

Kini Roundup: Manggis row continues, 1MDB still auditing KWAP loan details
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Here's a recap of major headlines yesterday you may have missed.

War of words continues

Malaysiakini pointed out that Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng must still answer for the Taman Manggis land saga, as the Companies Commission Malaysia (CCM) document he furnished to refute Umno minister Abdul Rahman Dahlan's allegations that the firm the Penang government sold the land to has changed ownership was out of date.

Lim acknowledged the documents he disclosed was dated before the alleged shares sale, but stressed the authoritative proof of ownership was still CCM records.

He also called for full disclosure as details of the alleged share sale were redacted in the documents that the minister provided.

However, Abdul Rahman said he was puzzled that Lim didn't know about CCM's procedures as any transfer of shares is not immediately updated in the system, adding that after his expose, the onus is on Lim and the state government to explain the deal.

AG to be Bar Council chief?

The government will study the need to amend the Legal Profession Act to allow the attorney-general to become Bar Council chairperson automatically, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri in response to a proposal by Nasrun Mansor (BN-Silam).

Nik Mazian Nik Mohamad (PAS-Pasir Puteh), in interjecting Teo Nie Ching (DAP-Kulai) who was debating the Child (Amendment) Bill 2015, argued that banning child marriages may lead to rampant casual sex involving underage girls because they apparently lust for sex.

In a parliamentary reply, Higher Education Minister Idris Jusoh has defended two forums against Christianisation held by Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), claiming they were organised to explain the threat of Islamic State (IS) and syiah teachings.

But lawyer Annou Xavier, who accompanied two people in lodging police reports over the matter in 2014, accused Idris of misleading Parliament. He cited as evidence the brochure on the seminar which he said clearly states that it was about 'Kalimah Allah dan Kristologi' and was clearly anti-Christian.

1MDB still auditing KWAP loan details, says PM

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said in a parliamentary reply that 1MDB was unable to reveal the details of the RM4 billion Retirement Fund Inc's (KWAP) loan given to SRC International because it has yet to audit part of the relevant information to ensure its genuineness and accuracy.

Sarawakians believe Putrajaya unfair, says survey

Over half Sarawakians polled believe that they have been treated unfairly by Putrajaya but many see the state being better off since joining Malaysia, according to a recent survey by Merdeka Centre. Most respondents also favour greater autonomy and support the pro-autonomy advocacy group Sarawak for Sarawakians (S4S).

A slight majority of Sarawakians feel that the state is heading in the right direction mainly due to visible improvement in the state's development and infrastructure, an economy that was still perceived to be growing, and positive state leadership.

In any case, bread and butter issues are on the top of the minds of Sarawakians as the state heads for an election with rising cost of living, economic hardship, jobs, and related issues being their main concerns.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Chief Minister Adenan Satem named only 10 Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) candidates for the state election, down from the traditionally allotted 19, though he again postponed announcing BN 'direct candidates'. He has yet to finalise the full list of BN candidates due to fractious infighting among state BN components.

More Kini bites

Banker Tim Leissner was purportedly suspended by his employer Goldman Sachs over an unauthorised reference letter he had written on behalf of businessman Low Taek Jho. Leissner, a former Southeast Asia chairperson for the company, had helped 1MDB raise US\$6.5 billion (about RM25 billion).

Mohd Nazifuddin Najib, one of the prime minister's sons, confirmed his involvement with two companies based in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) but denied any wrongdoing in the matter.

Stateless Malaysian-born 17-year old Navin Moorthy was finally able to get his MyKad after winning his long court battle for citizenship.

Hazim Ismail, an openly gay and atheist Malaysian currently studying in Canada, who feared persecution back home, has his request for refugee status accepted by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada in Winnipeg.

Looking ahead

The Public Accounts Committee report on 1MDB is to be tabled in Parliament today. This may shed some light on 1MDB's alleged financial mismanagement, including the series of exposes by The Wall Street Journal.

Opposition MPs will march from Parliament House at 9am to the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman to protest Tuesday's arrest of Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli, though inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar have warned organisers via a series of tweets to abide to the Peaceful Assembly Act or face stern police actions.

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