

CONTENT OF DAILY NEWS DECEMBER 2022

BIL.	DATE	NEWS	PAGES
1.	09.12.2022	Form RCI On RM600 Bil Allegation, Urges Amanah	2
2.	27.12.2022	No Contract, No Travel	3
3.	27.12.2022	'Add Travel To Bidding Cost'	
4.	27.12.2022	Private Firms Can No Longer Foot Travel Bill For Govt Staff	4

9 DECEMBER 2022 | FRIDAY | PAGE : 6

Form RCI on RM600bil allegation, urges Amanah

KUALA LUMPUR: A Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) should be called to investigate the alleged misappropriation of RM600bil during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's time as prime minister because the people need to know the truth, says Amanah.

The party's national mobility chief, Mohd Sany Hamzan, and other party members handed over a memorandum to Istana Negara, urging an RCI be set up.

The memorandum was accepted by Istana Negara corporate communication officer Husni Yusof at about noon yesterday.

Speaking to the media outside the palace, Mohd Sany said no one was above the law.

He said they urged Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah



Shah to establish the RCI to investigate the RM600bil allegedly spent during Muhyiddin's tenure.

"This is the public's money and we need to know how this money was spent," he said.

Matter of concern:

Amanah national mobility secretary Mohamad Faridul Amini Suhaimi holding the memorandum.
— SS
KANESAN/The Star

He added that all they wanted was the truth and were against libel or lies over the issue.

On a related issue, he said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had also contacted

him on the matter.

"So far, we have not lodged a report at the MACC but they called me earlier and asked me to give my statement on this RM600bil case.

"I will go over next week and we will give our full cooperation," he added.

On Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there were several serious lapses in the alleged RM600bil expenditure when Muhyiddin was helming the Federal Government.

Muhyiddin, who is also Perikatan Nasional chairman, had said he never embezzled or misused funds meant to help the people and that if he did, investigations would have started a long time ago.

The Pagoh MP served as the country's eighth prime minister from March 2020 to August 2021.

27 DECEMBER 2022 | TUESDAY | PAGE : 1, 2



ODOUR REMOVAL

Leave this newspaper in your shoe before throwing

Crumple up the sheets and stuff them into smelly shoes. Leave them overnight and say goodbye to bad odour

SMALL ACT > BIG IMPACT



TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER 2022 • P919456/12/2022 (252236) (No. 21131) (MAL 00-1100 89 7627 (Customer Service))

No contract, no travel

The Treasury, in a move described as a measure to curb corruption and increase transparency, has decided to stop civil servants from travelling abroad at the expense of companies that bid for contracts. The trips, usually for procurement-related matters, must now be stipulated as part of the contracts.

> See reports by MAZWIN NIK ANIS and TARRENCE TAN on page 2

2 Nation

'Add travel to bidding cost'

New Treasury ruling will ensure transparency, say observers

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
and TARRENCE TAN
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Any travel required for pre- or post-tender assessment should be part of the bidding cost for government projects to ensure transparency, says governance observers.

Former senior civil servant Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam said it was the right move by the Treasury Department to rule that overseas travel costs incurred by civil servants for procurement-related matters can no longer be borne by private companies.

"I see the validity of this circular and I hope it will be clear to government officials to reject such offers.

"Any action that makes it difficult to benefit from corruption is a good move," said Ramon, who formerly served in the Economic Division of the Treasury in the early 1970s.

Ramon, who also served as an economist in the Treasury Department for 27 years, said the government provides allowances for officials travelling on government duty.

"So, the question of private companies funding their travel costs should not arise. Officials do not need to be financed by the private sector because they are well looked after by the government," added Ramon.

Ramon also said it is unnecessary for the private sector to fund overseas trips by civil servants for procurement-related matters.

"This basically means that the officials are getting (allowances) from both sides – the government and business sector. This is utter abuse," added Ramon.

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Dr Muhammad Mohan said with the new ruling, all bidders would be at

a level playing field.

"Once the successful contractor or company has won the bid, all travel costs for experts and public officials will be part of the project cost.

"This will not only ensure transparency but also prudence in operating expenditure," he said when commenting on the latest government circular on the matter.

According to a circular by the Treasury Department dated Dec 21, overseas travel costs incurred by civil servants for procurement-related matters can no longer be paid by private companies.

According to the circular, the cost must now be predetermined and included in the contract with the private company that has successfully made a tender.

Muhammad said the new directive would mitigate the risk of contractors influencing the decision-making process by public offi-

cials responsible for the project just because the companies are paying the bills.

"Public officials have the responsibility to protect taxpayers' money. This should be part of good governance in the public sector administration.

"Public officials must be brave to report any form of gratification or bribery by the private sector to influence their decision on projects and procurement," he added.

Former ambassador Datuk Noor Farida Mohd Ariffin said this new policy would reduce corruption risks in the procurement process.

"The procurement process is exposed to abuse in many ministries and there have been instances where supplying companies and officials conspire to inflate the price of goods.

"We hope the new regulations will be able to put an end to any attempt of irregularities," she said.

27 DECEMBER 2022 | THURSDAY | PAGE : 2

TheStar

THE STAR, TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER 2022

Private firms can no longer foot travel bill for govt staff

PETALING JAYA: Overseas travel costs incurred by civil servants for procurement-related matters can no longer be paid for by private companies, according to a circular by the Treasury Department dated Dec 21.

The department said in the circular the costs must now be predetermined and included in the contract with the private company that has successfully made a tender.

It also said the practice of using annual allocations for the operations expenditure of agencies for overseas travel must cease.

Deputy Finance Minister Steven Sim said the circular was to update existing government policies on the matter.

"This is also to streamline the existing policy of not allowing procurement-related travel to be borne by private contractors," said Sim when contacted.

According to the circular, among the overseas assignments are factory assessments, pre-delivery inspections, project monitoring reports, transfer of titles, training and exec-

"The management observation programme is for verifying the status of the product, supervision and discussions on issues related to the project between the contractor and the agency.

"The programme must be for ongoing jobs and must be stipulated in the contract," read the circular.

The Treasury also said there must not be more than three officers representing the government, and one must be an officer involved in procurement and at least one technical officer.

"This is not applicable for training assignments that will be set according to contract terms," it read.

According to the circular, companies must also determine if the said procurement will involve training visits overseas.

"If the procurement involves overseas training and visits, the agency has to state as such in the tender document and clearly state the estimated cost.

"If the tender does not state the cost of visits and training, the agency will not be allowed to make any training and visits regarding the said procurement," it read.

The Treasury also said the practice of accepting training and visits funded by contracts is not allowed.

"Disciplinary action can be taken against government officers. Contractors and suppliers offering overseas training and visits can be blacklisted and not be considered for other procurement (contracts)," added the Treasury.