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More to be summoned over LCS

MACC set to call up and question other witnesses including foreigners

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH
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JOHOR BARU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will be calling more individuals including those from abroad to help with its investigation into the RM960 limoel combat ship (LCS) project.

"We will call up more witnesses not only in Malaysia but also abroad to record their statements. As our

investigators need help to get statements from overseas, we require a bit more time," said MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

He reiterated that no one would be protected in its probe into the LCS scandal.

The project made headlines in August last year when Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) revealed that some RM1.4bil in government allocations for the job had been diverted for other purposes.

Subsequently, former Navy chief Tan Sri Ahmad Ramli Mohd Nor has claimed trial to charges of criminal breach of trust.

Despite the prosecution, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday that the "scandal" was on a "large scale" and that MACC must do follow-up action to find the culprits behind the delay in the LCS construction.

Speaking to reporters yesterday after attending an event at Johor

MACC headquarters here, Azam said he would not rule out anyone who might be called up by the MACC.

"I am not ruling out anybody. Whether the person is a VIP or a minister, if the individual is involved in the case, they will be called to ensure a thorough investigation," he said when asked if MACC would be seeking any VIP as part of their investigation.

Besides the LCS investigation,

Azam also said that MACC was probing the Jana Wibawa case.

"There are still two investigation files on the Jana Wibawa case. This is ongoing despite several people having been charged over the matter," he said.

Jana Wibawa refers to a programme to assist bumiputera contractors during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has come under MACC investigations for alleged misappropriations.

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Give evidence, we'll probe leaders, says Azam



Ready to serve: Azam (second from right) inspecting the guard of honour during the closing ceremony at the end of training for assistant enforcement officers at Johor MACC headquarters in Johor Baru. — THOMAS YONG/The Star

JOHOR BARU: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is prepared to investigate political leaders if there are complaints and evidence of misconduct against them, says its chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

He said the investigation by the anti-graft body was fair and conducted in a transparent manner based on evidence that had been collected.

"In investigating a crime involving any political party, the important thing is that we have to make sure whether the party in question has committed a corrupt act or not," he said.

For instance, he said MACC would probe a corruption case if a party had used its power to benefit themselves or others.

"Therefore, any party that we investigate must have the element of

corruption present in the submitted complaint," he told reporters after closing a training session for assistant enforcement officers at the Johor MACC headquarters here yesterday.

As an example, Azam said it would not be deemed an offence for a party to accept a contribution from someone if it had no self-interest or power vested in it.

He was asked to comment on

Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's remarks that the MACC should investigate both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Muhyiddin threw the dare at MACC on Sunday during Bersatu AGM, saying that these two leaders of PKR and Umno should be investigated over allegations of funds received from businessmen.

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Menu Siswa Rahmah can help B40 tertiary students

By FAWWAZ FADZLULLAH
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BANGI: At just RM3.50, Menu Siswa Rahmah can provide affordable food for 320,000 B40 students in all 20 public universities (IPTA), and 12,000 students in 24 polytechnics and eight community colleges in the country.

ASASipintar Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) student Mardhiatul Insyirah Mohd Hamadi said the initiative would benefit students who did not have a lot to spend on food.

"This is something that can help us a lot," the 19-year-old said.

Fatimah Azzahra Mohammad Nizam, another ASASipintar UKM student, said the menu would help her keep her spending within budget every month.

"I usually spend around RM6 to RM7 for the same amount of food and drinks offered by the Menu Siswa Rahmah.

"So, this is a huge saving for me," she said, adding that many of her friends would usually spend more on books and stationery so they often had to cut down on their food expenses.

The Menu Siswa Rahmah was introduced to UKM students yesterday at Kafeteria Randau Rasa in the varsity and was witnessed by Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

The Higher Education Minister said the ministry had obtained the support of 20 IPTA, with 235 vendors involved in providing the meals.

Compared with the RM5 Menu Rahmah offerings, he said the Menu Siswa Rahmah price was much lower for students because the university management would be absorbing all rental fees for vendors, which would amount to over RM3mil per year.

"While Menu Rahmah is available for all, I would like to stress that the Menu Rahmah Siswa is strictly for B40 students.

"To make sure this is controlled, university managements will be filtering eligible students by giving out tokens to them," he added.

UKM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Ekhwan Toriman, in a statement, said the menu would provide nutritious and affordable meals that would help ease the expenses of the students.

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RM800mil fund can help 5.6 million malnourished kids

KUALA LUMPUR: There are at least 5.6 million children facing double burden malnutrition (childhood obesity and stunting). Increasing food allocation to RM800mil for school children is expected to at least solve part of this problem.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi pointed out that 500,000 pre-school, primary and secondary school children are identified as malnourished each year.

"The allocation for food at primary and secondary schools would now involve about RM800mil.

"In this matter, we also need to consider the preparation of food as early as at the pre-school level," he told a press conference after chairing the National Social Council

Meeting in Parliament yesterday.

Ahmad Zahid also revealed the meeting discussed approaches taken to address the issue which will be coordinated by the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

"We believe that the physical formation of children depends on the nutrition given as well as their early education.

"We have discussed in detail regarding the issue of height, but also stunting, weight, as well as obesity of the next Malaysian generation," he added.

Ahmad Zahid also noted that a memorandum will be submitted to the Cabinet soon to coordinate efforts to address the issue as it involves various ministries and agencies for their implementation.

"The allocation would involve RM800mil."

Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi

On a separate issue, he revealed there were some 1,081 unregistered childcare centres and 574 daycare centres across the country, as of 2022.

"We also discuss the issue of childcare and day care centres as there are some issues with the registration, curriculum, syllabus and the premise standards," he said.

Among the proposals that had been agreed upon during the meet-

ing include the standardisation of work processes and conditions between local authorities on curriculum, syllabus and safety standards, coordination of certificate and licenses and the creation of more one stop centres at the district level to resolve issues related to day care centres.

However, Ahmad Zahid said the coordination works must be done in line with the respective local authorities and state rules.

On the issue of homelessness, he said a comprehensive approach will be taken including enforcement, to allow them to have a second chance to transform their lives.

"This is to ensure that in terms of accommodation, job opportunities and also mental health faced by the homeless can be solved," he said.

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RM1mil boost for HKL to ensure best service

KUALA LUMPUR: Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) has received a RM1mil boost from the government for asset procurement as well as to improve its inventory to ensure the best service for people in the Klang Valley, says the Health Minister.

Dr Zaliha Mustapha said the 150-year-old hospital managed about 50,000 in-patient services at its wards each year, which reflected the commitment of its staff.

"Actually, the hospital requires more than RM1mil but we have approved that amount for the purpose of asset procurement and inventory," she told reporters after a visit to the hospital yesterday.

She said her ministry is also considering a special allocation to HKL for the digitalisation of patients' records.

It was revealed during a briefing by HKL director Datin-Paduka Dr Rohana Johan that the hospital is relying on manual methods to store about 16,000 patients' data in a day. This is kept at Wisma Kayu.

Dr Zaliha said digitalisation would help ease the burden of HKL management in storing data and to manage it more efficiently.

Asked about the government's plan to attract private general practitioners to join the initiative to extend operation hours at public health clinics, Dr Zaliha said the ministry could only encourage them to participate.

"When we extend the hours, we need more help," she said.

Earlier, Dr Rohana briefed the minister on efforts taken to reduce congestion and overcrowding at HKL. This included ensuring patients get a bed at the ward as soon as possible, said Dr Rohana.

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Green light for MACC to probe ministry officers

KUALA LUMPUR: The Home Ministry is giving ample leeway to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate its officers in connection with the RM596mil sukuk misappropriation, says Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

"As someone who is leading the ministry, I feel the MACC should be given ample space to fulfil its duties in accordance with existing laws," he said to reporters after attending the 216th Police Day celebration at the Police Training Centre (Pulapol) here yesterday.

Saifuddin was asked to comment on Home Ministry officers who are expected to be called up by the MACC to assist the investigation into the sukuk misappropriation.

Last week, four individuals, including a company director and chief financial officer, were arrested by the MACC in its investigation into irregularities in a sukuk deal worth RM596mil related to the project for the registration, recruitment and biometric information storage of foreign workers in a ministry.

According to an MACC source, the four men aged between 40 and 55 were arrested at the commission's headquarters.

The source also said the sukuk was managed by a local bank to finance the project.

On another matter, Saifuddin Nasution said efforts to ensure the welfare of police personnel are continuous and not seasonal,

including reviewing their salary.

The Home Minister said it was evident in the revised Budget 2023, where funds were allocated to maintain police quarters and accommodations.

"The issues of welfare and salary review are issues that we are always fighting for.

"It is not just during an event such as Police Day. It is ongoing," he said when asked to comment on whether these issues would be looked into.

On another matter, Saifuddin Nasution said his ministry was also grateful to Tenaga Nasional Bhd for handing over four four-wheel drive vehicles for police operation purposes, along with 25 containers to store seized items.

"Cooperation between the police and TNB to curb electricity theft began in 2020.

"The cooperation has resulted in various successes in stopping electricity theft and, thus, in conjunction with Police Day, TNB decided to give the police force the vehicles and containers.

"It is heartening that new assets could be acquired in such a manner without using the police's budget, and I hope other companies will follow TNB's example," he said.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



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'Datuk Roy' out on bail in Jana Wibawa probe

PUTRAJAYA: "Datuk Roy" – or Mohd Hussein Mohd Nasir – has been released on bail after having been held on remand to assist the investigation relating to the Jana Wibawa probe.

Lawyer Fahmi Abd Moin told the press that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) did not make any further application to extend his client's remand and asked for Mohd Hussein to be released.

Also released with Mohd Hussein was an unnamed former court deputy registrar, who was also remanded to assist in the same investigation.

According to Fahmi, the MACC had recorded statements from both men.

"Both men cooperated fully during the investigation, and they can be called again for further investigation if necessary," he said.

Magistrate Irza Zulaikha Roha-nuddin allowed for the release of the men on MACC bail with one surety each and ordered for them to report to the MACC office monthly.

Mohd Hussein was first held on a three-day remand granted by the Kuala Lumpur Magistrate's Court under Section 17(a) of the MACC 2009 in connection to the Jana Wibawa scandal.

He was later released but held on a second, four-day remand granted by the Putrajaya Magistrate's Court, which ended yesterday.

On March 9, the MACC arrested four people aged between 40 and 50, including an MACC officer and a woman.

They were alleged to have solicited and accepted a bribe of RM400,000 to prevent an investigation into the case.

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Adam Radlan to be tried in KL court on all charges

KUALA LUMPUR: The graft charges facing businessman Adam Radlan Adam Muhammad, who is linked to the Jana Wibawa programme, will be tried together in the same trial at the Sessions Court here.

Adam Radlan, who is the Bersatu Segambut division deputy chief, faced three charges in the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court and two more in the Shah Alam Sessions Court.

During a case mention here yesterday, deputy public prosecutor Maziah Mohaidi informed the court that the prosecution would be applying to transfer the Shah Alam cases to Kuala Lumpur so that they could be tried together.

She said the Shah Alam cases are fixed for mention on April 14.

Adam Radlan's lawyer, Datuk Seri Rajan Navaratnam, said the defence had no objections.

Sessions Court judge Azura Alwi then fixed May 29 for further mention in the case.

On Feb 21, Adam Radlan was charged in Kuala Lumpur for allegedly soliciting bribes for himself, which were cash payments of between 3.5% and 7% from the value of a project that would be acquired by the managing director of MIE Infrastructure & Energy Sdn Bhd.

The money was an inducement for him to assist the company in obtaining an acceptance letter under the Jana Wibawa programme.

For the second charge, he was accused of receiving RM500,000 through his CIMB Bank account

from the MIE Infrastructure & Energy managing director as an inducement to assist the company in receiving an acceptance letter for a project called "Projek Membina Jalan Sg Adam ke Kg Banat, Perlis" through direct negotiations, whereby the total amount of the project was RM47.8mil.

On Feb 22, he was slapped with two more charges at the Shah Alam Sessions Court, where he was accused of receiving a RM2mil bribe from Nepturis Sdn Bhd via his company's CIMB bank account.

Adam Radlan allegedly received the bribe from a managing director for helping his company obtain the RM141mil North Klang police headquarters project from the government.

He is also said to have received a RM2.1mil bribe from MIE Infrastructure & Energy's managing director for helping the company obtain a RM47.8mil road construction project involving a stretch from Jalan Sungai Adam to Kampung Banat.

On Feb 28, he was at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court again to face another charge where he was accused of asking for RM2mil in bribe as service for the accused to assist Nepturis to obtain a project for the North Klang district office in Selangor from the government, valued at RM141mil.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



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No more Puspakom monopoly

PUTRAJAYA: Puspakom's monopoly on commercial vehicle inspection services will come to an end next year when its current concession expires on Aug 31.

The Cabinet has decided that the services will instead be opened to all parties who meet the conditions, says Anthony Loke.

The Transport Minister said those interested in providing the services would be invited to send applications in the first quarter of next year.

However, Puspakom will still continue to offer the services as its contract has been extended for 15 years from Sept 1, 2024.

"From Sept 1, 2024, Puspakom will no longer be the sole provider of vehicle inspection services on behalf of the Road Transport Department (JPJ)," Loke said at a press conference yesterday.

"This decision is in line with the government's desire to create a competitive service environment and facilitate all Malaysians."

Those interested in offering the services

will be required to appoint employees who meet the qualification requirements and provide and use computerised inspection equipment regulated and approved by JPJ.

They are only allowed to charge the set inspection fee and are not permitted to provide repair services, modify vehicles or sell spare parts.

He said those interested would bear the full cost, and that the government would not subsidise an inspection system.

"We won't spend money building their system," he said.

Puspakom is Malaysia's first and only comprehensive national vehicle inspection company which undertakes all mandatory inspections for both commercial and private vehicles.

Incorporated in 1994, it is a wholly owned subsidiary of DRB-Hicom Bhd.

Loke stated that the single service provider issue, as well as the lengthy inspection wait time, had been raised for many years.

"Large vehicles, lorries and buses are held up for hours. There have been complaints that some states only have one service centre.

"We are not closing Puspakom but opening up another option. It is no longer exclusive, and there is no more monopoly," he added.

Puspakom was also tasked with improving the quality and integrity of inspections by adding automation elements.

It must also improve the booking process, install CCTV systems at checkpoints for real-time control, expand the scope of vehicle inspection and build new inspection centres, including "flagship centres".

According to its website, the country has 54 Puspakom centres.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



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Former MPNM officer ordered to enter defence in CBT case

MELAKA: The Ayer Keroh Sessions Court here ordered the former assistant executive secretary of the Melaka State Scout Council (MPNM) to enter his defence on 30 charges of criminal breach of trust involving rental payment of MPNM premises amounting to RM63,400, eight years ago.

Judge Elesabet Paya Wan ruled that the prosecution had proven a prima facie case against Ahmad Daniel Osman, 33, for all the charges.

"The court found that the legal presumption under Section 409B of the Penal Code argued by the prosecution that the accused had the fraudulent intention of misusing the rental money applies to all charges.

"For these reasons and referring to Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the accused is called to enter his defence against all charges," he said yesterday, Bernama reported.

The court fixed June 8, 9 and 22 for Ahmad Daniel to enter his defence.

According to the charge sheet, Ahmad Daniel was charged with misusing MPNM's property, namely the rental payment for three premises amounting to RM63,400, which he used instead of crediting the payments into the organisation's account.

He was accused of committing the offence from Oct 15, 2015, to Jan 30, 2018, under Section 403 of the Penal Code, which carries a jail term of not less than six months and a maximum of five years with whipping and a fine for each charge.

Twenty-one witnesses testified against the accused throughout the trial that started on Sept 13 last year.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission deputy public prosecutor Irwan Shah Abdul Samat prosecuted while the accused was represented by lawyers P. Purshotaman and R. Senthil.

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'Ex-Astro CEO has returned US\$10mil linked to 1MDB'

PETALING JAYA: Datuk Rohana Rozhan (pic), a former girlfriend of disgraced Goldman Sachs banker Tim Leissner, has returned the US\$10mil (RM44.3mil) in cash and assets linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) to the government, according to a news report.

It said the former Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd group chief executive officer had surrendered the cash and assets to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) last year.



"She returned all the money and assets (involved) to the MACC, which then handed them over to the government."

"With that, MACC's investigations concerning Rohana have been completed."

"At this point, there is nothing more needed from her," Utusan Malaysia quoted a source familiar with the case as saying in a report yesterday.

However, the source could not provide a detailed breakdown of the funds and assets returned as well as the procedure involved.

On Thursday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reforms) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said in a parliamentary written reply that the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) had no knowledge of whether Rohana had returned the US\$10mil in assets she gained from Leissner.

Azalina was responding to a question from Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng on whether Rohana had done so.

Lim also wanted to know how much of 1MDB-linked assets had been returned.

In February 2022, Leissner told a US court that Rohana, with whom he had a 10-year affair, had threatened to expose his involvement with 1MDB when he wanted to end the relationship in 2013 to marry US model Kimora Lee Simmons.

He testified in court that she blackmailed him into buying her a US\$10 million property in London.

"She was very upset that I was ending our relationship to be with my future wife, with Kimora," Leissner had testified.

In April 2022, an MACC source told *The Star* that Rohana had agreed, in principle, to return the US\$10mil she had received from the German-born former chairman of Goldman Sachs' South-East Asian division.

Following that, MACC began investigating Rohana, who said she was ready to assist the authorities in their investigations.

Leissner pleaded guilty in 2018 to a conspiracy to launder money and became the US prosecution's star witness against his former colleague at Goldman, Roger Ng.

Leissner is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept 6 while Ng was earlier this month jailed 10 years by a US district court in New York over his role in the 1MDB financial scandal.

26 MARCH 2023 | SUNDAY | PAGE: 9

Enforcement officers nabbed for human trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of nine individuals, including five enforcement officers, have been arrested on suspicion of smuggling migrants into the country.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said two women were among enforcement personnel, aged between 30 and 41, who were arrested between 2.30pm and 8.40pm last Thursday in the joint National Registration Depart-

ment Op Lancar sting in Sabah.

It said the other four individuals – three men and a woman aged between 37 and 43 – were believed to be agents for Indonesian workers.

They were arrested between 3.30pm and 6pm on the same day, MACC said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the modus operandi of the syndicate was to charge illegal immigrants or

those without valid documents about RM2,500 each for their passage to leave Sabah via Tawau Airport to the KL International Airport (KLIA) using someone else's identity.

The migrants would be given boarding passes based on the names stated in the MyKad given to them.

Upon their arrival at KLIA, they would be met by enforcement

officers who had been paid to let them through, thus enabling the migrants to pass through the immigration checkpoint without any problem, it said.

Based on MACC's investigation, the syndicate, which is believed to have been operating since 2018, provided boarding passes to bring in between five and 20 illegal immigrants on each flight to KLIA. — Bernama

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Immigrants a 'goldmine' for bribes

MACC man: Graft among enforcement officers has become chronic

PETALING JAYA: Immigrants have become a "goldmine" for unscrupulous enforcement officers who solicit bribes from them, says a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) top gun.

"Corruption among enforcement officers, who are seen as security frontliners, is becoming more chronic and worrying.

"It is a sad and bitter truth, but foreigners have constantly faced this (harassment)," said Deputy Chief Commissioner (Operations)

Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi Yahaya.

"Regardless of whether they had a work permit, a student visa or are undocumented, this group has always become a target for enforcement officers," he said in a post on the commission's website yesterday.

Khusairi said the "Malaysia Boleh" slogan is now a target of cynicism, linked to the rampant corruption.

With so much corruption, he said it was not surprising that Malaysia

has become a migrant workers' hub for employment, as a drug transit in South-East Asia and a centre for scams and dubious international investments, online gambling, prostitution rings and others.

"We have often rejected and have been in denial. We often hear claims (that corruption) is an isolated incident. This should not be used as an excuse to deny the reality of greedy enforcement officers," he said.

Khusairi also went on to provide 17 examples of vice involving for-

eigners that are common in the country.

Among them are the application for foreign workers whereby companies paid bribes to secure approvals; bribery involving enforcement officials at international gateways to expedite exit and entry process; abusing student visas to seek employment; indulging in activities such as prostitution; gambling; scams; obtaining citizenship and birth certificates through bribery; smuggling and many more.

Such activities, he said, have given enforcement officials room to indulge in bribery whether on a small scale or even as a syndicate.

"The issue of a flood of foreigners in this country should not be taken lightly. The impact is very bad because it involves social problems, crime, health and security," he said.

The MACC's revelation through Ops Tropicana, Ops Bolos KLIA 1 & 2, Ops Lancar and a series of other operations have proven the seriousness of the issue, he added.

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'Dirty' officers face probe

PM plans independent body to investigate the corrupt enforcers

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has directed the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) to look into setting up an independent body to investigate cases or complaints made against enforcement agencies.

The Prime Minister said there should be an independent body to investigate enforcement agencies and this had been Pakatan Harapan's stand.

"I remember this and will not budge from this stand.

"I have directed the AGC to study if a mechanism can be set up where complaints can be made against enforcement agencies," he said when answering a supplementary question raised by Gobind Singh Deo (PH-Damansara).

Gobind had asked if the administration would consider setting up an independent body to handle complaints against enforcement agencies and for the body to be answerable to Parliament.

The Prime Minister said this initiative would be an alternative to these agencies having to investigate themselves.

"By having the mechanism in place, another body that is independent will be tasked with the investigation.

"Whether the mechanism will be in the form of a commission, this has yet to be determined," he said.

Gobind said that although agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has its own internal mechanism to probe com-



No time to waste: Anwar hurrying to make it on time to attend Parliament. — Bernama

plaints of abuse by their officers, this was insufficient as such bodies were not independent.

"We cannot have a situation where when there is a complaint, high-ranking MACC officers are investigated by the MACC itself. There is no independence," he said.

To a question by Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin (PN-Masjid Tanah), the Prime Minister said there were no issues if the appointment of the MACC chief commissioner is referred to a bi-partisan Parliamentary Special Select Committee.

Watch the video
[TheStarTV.com](https://www.thestar.com.my/video)



"I have no problems with such a process but the process must be respected," he said.

He said the AGC will have to first study the proposal before it could be brought to a special select committee.

Mas Ermieyati had also asked whether Tan Sri Azam Baki's tenure as MACC chief commissioner would be continued or a new commissioner would be appointed to replace him.

She said that Azam's appointment in March 2020 was during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's administration.

Anwar said while the appointment came before he led the administration, Azam was promoted to the post due to his capabilities and independence.

"That is why when I assumed power, I chose not to change the MACC chief commissioner chosen by Pagoh (Muhyiddin), so as to avoid the impression that a new prime minister would pick a new MACC chief," he added.

There had been calls including from Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) for key appointments in the government to come under the purview of Parliament to ensure transparency and independence of such appointments.

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Another retiree loses savings to scammers

ALOR GAJAH: A pensioner's retirement savings of close to RM195,000 disappeared after she fell prey to a scam.

Alor Gajah OCPD Supt Arshad Abu said the victim, a woman in her late 50s, was first contacted by a female caller who claimed to be a lawyer.

"The victim, who retired as a clerical assistant from a government department here, received the first call from the fraudster at 8.30pm on Dec 21 last year, claiming she was involved in a money laundering case," he said yesterday.

Supt Arshad said that on the same day of the call, the victim was referred by the bogus lawyer to "Ampang Jaya police", where the victim was told by an "officer" that there was an arrest warrant on her.

He said soon after the confirmation from the so-called police officer, the first caller told the victim to transfer all her savings to a bank account, and asked her to reveal the banking details so that she would be represented if legal action was initiated against her.

Supt Arshad said the victim transferred her savings to the bank account between Dec 28 last year and Jan 2 this year.

"She discovered the money was emptied from the bank account on Jan 6," he said.

Supt Arshad said the victim only made a report at Masjid Tanah police station a few days ago.

"We have opened an investigation paper under Section 420 of the Penal Code," he added.