without her defence being called at the end of the prosecution's case did not have merits.

He dismissed the prosecution's appeal for Siti Nor Hakiki to be ordered to enter her defence.

On Jan 5 last year, the Sessions Court discharged and acquitted Siti Nor Hakiki on the charges without ordering her to make her defence. The High Court, on Aug 16 the same year, dismissed the prosecution's appeal and upheld the Sessions Court's decision.

The other two judges presiding on the bench were Datuk Rhodzariah Bujang and Datuk Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah.

After the court pronounced the decision, Siti Nor Hakiki cried and embraced her husband who was sitting on the bench behind her.

Earlier, Justice Kamardin allowed Siti Nor Hakiki, 40, who is suffering from slipped disc, to lie down on the bench at the public gallery as she could not sit for long due to her condition, while the appeal proceeded. A court interpreter sat next to her.

According to the charges, she was alleged to have knowingly submitted the false claims to the administrative officer of the department, Siti Kartika Sari Mohamad Salleh, for medication such as Pregbalin 150mg and Oxynorm 5mg, Celecoxib 500mg and Lyrica 150mg, purportedly bought from a pharmacy in Bangsar.

She was accused of submitting receipts containing false information when in fact the medicines were never bought.

Siti Nor Hakiki was alleged to have committed the offences at the department from August till December 2013.

She was represented by lawyer Ahmad Ishrakh Saad while deputy public prosecutor Nahra Dollah appeared for the prosecution.

Ahmad Ishrakh said Siti Nor Hakiki was suspended from her job when she was charged in 2017 but she would be reinstated to her post following the court's decision.

6. Witness: Mohd Isa had RM100mil signing authority on behalf of Felda subsidiary



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court here on Tuesday (Oct 8) was told that former Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad had signing authority for RM100 million in investments, on behalf of Felda Investment Corporation Sdn Bhd (FICSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Felda.

Former Felda director-general Datuk Hanapi Suhada, 62, said the FICSB board of directors had given both Mohd Isa and Hanapi the same authority, in their capacity as FICSB board members, during a meeting on June 25, 2013.

Reading from his statement on the second day of trial against Mohd Isa, 70, who faces one charge of criminal breach of trust and nine charges of bribery involving RM3 million, Hanapi, the fifth witness for the prosecution, said Mohd Isa had chaired all meetings of the FICSB board.

A former Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar and Umno vice-president, Mohd Isa is alleged to have committed the offences between April 29, 2014 and Dec 11, 2015, at Menara Felda, Platinum Park, Persiaran KLCC.

"All investments made by FICSB needed to be done within the investment authority limits set by the Felda Board for the FICSB board of directors," Hanapi said, adding that he did not know why the RM160 million purchase of the Merdeka Palace Hotel & Suites in Kuching, Sarawak, which had been approved at FICSB board level, was not submitted to the Felda board for its consequent approval.

Hanapi who held both positions of Felda director-general and FICSB board member from 2015 to 2017, added that it was the responsibility of the FICSB board members to have ensured that FICSB's chief executive officer submitted a working paper on the purchase, to the Felda board.

Hearing before judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali continues.

7. Orang Asli hand over 'logging company' money to MACC

IPOH: Representatives of 10 Orang Asli families from Jalong in Sungai Siput have handed over RM15,000 to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), claiming that the money was provided by a logging company. The representatives from Kampung Lawai also lodged a report with the commission.

Mat Seri Pandak, a spokesman for the group, said last Thursday, two representatives from the village called a meeting with the villagers at the community's Dewan Adat. He said the two men told the villagers that they, together with the Tok Batin (village head), had met with a state Forestry Department officer and the owner of the logging company, who gave them RM40,000 to be distributed among the villagers.

"The two claimed the meeting was held at the Sungai Siput District Forestry Office and that in total, RM80,000 would be given to the villagers if the logging project was not halted by the state government.

"Many did not want to take the money, but did so because they did not want any problems within the community," Mat Seri told reporters outside the MACC building here yesterday.

The group lodged a report on the matter at the Simpang Jalong police station on Monday.

They also brought the matter to the attention of Kumpulan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (Kuasa), which had earlier been helping the villagers to ensure that logging activity was halted as it was affecting their livelihood.

Also present at the site was Kuasa field officer Shazni Rashid.

Mat Seri said each family member was given RM50 to RM470.

"However, we are uncomfortable with the money presented to us, so the 10 of us want to hand over the money to MACC.

"The forest is our livelihood... we don't want it destroyed. We hope MACC will investigate our report," he added.

Shazni said the logging company, which has been in operation since July, had caused pollution in Sungai Korbu, the main water source for the district.

He said with the help of Kuasa, some of the villagers had sent a memorandum for the attention of the Perak Mentri Besar on July 25.

"Before heading to MACC, we also sent in another letter to the Mentri Besar's office, seeking his intervention, " he added.

When contacted, state Forestry Department director Datuk Mohamed Zin Yusop said he was not aware of money being handed to the villagers.

"The department will investigate the claim, " he added.

8. Wee questions delay in payment to RMR1M housing contractors



KUALA LUMPUR: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong has criticised the delays in payments made to contractors by Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB).

The Ayer Hitam lawmaker asked why contractors involved in the Rumah Mesra Rakyat 1Malaysia (RMR1M) projects had not yet been paid.

He said he had asked Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin during the Special Chambers in the Dewan Rakyat on Thursday (Oct 10) and was informed that some 920 contractors were yet to be paid.

"I thought it would be 10 or 100, (but) turns out it is 920 contractors who have yet to receive their payments from SPNB for the RMR1M projects nationwide.

"This is involving RM52.7mil. Pity the contractors. Also pity the rakyat who want to own their home.

"How can homes be built and be ready to be occupied if contractors are not paid and work is not complete?" he asked in a Facebook post on Thursday.

Earlier, Zuraida said that a total of 46,301 units of RMR1M had been completed as of August this year.

The minister said based on the application statistics between 2002 until Aug 31 this year, a total of 93,693 applications had been received and reviewed across the country for the affordable homes.

She said of the figure 50,299, a total of 46,301 units have been completed, 2,630 units were in the process of being built, while 1,368 were in the process of its agreement documents being completed," she said in reply to Dr Wee during the Special Chambers in the Dewan Rakyat.

Wee had asked the ministry to state the action taken to ensure that the project would not be abandoned by contractors.

He also asked why SPNB had delayed the payment to the contractors and when the government would pay them.

Zuraida said in the initiative under SPNB, the government would subsidise RM20,000 while the building cost would be between RM45,000 and RM60,000 via a loan from SPNB.

Zuraida said the cost of building a unit of RMR1M worth RM60,000 would be borne through a RM20,000 subsidy allocation by the government per unit and the balance payment would be via a bank loan by SPNB which will be channelled stage by stage based on the demands.

"SPNB has fulfilled the conditions by the banks. At this moment, there is a slight delay in channelling the balance payment by the banks, which is causing a delay in payment to the contractors.

"SPNB has not delayed the payment, and the payment is being done stage by stage although there is a slight delay involving 920 contractors," she said.

On the claims made by contractors over RMR1M projects, she revealed that a total of RM793.8mil payment had been made across the country since 2015.

"From the total, only 6.6% or RM52.7mil, has yet to be paid to contractors," she said.

She said that the ministry would also impose a minimum fine of RM50 per day to errant contractors.

"This is a charge to contractors who failed to complete within the timeframe," she said.

"This is because any delays would cause SPNB to fork out additional operational cost for monitoring and document preparation for each of the delayed units," she added.

However, she said contractors could appeal over the fines with supportive documents.

9. MACC to kick off phase three of 1MDB fund recovery, targeting recipients of RM500k and below



KAJANG (Bernama): The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will execute phase three of its move to recover 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds from recipients.

Without revealing the date, MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya (pic) said the funds, involving RM500,000 and below, were disbursed during former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's time.

"Phase one saw civil forfeiture suits filed against recipients who still had the money in their accounts, which we froze.

"Phase two commenced when we asked recipients to refund the money. We sought out recipients of the highest amounts first, to come forward," she said after an MACC programme with the media at the Prison College shooting range in Kajang, in conjunction with the agency's 52nd anniversary.

On investigations involving the Masjid Tanah MP and former Puteri Umno chief Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin, who allegedly received funds from 1MDB, Latheefa repeated her earlier statement that the list issued by MACC was the initial one and not a full list.

"There are hundreds of individuals who received 1MDB funds but we shortlisted according to the highest amount received, that is, RM500,000 and above, involving 80 individuals and entities.

"It's not an issue of being selective or for political interest; the list is based on the amount," she said.

On Monday (Oct 7), MACC issued compound notices to 80 individuals and entities who allegedly received money totalling RM420mil from 1MDB.

Solar Shine Sdn Bhd allegedly received the highest amount at RM134mil as an entity while Datuk Seri Nazir Tun Razak, who is former CIMB chairman, allegedly received RM25.7mil as an individual.

Those who received the compound notices, issued under Section 92(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001, are given two weeks to return the money.

On Nazir's statement that he would give his full cooperation to MACC, Latheefa declined to elaborate.

"Yes, we will wait for him to share his information with us. Furthermore, it is up to the individuals and entities on how they want to settle the payment to MACC, whether to do so immediately or wait until the end of the two weeks.

"MACC has given them two weeks and it is up to them whether or not to make an appeal for more time to settle the refund," she said.

10. MACC criticises report of senior civil servant being probed for power abuse



PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has criticised a Malay daily over a report that a probe is being carried out on a senior civil servant, saying the report had serious inaccuracies.

Its chief commissioner Latheefa Koya said such a report had a negative impact on MACC's investigations.

"The report has serious inaccuracies.

"It is also unfair to those that are being investigated because it is against the principle of presumption of innocence," she said in a statement Monday (Oct 14).

Latheefa said the MACC viewed seriously the publication of such news which quoted sources.

"We will release necessary information to the public when our investigation is complete.

"We certainly do not encourage the publication of unverified information while investigation is ongoing," she added.

The daily reported that a director-general of an enforcement agency is being investigated by the MACC over suspicion of misappropriation and power abuse, said to be in the region of RM1.5mil.

The individual is said to have been using his position while serving three different agencies since 2004 until last year.

According to the daily, the individual had his statement recorded twice, in August and recently on Oct 10.

11. Najib's phone call not to be recorded in minutes of meeting



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court was told that 1Malaysia Development Bhd's (1MDB) former director and chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh instructed that a telephone call between him and Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should not be recored during a 1MDB-PetroSaudi International Ltd (PSI) joint-venture (JV) meeting in 2009.

Former 1MDB chief executive officer, Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi said the special meeting of the 1MDB board of directors (BOD), chaired by Mohd Bakke on Sept 26,2009, was held to decide whether to proceed with the joint venture between the two companies.

Under cross-examination by Najib's defence lead counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, Shahrol, 49, testified that the meeting was also attended by fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low on his invitation.

"I invited Jho Low to the meeting for him to explain directly to the board the essence of PSI, how it was a government-to-government (G2G) initiative and how it came about.

"At the very beginning of the meeting, Bakke received a phone call, after Jho Low dialled a number and passed the phone to him.

"Upon receiving the phone from Jho Low, Bakke mouthed the word 'PM' to us and left the room.

"I don't remember the exact words he said when he came back, but essentially, he informed that he had spoken to Datuk Seri Najib, and he (Najib) informed him that it was a G2G initiative and could not be delayed or rather, 'disegerakan' (speeded up)," he said.

The ninth prosecution witness said when Mohd Bakke told the board that such information was regarded as something very significant, which led to fewer questions raised by the board regarding 1MDB assets evaluation.

"Mohd Bakke then issued a directive for the call not to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If I can recall (correctly), I even suggested the meeting be audio-taped but he (Mohd Bakke) disagreed," he said.

Pressed by Shafee, Shahrol explained that 1MDB proceeded with the 1MDB-PSI JV without confirming the shareholding ratio between the two companies.

"At that time, we already had the indicative evaluation which allowed us to perform a more detailed evaluation afterwards. The key point here is, it was truly a G2G transaction which Datuk Seri Najib really wanted to happen, and the partnership with PetroSaudi was of paramount importance.

"The shareholding was already 60:40. But the rationale was that our 40% would be diluted should their valuation be higher. We went ahead with it on the basis that this was a G2G initiative and we would be able to renegotiate after that," he said.

Shahrol said the board proceeded on the basis that this was a friendly party that had been endorsed by Najib.

Earlier, when queried by the counsel, the witness agreed he did not verify the track record of PSI before presenting the information on the energy company to the board.

Shahrol also testified that PSI claimed to have projects in Europe, Latin America and Central Asia based on the company's kit which PSI provided, but he never attempted to get substantiate with proof himself.

"I didn't see any annual report (of the company). We relied heavily on the information provided by PSI," he said.

The prosecution's key witness also did not rule out the possibility that Najib could have been played out by Jho Low, whom he described as the "conductor of an orchestra".

"Honestly, it's difficult for me to comment from the limited sphere of what I know. The manipulation was done with a very good disguise of 'this is for the good of the country, for the good of the prime minister' but I don't know what the prime minister then knew, so it is very difficult for me to comment," he said.

Najib, 66, faces four charges of using his position to obtain bribes totalling RM2.3 billion from 1MDB funds and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.

12. Prosecution withdraws five graft charges against ex-Sabah CM



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court here acquitted former Sabah chief minister Tan Sri Musa Aman (pic) of five of the 35 corruption charges against him, involving US\$63.3mil.

Earlier at the case management Friday (Oct 18), DPP Datuk Umar Saifuddin Jaafar applied to withdraw the five charges involving US\$13.2mil and for the accused to be given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA).

"The accused still has 30 corruption charges against him and the investigation is ongoing," he told the court.

The DPP also informed the court that the prosecution had made some amendments to the 30 corruption charges involving US\$50.1mil and 16 money laundering charges involving more than US\$37.8mil and S\$2.5mil.

The amendments related to the date, transaction and names of contractors, he said.

He requested for the amended charges to be read out to Musa, who was allowed to remain seated in the dock based on health reasons.

Musa, 68, claimed trial to all the charges.

On the 30 counts of corruption, Musa in his capacity as Sabah chief minister and Sabah Foundation Board of Trustees chairman allegedly received US\$50.1mil from eight logging concessionaires as an inducement to approve logging concessions to 16 companies.

He is accused of committing the offences at eight banks and financial institutions in Hong Kong, China and Singapore between Dec 20,2004 and Nov 6,2008.

The charges framed under Section 11(a) of the Anti-Corruption Act 1997 and punishable under Section 16 of the same law carries a maximum 20 years' jail, and fine of not less than five times the amount or value of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher.

On the money laundering charges, Musa allegedly instructed Richard Christopher Barnes, 67, to open an account at UBS AG Bank, Singapore, under the name of Richard Christopher Barnes, through which he intended to receive proceeds from illegal activities.

Musa also faces alternative charges of concealing proceeds from illegal activities.

On the second to ninth and 11th to 15th charge, Musa allegedly received US\$37,845,491.60 in proceeds from illegal activities from several individuals through an account under Barnes' name.

On the 10th charge, he allegedly received S\$2.5mil in proceeds from illegal activities, through the same account.

Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah fixed Feb 28 next year for case management.

Musa was represented by counsel Francis Ng Aik Guan.

13. Jho Low's superyacht on sale once again



PETALING JAYA: A superyacht that fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho used to own is on sale once again.

The superyacht, which was known as the Equanimity under Low's ownership, was purchased by Genting Malaysia Bhd for US\$126mil (RM514.14mil) in April and renamed the Tranquility.

The vessel made headlines in August after reports that model and socialite Kylie Jenner rented it to celebrate her 22nd birthday.

Since then, Business Insider reported that the Tranquility is now for sale at an asking price of US\$200mil (RM837mil), according to yachting company Camper & Nicholsons (C&N).

A check by The Star on C&N's website confirms that the superyacht is on sale and that it can also be rented for €1.1mil (RM5.1mil) per week.

C&N wrote in its testimony section that the Tranquility is "a trailblazing yacht offering unparalleled levels of luxury for a large number of guests. This is what the market has been waiting for."

It is unclear when Genting put the superyacht up for sale.

The Tranquility was one of many luxury items seized by the Government as part of its probe into money laundering in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

The 91.5m-long superyacht is known to have a Turkish bath, swimming pool and a helicopter landing pad.

Last February, the Tranquility was seized off the coast of Bali by Indonesia at the request of US authorities as part of a probe into the 1MDB scandal.

The Indonesian government then handed over the vessel to Malaysia in August the same year.

After being docked for about 16 months, the Tranquility made its first voyage on June 5 from the Loyang offshore base in Singapore and arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka on June 8

14. Isa Samad solicited RM3mil from GAPSB, says witness



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court here was told that former Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad solicited RM3mil from Gegasan Abadi Properties Sdn Bhd (GAPSB) in the purchase of Merdeka Palace Hotel & Suites (MPSH) worth RM160mil.

A former member of GAPSB's board of directors (BOD), Ikhwan Zaidel, 59, said this while reading out his witness statement that Mohd Isa asked for the RM3mil through his (Mohd Isa's) special officer Muhammad Zahid Md Arif.

"Muhammad Zahid noted to me that Tan Sri being a politician needed funds for his political work. When he mentioned 'Tan Sri', I understood it to be Tan Sri Isa as Muhammad Zahid Md Arif is his special officer," said the 16th witness in Mohd Isa's criminal breach of trust (CBT) and corruption trial on Monday (Oct 21).

According to the witness, Muhammad Zahid did not state the amount needed by Mohd Isa but said he would contact him on feedback for the request.

Ikhwan said he had no choice but to oblige.

"We were worried about Tan Sri Isa's decision and influence should we not fulfil his request, the possibility that he would delay the payment to GAPSB or cancel the MPSH transaction because previously, Felda Investment Corporations Sdn Bhd (FICSB) rejected the proposal to procure MPSH.

"So after taking into account the RM160mil purchase price of MPHS and minimum price of RM150mil consented to by the GAPSB BOD, we agreed to acknowledge Tan Sri Isa's request, as delivered to Muhammad Zahid, through paying RM10mil to JV Evolution Sdn Bhd (GAPSB's property agent), " he said.

Ikhwan testified that sometime in June 2014, before GAPSB and FICSB signed the sale and purchase agreement, he contacted Muhammad Zahid by phone to say he and another member of GAPSB's BOD Ibrahim Baki had no choice but to agree to Mohd Isa's request.

"I then met with Muhammad Zahid to tell him that Ibrahim Baki and I could only agree to give RM3mil for the political fund he mentioned.

"The RM3mil to Tan Sri Isa through Muhammad Zahid was not relayed to the GAPSB BOD and only Ibrahim Baki and I know about it. Muhammad Zahid agreed with the amount that I quoted to him.

"However, I did not hand any cash to him. I also said the payment to Tan Sri Isa would be made through him (Muhammad Zahid) when FICSB had disbursed the amount to GAPSB after the purchase," he said.

Ikhwan said in early July 2014, Muhammad Zahid contacted him and requested for an advance of RM100,000 for Mohd Isa.

"I agreed with the request. At that time, GAPSB had not yet received any payment from FICSB, and GAPSB had not paid the

RM1mil commission to JVESB. I told Muhammad Zahid I would endeavour to get the funds," he said.

Mohd Isa, 70, is facing one charge of CBT and nine counts of corruptly receiving more than RM3mil at Menara Felda, Platinum Park, Persiaran KLCC between April 29,2014 and Dec 11,2015.

15. Submissions on Najib's SRC case to be heard on Tuesday (Oct 22)



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court will hear on Tuesday (Oct 22) submissions in the high-profile case of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is facing seven charges of misappropriation of RM42mil in SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali, who presided over the trial, is set to hear the submissions by the defence and prosecution, which was fixed for two days beginning Tuesday.

The proceedings would begin with the defence team's submissions to rebut the prosecution's case.

It is learnt that co-counsel for Najib, Harvinderjit Singh, would argue first and followed by Attorney General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas to reply to the defence submissions.

Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah is leading the defence team.

On Aug 27, the prosecution closed its case after 58 days of trial after hearing the testimony of 57 witnesses.

Justice Mohd Nazlan had previously fixed Nov 11 for the decision on whether to call Najib to enter his defence or to acquit him on the charges.

The judge also set Dec 3 to 4, Dec 9 until 12, and Dec 16 to 19 for Najib to enter his defence if the court found that the prosecution has established a prima facie case against the accused.

Najib - who is also the Pekan MP - was first brought to the Sessions Court here on July 4, 2018, to face three counts of criminal breach of trust and one count of abuse of power in connection with SRC funds totalling RM42mil.

On Aug 8, he was charged again in the Sessions Court on three counts of money laundering involving the same amount of the same funds. The case was later transferred to the High Court.

16. AG: Najib was SRC's 'shadow director'

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is accused of misappropriating RM42mil from SRC International Sdn Bhd, was its "shadow director" who benefited financially from its coffers, the High Court heard.

Attorney General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas submitted before the court that the former prime minister was entrusted with dominion over the property of SRC and therefore had an interest over the company.

"The interest that the accused had in SRC was camouflaged in smoke and mirrors, behind the guise of missing persons and questionable characters.

"However, the facts indicate that it was the accused and his proxies that pulled the strings behind the curtain of SRC," Thomas said on the first day of a two-day submission at the end of the prosecution's case in the SRC trial here yesterday.

He questioned the willingness of Najib's administration in pulling out all the stops to assist the subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd.

"Why was the government so interested and pulled all the strings to assist SRC, a newly established company with no track record, barely 12 months into operation, and so keen to facilitate a RM2bil loan followed by a second RM2bil loan within eight months of each other to SRC?

"The inescapable conclusion must point to the interest of the accused in SRC," Thomas added.

The AG also said that SRC's constitution gave Najib the powers of "hire" and "fire", making him the ultimate decision maker.

"Nothing of importance could be decided by SRC without the input of the accused, and none were," Thomas said.

Ad hoc prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram said that despite being "shocked" over the RM42mil in his personal bank account, Najib did not take any action.

He submitted that the accused's reaction on finding out that monies had been paid into his account was nothing more than a drama as he had actually utilised the RM42mil sitting in his account.

"If the accused was innocent of this sum of RM42mil, he should have sued the bank for unlawful deposit of the said sum which may well amount to his account being used for money laundering.

"The shock that the accused suffered should have translated into a police report being lodged, to show his outrage of unauthorised monies being paid into his account. He should have hounded the police to investigate the case which caused him his reputation," he said.

None of these simple steps were taken, said Sithambaram, adding that it only showed the accused's present cry of innocence could not be true.

Meanwhile, Najib's lawyer Harvinderjit Singh argued that his client should be acquitted of the charges against him on grounds that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case.

He said the bulk of evidence relating to Najib's involvement in the events between 2010 and 2012 - leading up to and including the government's decision to grant the government guarantees to SRC and Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP) providing SRC with loans amounting to RM4bil - did not establish the existence of a corrupt arrangement which Najib could be said to be a party to.

Harvinderjit also contended that the prosecution had failed to prove the RM42mil truly belonged to SRC.

"The evidence fell short of establishing that the RM42mil depicted in the criminal breach of trust charges was indeed funds belonging to SRC. In any event, the evidence did not establish any specific entrustment or dominion over the RM42mil by Najib," he said.

Najib is facing seven charges, of which three are for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC International funds totalling RM42mil.

The submission before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali resumes today.

17. 1MDB a fool to have paid US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) for 1MDB-PSI joint venture, court heard



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was a fool to have paid US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) to obtain a 40% stake in the 1MDB and Petro Saudi Holdings (Cayman) Ltd joint venture (JV), while PetroSaudi International Ltd (PSI) only injected US\$108mil (RM452mil) to get a 60% share, the High Court heard on Thursday (Oct 24).

Former 1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi agreed to this suggestion by defence lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah when queried at the 1MDB trial of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

18. Najib's 1MDB trial: PetroSaudi CEO received US\$85mil commission for joint venture deal



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court was told on Wednesday (Oct 30) that PetroSaudi International (PSI) CEO Tarek Obaid received a handsome US\$85mil (RM356mil) in commission for the joint venture (JV) between PSI and 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The payment was channelled to Tarek's bank account from Good Star Ltd, a company that was initially said to be a subsidiary of PSI but later revealed to be owned by fugitive financier Low Taek Jho.

19. Chinese national testifies to paying RM400k for M'sian IC, passport



GEORGE TOWN (Bernama): A businessman from China told the High Court here on Wednesday (Oct 30) that he had to pay RM400,000 to get a Malaysian passport and an identity card.

Wang De Qun, 58, said he agreed to pay the sum as he wanted to have a Malaysian passport to facilitate investment and business dealings in the country.

"I wanted to have a valid passport in this country to facilitate my business as I faced difficulties entering Malaysia," said the prosecution witness in the deposition proceedings in the case against six individuals who face charges of issuing and selling a birth certificate and an identity card illegally to a foreigner.

The six include Penang National Registration Department (JPN) assistant director Mohd Faizul Arifin, 34; Mohd Faizal Tan Abdullah, 66; Yap Cheng Wah, 43; Loh Chan Cheong, 34; Chien Guan Chai, 36, and businessman Datuk Lai Chin Wah, 56

20. Dr M: Malaysia to ask US for US\$1bil recovered from Jho Low

JOHOR BARU (Reuters): Malaysia will ask the United States to hand over the US\$1bil in assets it has recovered from fugitive financier Jho Low, says Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday (Oct 31).

The US Justice Department on Wednesday struck a deal to recoup funds allegedly looted from a Malaysian state investment fund by the financier, in a record capture for a US anti-corruption probe.

"The assets were bought with Malaysian money. We have proof that this is Malaysia's money. We will now make a claim to the American government," Mahathir told reporters.

21. Jho Low gives up US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) in assets to settle 1MDB suits

WASHINGTON, United States (Bloomberg): The U.S. Justice Department has struck a deal with fugitive financier Low Taek Jho (pic) in which it will recoup almost US\$1bil (RM4.18bil) of money looted from the Malaysian investment fund 1MDB, in what would be the biggest recovery from an American anti-corruption crackdown.

The 1MDB global corruption scandal has toppled a government, ensnared a Wall Street powerhouse and set off investigations across the globe. The proposed settlement was filed Wednesday (Oct 30) in a California court.

It would be the most significant win for the Justice Department's Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative since it was set up almost a decade ago to prevent the United States from becoming a safe haven for stolen money.

The deal, if approved by a federal judge, will help resolve forfeiture cases tied to Low, who is also known as Jho Low, whom prosecutors accuse of orchestrating the theft of more than US\$4bil (RM16.7bil) from 1MDB. The money was used to pay for a private jet, a superyacht, mansions, diamonds and even Hollywood movie productions. The agreement doesn't include an admission of guilt or wrongdoing but doesn't release Low from other criminal charges.

"We were pleased to help negotiate this historic resolution in order to preserve the tremendous value of assets involved," Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey said in a statement. His law firm represents Low. "It is one of the largest civil forfeiture settlements in U.S. history and represents a voluntary return of each and every asset claimed by DOJ."

The assets involved in settlements of 13 forfeiture cases are estimated to be worth more than US\$700mil (RM2.92bil) and include a luxury, boutique hotel in Beverly Hills, California, and high-end real estate in New York and London, the Justice Department said. That's in addition to US\$260mil (RM1.08bil) of assets seized earlier, including a superyacht, the department said. The value of the recouped assets could be even higher based on estimates in the original lawsuits and the final sale price.

"The message in this case is simple: the United States is not a safe haven for pilfered funds," U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna in Los Angeles said in a statement. "Our strict anti-money laundering controls are effective, and we will seize assets used by criminals to conceal ill-gotten gains."

The flurry of forfeiture complaints filed initially by the Justice Department in 2016 connected big purchases in the United States to the proceeds of a crime. But even after assets are seized, the proceeds from them can end up in legal limbo until a court awards judgment in favour of the United States or, as in this case, reaches a settlement. The two sides negotiated a deal to avoid the legal costs and uncertainty of extended litigation.

The case laid out the ways in which money meant for economic development in Malaysia found its way past bank watchdogs and ended up paying for the lavish lifestyle of Jho Low and his associates.

Much of the money was raised by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. The 1MDB episode has turned into a major reputational problem for the New York-based bank, which has been in conversations with the United States and Malaysian governments over a monetary settlement for its involvement in the 1MDB scandal. A former senior executive at the firm has pleaded guilty to his role.

Several properties involved in the settlement have been sold, and proceeds are being held for restitution payments.

"I am very pleased" that a global settlement has been reached, Low said in a statement distributed by his representatives. The "agreement builds on a series of successful prior agreements negotiated with the U.S. Department of Justice and is a result of good faith discussions," he said.

Money taken from 1MDB was also funnelled into private-equity investments. The appreciation in the value of those stakes is likely to represent the largest chunk of the money to be recovered by the U.S. government.

The most noteworthy of them was Jho Low's stake in EMI Music Publishing, which is now fully controlled by Sony Corp. His original investment of just over US\$100mil (RM417.68mil) grew to more than US\$415mil (RM1.73bil). That stake has since been liquidated, and the proceeds are being held pending the outcome of the forfeiture lawsuits.